A level English Language and Literature

Who is this course for?

This course is for students who want to become adventurous and critical readers and at the same time develop as writers and users of language in a variety of contexts. If you have studied both English Language and English Literature at GCSE level, you will have begun to appreciate the ways in which writers use language to create literature. This course provides a fully integrated study of literature and language and builds on the analytical skills you will have begun to develop at GCSE.

What are the entry criteria?

Grade B in English Language at GCSE is required to start this course. We would also prefer you to have reached grade C or above in English Literature, if you have taken it.

Exam Board

AQA

Course Details

AS

In the AS year, students learn a range of analytical approaches to enrich their appreciation of, and ability to write confidently about, the styles and techniques used by the writers of their set texts. Students are also introduced to the study of speech in the AS year, through analysis of transcripts of spontaneous speech, as well as a variety of other written forms of speech.

Unit 1
Integrated Analysis and Text Production
Assessed through examination.
Two set texts are studied for this unit. The examination requires both an analytical and a creative response.

Unit 2
Analysing Speech and its Representation
Assessed through examination.

A further set text is studied for this unit and the focus is on its representation of speech. The examination also includes an analysis of unseen speech texts.

A2

In the A2 year, students develop the skills acquired at AS by reading two further challenging texts and producing a piece of extended written coursework comparing the techniques used by the writers of these texts. The study of speech continues at A2, and skills of analysing previously unseen short pieces of text are further developed. Students prepare to respond creatively to a stimulus text under examination conditions through study of non-fiction writing and developing their ability to write in different forms and for different audiences and purposes.

Unit 3
Comparative Analysis and Text Adaptation
Assessed through examination.
A further set text is studied for this unit and the examination contains a textual adaptation writing task and a comparative analysis of a number of unseen pieces of text.

Unit 4
Comparative Analysis Through Independent Study
Assessed through coursework.
Two texts are studied for coursework; at least one of them will be a collection of poetry. The coursework consists of one comparative piece of work, 2000-2500 words long.

How the course is delivered

Like other A-Level courses, English Language and Literature is taught in four seventy-minutes lessons per week. Groups may be taught by one or two teachers. Lessons focus on the core activities of reading, writing and discussion, all of which are approached in a wide variety of creative ways. Quizzes, games, group work, student presentations and dramatic interpretation are just some of the methods of engaging with texts and language that students experience on the course.

Departmental enrichment

Enrichment activities offered to students of English Language and Literature in the past have included theatre trips, visits to the Bronte Parsonage Museum at Haworth and the chance to participate in a residential creative writing trip to Whitby.

Student success

Students who are prepared to work hard and consistently throughout their time at Wyke stand a very good chance of success on this course. Many of our past students have gone on to study for degrees in English or other subjects.

What does this course lead to?

Studying English Language and Literature at A-Level helps prepare students for any career or higher education course by significantly enhancing their spoken and written communication skills. It is also ideal preparation for more specific career paths such as journalism and teaching.

What can I do now that would help prepare me for this course?

Students can prepare themselves for the course by becoming more alert to the ways in which language is used in daily life. This could include:

- reading a variety of literary texts – ask us for a booklist;
- reading a range of non-fiction texts, eg. travel writing and biography;
- reading a range of different newspapers and magazines;
- watching the television news and noting the kind of language used;
- listening to local and national radio stations;
- noticing the written styles used on posters and leaflets;
- becoming aware of the language of advertising;
- reading books on grammar and the way the English language works - try those by David Crystal.