



A LEVEL English Language and Literature AQA

WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW OR BE ABLE TO DO BEFORE TAKING THIS COURSE?

You need to be prepared to develop a disciplined, critical and personal response to English language and literature. You should enjoy reading a wide range of literary material: novels, poetry and drama across periods and genres. Having the ability to discuss confidently, read perceptively and write coherently is crucial.

Individuals should have a keen interest in reading and analysing quality text types and be prepared to take on a reasonable weight of reading during the course. Entrants are expected to have at least grade 5 in their English Language and English Literature GCSEs. We welcome a range of students, from those who are committed to taking the subject as far as possible to those who are particularly interested in other subject areas and who look to English Language and Literature to broaden their horizons.

WHAT WILL I LEARN ON THIS ADVANCED GCE COURSE?

The A Level course provides an extremely broad range of material both fiction and non-fiction. Students should be prepared to read widely and independently, and support their study with their own research. Students will study three components for the A level course:

Unit 1: Telling Stories: students learn about a variety of ways in which writers present stories, and study a range of texts, including both modern and literary heritage poetry, prose, and non-fiction. This is assessed by a 3 hour external examination, and makes up 40% of the A Level.

Unit 2: Exploring Conflict: students study the topic of writing about society, and produce their own re-creative responses. They are required to evaluate their own writing as part of the exam. Within this unit they also study a drama text. This is assessed by a 3 hour external examination, and makes up 40% of the A Level. In the past we have covered novels such as *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini.

Unit 3: Making Connections: students choose a personal interest and produce an investigation into a particular theme or literary technique of interest. This is assessed through the production of a coursework essay, and makes up 20% of the A Level.

Learning will be varied: through small group and whole class discussion, presentations and seminars led by individual students and teachers, independent research, reading and note taking, and essay writing (some of it 'timed', to prepare for the exam papers). Outside lectures, theatre visits and reference to films, documentaries and radio will all support in-class and library-based learning.

HOW IS THIS COURSE ASSESSED?

Assessment is separate for each component, and the exam components will be taken in May or June of Year 13. The non-examination essay will be submitted to the board in Year 13; however, students may prepare for and write this in Year 12.

HOW CAN I DEVELOP MY FULL RANGE OF SKILLS BY DOING THIS COURSE?

The course will develop a sharp academic edge, a critical and reflective mind, and greater personal, social and emotional awareness. Particular skills of speaking and listening, reading and writing will be taken to a higher level. More able and especially motivated students will have specifically directed extension reading and suggestions for wider critical research of texts, to prepare them for possible University courses in the subject.

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