



ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

DETAILS OF COURSE:

The specification studied is EDEXCEL English Language and Literature.

At AS level, candidates will study an Anthology of various texts for component 1 in which they will complete a piece of creative writing based on one of these texts and an analytical essay. They will then explore two texts for component 2 (E.g. *The Great Gatsby* and 'Othello' or *Great Expectations*). They will have two exams at the end of the year:

- Component 1 – (50% of the AS level) – 1 hour 30 mins and open book – Voices in Speech and Writing
- Component 2 – (50% of the AS level) – 1 hour 30 mins and open book – Varieties in Language and Literature.

For the A level, candidates will study an Anthology and a play (E.g. 'A Streetcar Named Desire' by Tennessee Williams) for component 1. They will study two texts for component 2 (E.g. *The Great Gatsby* and 'Othello' or *Great Expectations*) and there will also be an unseen element to the exam. In year 13 students will also complete coursework based on two thematically linked texts (E.g. 'The Crucible' by Arthur Miller and Bill Bryson's *The Lost Continent: Travels in Small Town America*). This will involve two pieces of creative writing and one commentary.

- Component 1 – (40% of the A level) – 2 hours 30 mins and open book – Voices in Speech and Writing.
- Component 2 – (40% of the A level) – 2 hours 30 mins and open book – Varieties in Language and Literature
- Coursework – (20% of the A level) – two pieces of creative writing and one commentary.

QUALITIES AND COMMITMENT EXPECTED FROM THE STUDENT:

- Above all, candidates who study this course **must** enjoy reading; if they do not fulfil the wider reading entailed in the course then they will not be able to complete the A level.
- Candidates should be interested in creative writing and should have enjoyed this aspect of the GCSE course.
- They should also have the ability to construct a basic argument and select interesting quotations from a text.
- They must be willing to conduct research independently.
- Candidates should also be willing to engage in class discussions of texts.

THE FUTURE:

A level English Language and Literature is a demanding subject but it is also very rewarding. In studying these important novels, plays and poetry, students gain the ability to think critically and construct sophisticated arguments. It prepares candidates for the rigours of a variety of essay writing degrees.