

# ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

## POINT OF CONTACT

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## TYPE OF QUALIFICATION

A-level

## EXAM BOARD

AQA

## SPECIFICATION

<http://bit.ly/AQAenglish>

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS Preferred:  
GCSE English Language grade 6  
Essential: GCSE English Language  
grade 5



## AIMS OF THE COURSE

The AQA A Level in English Language and Literature aims to encourage students to develop a deep appreciation of both linguistic and literary study, seeing how the two disciplines connect. The course is designed to foster analytical skill, creative engagement, critical understanding, independent learning and Integrated knowledge. Ultimately, the course aims to prepare students for higher education and employment through strong analytical, interpretive, and writing skills.

## COURSE OUTLINE & ASSESSMENT

**Paper 1: Telling Stories.** Written exam: 3 hours. 100 marks (40% of A Level). Sections: A. Remembered Places – one compulsory question on the AQA Anthology: Paris (closed book). B. Imagined Worlds – one question on a set prose text (open book). C. Poetic Voices – one question on a set poet (open book).

**Paper 2: Exploring Conflict.** Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes. 100 marks (40% of A Level). Sections: A. Writing About Society – a piece of re-creative writing based on a set text (25 marks) and a critical commentary (30 marks). B. Dramatic Encounters – one question on a drama text (45 marks).

### **Non-Exam Assessment (NEA): Making Connections.**

Coursework: 2,500–3,000 words. 50 marks (20% of A Level). Task: Independent investigation exploring a theme or technique across one literary and one non-literary text. Assessed by teachers, moderated by AQA.

## CAREER PROSPECTS

Media, journalism, and communications, law, education, linguistics, speech and language therapy, marketing and public relations, cultural or film studies, teaching/academia and creative writing are all career paths which an A Level in English Language and Literature often leads to.

## SUBJECT ENRICHMENT



### **Something to think about...**

How do words shape the worlds we create and inhabit? How can studying both language and literature help us understand meaning in everything from novels to everyday conversation?



### **Something to listen to...**

The Classic English Literature Podcast – A deep dive into major literary texts, exploring context, language, form and meaning. And also Because Language – Focused on the science of language; useful to get different perspectives on how language functions and how meaning is constructed.



### **Something to read...**

There's any number of classic texts, but for all things English Language and Literature-related, the English and Media Centre's Emagazine (print and online) is a fantastic resource, packed with fascinating articles.

[tinyurl.com/dallamsixth2026apply](http://tinyurl.com/dallamsixth2026apply)