

English Combined



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Exam Board

AQA A Level English
Combined

Why study English Language and Literature?

A Level English Language and Literature links the skills of both English Literature and English Language allowing you to study novels, poetry and plays alongside non-fiction texts. This variety will develop your linguistic and analytical skills as well as providing exciting opportunities for creative writing. You will be taught how to use a base novel to recreate a voice in literature, alongside writing a commentary on your own craft. You will, of course, also write essays about writers and then explore connections between non-fiction and fiction texts in the NEA. This module allows you to develop a range of skills that are subject specific as well as transferable by encouraging in-depth, critical and contextual thinking in response to a range of texts.

Course Outline

Paper 1 – Telling Stories

In this unit, we will explore the ways writers create stories and how we learn from them as readers or as audiences. We will draw on both literary and linguistic analysis to develop a solid grounding of the craft of an author, poet or travel writer to name only a few. We will study Margaret Atwood's *The Handmaid's Tale*, a speculative novel focused on what happens when society loses its way and power structures become too controlling. We will also analyse poetry by Robert Browning, exploring the problems faced by Victorian Britain. Finally, your non fiction text will be the Paris Anthology. This will take you on a tour of the famous city through a variety of text types from transcripts of conversations to reviews and travel guides. In this paper there is a strong linguistic focus.

Paper 2 – Exploring conflict

We will study *The Great Gatsby* by F Scott Fitzgerald; with this text you will craft a piece of recreative writing to fill in one of the 'gaps' in the novel. This is your opportunity to show off your creative writing skills. You will then produce a commentary on your choices in terms of language, structure and grammar, explaining and evaluating how you recreated the voice of a character. We will also explore 'Dramatic Encounters' by using Tennessee Williams' *A Streetcar Named Desire* to develop an understanding of the ways playwrights create conflict on stage. You look specifically and in depth at linguistic techniques within the play, linking Williams' craft to power and conflict.

NEA – Investigation

The NEA forms 20% of your A Level. You will be taught how to set out and write up a language investigation through a series of lessons. You will have the option to choose from a range of literary and non-literary texts in order to explore a specific theme and/or linguistic focus. We will teach you how to

Where are they now?

Recent students of English Combined at CRGS have gone on to study:

- American and Canadian Studies and English Lit. (Birmingham)
- English and Classics (Nottingham)
- English Language (Birmingham, Durham, Leeds)
- English Literature and Creative Writing (Newcastle)
- English Literature and Sociology (Newcastle)
- French and Linguistics (Oxford)
- International Business Studies (Liverpool)
- Law (Cambridge, York)
- Liberal Arts (Warwick)
- Medicine (Glasgow)
- Modern and Medieval Languages (Cambridge)
- Psychology (Liverpool)

review and use critical material, collect data for your investigation and help you to develop your own investigative voice. You will be assisted by a wealth of material available in the library as well as through your teachers and online resources.

Assessment

Paper 1 – Written exam: 3 hrs, 100 marks, 40% of A Level

Paper 2 – Written exam: 2 hrs 30 mins, 100 marks, 40% of A Level

Non – Exam Assessment (NEA) – A Personal investigation that explores a specific technique or theme in both literary and non-literary discourse (2,500-300 words) 20% of A Level.

Frequently Asked Questions

Is any previous knowledge required to study this subject?

You should have GCSE English Literature and English Language at Grade 5 or above. For any English A Level, a love of writing and a commitment to undertaking extensive, independent and challenging reading is imperative. The General Entry Requirements for the Sixth Form are of a minimum of 4 GCSEs at grade 6 with at least GCSE grade 4 in English Language and Maths.

How will we support you?

The department has a library of materials, journals and resources which students are encouraged to use. If you are struggling, we will help you to improve by breaking down texts and ensuring you have access to help from your teachers or study support. We use online platforms to encourage wider reading, independent learning and consolidation of classroom learning and discussion.

Who studies this subject?

Students of English Language and Literature tend to be those students who enjoyed both GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature but didn't want to commit to two separate A Levels in English. Students often study a social science alongside this A Level, while others might have chosen MFL, Maths or Science. Students of English Language and Literature are keen readers who enjoy non-fiction as well as fiction.

What are lessons like?

Lessons are paced effectively with a range of activities and discussions. An enquiring mind and the ability to engage with articles, extracts and the fiction texts we study outside the classroom means learning is focused on being an active learner through either written work or paired discussion. You will complete one assessment every half term and be given detailed feedback to act upon in order to improve your attainment.

Exam Board Specification

AQA A Level English Language and Literature (7707) www.aqa.org.uk

CRGS
SIXTH FORM



CRGS Sixth Form Admissions

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