

# English Language and Literature

**Course Type:** A Level

**Exam Board:** Edexcel

**Course Entry Requirements:** Standard (Five GCSE subjects at a minimum grade 4 or the equivalent including Maths and English).

## Why Study English Language and Literature?

The English language dominates world culture. The literature of the British Isles and other English speaking nations is widely-regarded as representing some of the greatest works of art. Learning about how this history links to, influences and shapes the modern media-centred world lies at the heart of this subject. You will gain advanced skills in communication and analysis, as well as the ability to write critically and creatively. Students enjoy this course as they are able to put what they have learned into practice when they produce their own texts.

English students are well-prepared for a range of different subjects at higher education, and for a number of different career paths. Students of English are found in every area of society and in almost any career you can imagine, because they possess the right balance of creative and analytical skills needed in the modern workplace.

## What Will I Study? Course Content

Over the course of the two years you will study:

- An anthology of non-fiction spoken and written texts
- Williams's *A Streetcar Named Desire*
- Larkin's *The Whitsun Weddings*
- The study of narrative fiction, focussing on Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*
- How language changes over time and how it is used in different contexts
- Linguistics and how to analyse texts
- Creative writing and how to produce your own texts

## How will I be assessed?

The final mark will be awarded at the end of the two year course, and will be a combination of examination and coursework components. The majority of the mark will be from external examination, where there will be two exams; there is also one coursework module - 20% of the qualification - that requires you to write one fiction and one non-fiction piece, using your reading of a fiction and a non-fiction text to inform your writing.