



Sixth Form Preparation for Success

Welcome to English Combined

AQA, English Language and Literature, 7707



Introduction

This course has the best of both worlds from your GCSE study: Whether your passion lies within dissecting language and understanding the meaning behind a writer's words, or you simply love losing yourself within classical prose; then our A Level in English Language and Literature can help you to balance both of these loves. Our English Language and

Literature programme, will develop your understanding of English as a living and dynamic global language whilst exploring a diverse range of literary texts from Britain, America and beyond. Not only are you given the chance to explore a range of drama, fiction and poetry but you will also get the opportunity to develop creative writing skills based on these texts. The ability to read a text and explore what it shows about society, history and people allows for a rich and diverse discussion. Another exciting element of this course is the personal investigation: you select a theme of your choosing and explore that through a range of texts – that you also choose!

The combination of both Language and Literature gives you a strong foundation if you are wanting to go on and study English at university. However if that is not your route, the skills you will gain and develop are desirable skills that can be transferred to many other degree subjects.

The skills you gain through studying English are marketable in most job sectors: [Digital copywriter](#), [Lexicographer](#), [Magazine journalist](#), [Newspaper journalist](#), [Publishing copy-editor/proofreader](#), [Secondary school Marketing executiveteacher](#), [Talent agent](#), [Web content manager](#), [Writer](#), [Social media manager](#), - To name just a few.

Part I – Y11 into 12 Language and Literature Specific Bridging Work

To be completed May – Sept

Remember that prizes will be awarded for ‘exceptional’ work that demonstrates effort above expected!

a) Investigate Language and Literature

*“By failing to **prepare**, you are **preparing to fail**.”*

It is always helpful to be prepared, and to help you in this there are four different ‘places’ you can visit to help broaden your general knowledge of both Language and Literature.

1) The British Library – <https://www.bl.uk/>

The national library and a fantastic resource that gives you access to the world’s most comprehensive research collection: over 170 million items includes artefacts from every age of written civilisation. Their London and Yorkshire sites have everything from newspapers to sound recordings, patents, prints and drawings, maps and manuscripts.

2) The National Theatre - <https://www.nationaltheatre.org.uk/>

This website has an abundance of learning opportunities whether it be students conferences, masterclasses, and production information.

3) National Theatre Live - <http://ntlive.nationaltheatre.org.uk/>

This is a resource we often use in literature. However with the current situation they are streaming some amazing stage productions of plays each week. This is a fabulous way to experience the theatre while at home. (I personally recommend Othello – it set in modern day – much like the Romeo and Juliet film)

4) David Crystal website - <http://www.davidcrystal.com/>

David Crystal is a lead linguist, writer, editor, lecturer and broadcaster. He has provided an abundance of books and articles in the field of linguists – definitely worth a look.

b) Wider reading

Set Texts

Frankenstein – Mary Shelley

The Kite-Runner – Khaled Hosseini

A Streetcar Named Desire

A selection of poems from 'Mean Time' by Carol Ann Duffy

General - Language

Bill Bryson, Mother Tongue

Victoria Fromkin, Robert Rodman and Nina Hyams, An Introduction to Language

R L Trask, Language the Basics

Crystal, A Little Book of Language

Ursula Clark, An Introduction to Stylistics

David Crystal, Rediscover Grammar (for reference)

Useful Websites

<http://www.englishandmedia.co.uk/emag/> - Contains past articles from the ever-helpful 'e'magazine. Covers both Language and Literature.

<http://www.universalteacher.org.uk/> - Lots of invaluable information on all aspects of your English Language course.

www.englishlangsfx.blogspot.com/ - Written by Dan Clayton at St Francis Xavier College; provides excellent materials and discussions, plus lots of links to other relevant sites.

<http://www.ling.lancs.ac.uk/> - Lancaster Uni Language and Linguistics site. Enormous. They have a specific A Level site within this and loads of resources.

<http://www.phon.ucl.ac.uk/> - Very good for dialects, phonology.

Free audiobooks on audible:

These classic novels can be accessed using the following link. No payment or login details are required: <https://stories.audible.com/discovery>

Brave New World by Aldous Huxley

Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte

Frankenstein by Mary Shelley

Wuthering Heights by Emily Bronte

Persuasion by Jane Austen

The Picture of Dorian Gray by Oscar Wilde

Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen

The Curious Case of Benjamin Button by F. Scott Fitzgerald

Podcasts:

Radio 4 Bookclub: A group of readers talk to acclaimed authors about their best-known novels. There are plenty of episodes to choose from. ('The Kite Runner' by Khaled Hosseini – 2 Feb 2014 would be a good start) <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006s5sf>

The Waterstones Podcast

The Penguin Podcast

Philip Pullman Live – 5 Nov 2019

Malorie Blackman Live – 11 Sep 2019

Documentaries to watch:

Novels that shaped our world Episode 1: A Woman's Place This episode shows the way that women writers, women readers and women's lives have been central to the novel.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m000b8mf/novels-that-shaped-ourworld-series-1-1-a-womans-place>

Episode 2: The Empire Writes Back A look at how the novel has marched in lock step with the rise, decline and fall of the British Empire.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m000bhqt/novels-that-shaped-ourworld-series-1-2-the-empire-writes-back>

Episode 3: The Class Ceiling This episode deals with class in all its shapes and sizes, from all sides of the class divide, in the UK, USA and India.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m000bpx/novels-that-shaped-ourworld-series-1-3-the-class-ceiling>

Magazines/Journals

The Times Literary Supplement – a weekly literary review

Literary Events

These events take place each year and are worth visiting as you are more than likely to meet some famous

literary faces!

- THE GUARDIAN HAY FESTIVAL May/June <http://www.hayfestival.com>
- BBC PROMS LITERARY FESTIVAL July/Sept <http://www.bbc.co.uk/proms>
- HENLEY FESTIVAL July <http://www.henley-festival.co.uk>
- HENLEY LITERARY FESTIVAL Sept/Oct www.henleyliteraryfestival.co.uk/

c) Compulsory task

Task 1: Language Frameworks

It is essential that you have a strong knowledge of key language methods and terms in order to fully analyse the use of language. These methods can be divided into 6 categories;

1. Phonology
2. Lexis
3. Grammar
4. Pragmatics
5. Discourse
6. Graphology

You need to produce a visual aid for each category. You should include;

- What different elements can be selected/analysed
- Key terminology with definitions and examples

A good place to start is the glossary that AQA provides

(<https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/english/AQA-7706-7707-GLOSSARY-CTT.PDF>)

There is also the teams page that will have many PPT's and resources that will help -

<https://teams.microsoft.com/#/school/conversations/General?threadId=19:d3091e6d557143da9866f2a27b3747@thread.tacv2&ctx=channel>

Task 2: Literature Glossary

Once again you will need to be able to define and identify a range of literature methods. You will find there are generic terms (such as metaphor, simile etc) however some are more specific to their genre. You need to provide a glossary (could be an alphabetical list or spider diagram etc) for the following

- Fiction
- Drama (play)
- Poetry

Challenge: can you colour code the terms by Language, Structure and Form

Task 3: Literary periods

As you are already aware there are many different genres of texts, and often these genres belong to a particular literary period or movement e.g. Gothic literature became very popular in the Victorian times. Your task is to create a timeline of literature, it must include

- All the key literary movements
- 3 writers associated with the period
- 2 key texts from the period

For extra credit you could link these to;

- The reigning monarch
- Historical period (e.g. Elizabethan = historical period, Renaissance = literary period)

You can also access a variety of tasks and resources on the combined teams page

d) Stretch!

1) Becoming a 'noticer' of language: a personal anthology of short texts

While you are enjoying the summer, we would like you to do some preparatory work for this exciting new course. As part of the course, you will be looking at a wide variety of texts from all sorts of different contexts. It is therefore crucial that you start 'noticing' language around you.

With that in mind, Please collect ten different texts of your own, then cut them out and stick them onto A4 paper.

Here are some types of text you could choose:

a concert ticket; an advert; a health leaflet; a road sign; a logo or advertising on the side of a bus, van or lorry; a photo of a notice in the street; the back of a cereal packet; a poem, song lyrics, or a page from a novel; a photocopy of a first page of a children's story; a dictionary entry; a transcript of a speech from the internet; email, text message, instant message – and so on!

Collate all your findings *in an ordinary A4 ring binder*. When you arrive in September we will use these texts in our first lessons. For each text decide on its genre (type of text), audience (who it is aimed at – age, gender, level of education) and purpose (inform, entertain, advise, instruct, persuade). Write this *on the back* of the A4 sheet.



Typical questions to ask of a text: What do you notice about the spelling used in this product? Why has the spelling been used, not just the 'K' but 'Kreme'? What is the purpose of the alliteration?

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries about this holiday task.

tmaccormac@mcauley.org.uk

2) Pre-reading tasks

One of the key texts you will study in *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley. You must complete the following and bring these to your first lesson in September;

- Detailed research about Mary Shelley, her life and career
- Research into the Gothic genre – key features/conventions
- 2 reviews of the novel – one from the time of original publication and a more modern one.

There are many film versions of this novel and watching one or more would be helpful – but remember any film version will differ from the original book and so you **MUST NOT** rely on watching the film alone.

Part II - Year 12 Head Start! for completion June – September

Course specification for AQA A Level English Language and Literature, 7707
<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/as-and-a-level/english-language-and-literature-7706-7707/introduction>

Paper 1: Telling Stories

Aims:

- close reading of a text from the AQA Anthology: Paris; analysing representation of place in non-literary texts
- close reading of an unseen extract from class set text; analysing point of view and genre in literary texts
- close reading of a text from the AQA Anthology: Poetic Voices, analyzing forms and functions of poetic voice

Assessment: examination – 3 hr – worth 40% of A Level mark

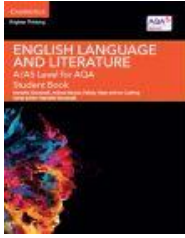
Unit 1: Introduction to skills through teaching of the AQA Anthology: Paris

<https://store.aqa.org.uk/resources/english/AQA-7706-7707-TG-PARIS.PDF>

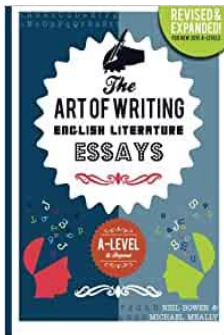
Preparation Task: Study Time: Paris Anthology (Remembered Places)

1. Research what Paris represents, in terms of:
 - Its historical importance (key dates and events)
 - Its cultural importance: writers; painters; composers; fashion; “City of Love”; popular culture
 - Its architectural importance: most famous buildings and districts.
 - Its importance as a tourist destination (including for food)
 - Its current significance as a “world city”
2. Pick 5 Paris texts, write a brief paragraph on what aspects of Paris are used, from this schema.
3. Recap on your understanding of the five key concepts:
 - 1) Genre; 2) Representation; 3) Point of View; 4) Register; 5) Literariness.
4. Also, check you understand what mode is, when describing a text. And then the affordances and constraints, associated with a particular mode (and genre).
5. Check you can discuss (3) and (4), for your 5 chosen Paris texts – maybe do this through annotation or spider diagrams
6. Check you understand the six language levels, for which texts should be analysed:
 - 1) Lexis; 2) Syntax; 3) Phonics; 4) Graphology; 5) Pragmatics; 6) Discourse.
7. Make sure your annotations, for your 5 chosen texts, feature these six terms.

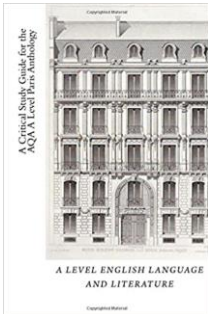
Useful Textbooks



[A/AS Level English Language and Literature for AQA Student Book](#)



[The Art of Writing English Literature Essays: for A-level & Beyond](#)



[A Critical Study Guide for the AQA AS and A Level English Language and Literature Paris Anthology](#)

Department Resources

Join us on the [Introduction to English Combined](#) for more resources

We're looking forward to seeing you in September!