



A Level English at Collingwood 2017-19

Be a member of one of the most
successful departments!



Collingwood
College
BELIEVE SUCCEED

Why Study English at A Level?

Apart from the obvious fun, well...

It is an excellent subject to prepare you for all those important skills you will need in the future:

- how to communicate effectively;
- how to read critically;
- how to interpret texts and show awareness of alternative interpretations;
- how to write lively and engaging texts yourself...

The list is endless! And this is all aside from the fact that English is a valued and well respected A Level that will open the door to so many careers!

Past students have gone on to study:

English Literature
Creative Writing
History
Law
Mathematics
Economics
Geography
Drama
Media
Film Studies
Psychology
Teaching

What Do Our Students Think?

"I like the independence and the teaching approach of A Level English. I hope that I enjoy the course so that I can consider taking it on to university."

Lucia

"I've been on the course for four weeks now and the smaller classes really help me to concentrate. Also, everyone wants to be here and comes prepared."

Emily

"Taking English at A Level has enabled me to discover a literary world I never knew existed before. Collingwood has provided me with such a passion for the subject that I aim to continue it at university."

Kerry

"English Combined developed my skills of understanding and analysing texts. The supportive staff helped me overcome any challenges."

Jade

"English can be challenging at times, but with constant support from teachers, a challenge quickly becomes an achievement!"

Daniel

"Studying English has helped me enjoy reading a wider range of genres and texts I would have never have chosen before."

Laura

"The teachers of the English Department are the most enthusiastic of any department ..."

Alex

"English Literature has allowed me to develop the writing skills that are so valuable for university and later life."

James

English Literature (Edexcel)

The study of English Literature involves you developing your analysis of a range of literary texts, through independent and critical study. You learn how to use critical concepts and terminology in order to reflect on your own responses to texts.

The objectives of this course encourage you to:

- use appropriate terminology in accurate, coherent writing;
- develop a detailed understanding of the ways in which meanings are shaped in literary texts;
- consider the significance of contexts in which literary texts are written and received;
- explore connections across texts;
- explore texts informed by different interpretations.

The two-year A Level Course at a Glance

Component or Paper	Assessment Method	Weighting
1 - Drama	Exam Summer 2020	30%
2 - Prose	Exam Summer 2020	20%
3 - Poetry	Exam Summer 2020	30%
4 - Coursework	Coursework Summer 2020	20%

What qualifications do I need to take the course?

Minimum of 5 GCSEs at Grade 9-4 (or equivalent), including English Language and Literature. Experience shows that your chances of success are greater if you have a Grade 5 in both GCSE English Language and Literature.

What is the duration of the course?

The A Level course takes TWO years to complete. All exams will be taken in the summer of 2018.

The two-year A Level course in more detail – overview of assessment

Paper/Component 1- DRAMA

Paper Length: 2 hours and 15 minutes examined summer 2020

Section A: Shakespeare

One essay question from choice of two on studied Shakespeare text. Section A. 35 marks

Section B: Other Drama

One essay question from a choice of two on studied text. Section B. 25 marks

Paper/Component 2 – PROSE

Paper length: 1 hour examined summer 2020

One comparative essay question from a choice of two on the TWO studied prose texts. 40 marks

Paper/Component 3 – POETRY

Paper length: 2 hours and 15 minutes examined summer 2020

Section A: Contemporary Poetry

One essay question from a choice of two comparing an unseen modern poem and one named poem from the studied collection. Section A. 30 marks

Section B: Poetry Collections

One essay question from a choice of two on the studied poetry period or author. Section B. 30 marks

Paper/Component 4 – Coursework

One extended comparative essay referring to TWO texts (2500-3000 words). 60 marks examined summer 2018

English Language and Literature (Edexcel)

The study of Language and Literature involves you developing your analysis of a range of spoken and written texts, both fiction and non-fiction by using both literary and linguistic frameworks. On this course you are also able to develop your creative writing skills.

The objectives of this course encourage you to:

- approach linguistic and literary concepts in an integrated way using appropriate terminology in accurate, coherent writing;
- analyse ways in which meanings are shaped in texts;
- understand the significance and influence of contexts in which texts are written and received;
- explore connections across texts, informed by linguistic and literary concepts and methods;
- demonstrate expertise and creativity in the use of English to communicate in different ways.

The two-year A Level Course at a Glance

Component or Paper	Assessment Method	Weighting
1 – Voices in Speech and Writing	Exam Summer 2020	40%
2 – Varieties in Language and Literature	Exam Summer 2020	40%
3 – Investigating and Creating Texts	Coursework Summer 2020	20%

What qualifications do I need to take the course?

Minimum of 5 GCSEs at Grade 9-4 (or equivalent), including English Language and Literature. Experience shows that your chances of success are greater if you have a Grade 5 in both GCSE English Language and Literature.

What is the duration of the course?

The A Level course takes TWO years to complete. All exams will be taken in the summer of 2019.

The two-year A Level course in more detail – overview of assessment

Paper/Component 1- VOICES IN SPEECH AND WRITING

Paper Length: 2 hours and 30 minutes examined summer 2020

Section A: Voices in 20th- and 21st century Texts

One comparative question on one unseen extract selected from 20th- or 21st century sources and one text from the anthology. Section A. 25 marks

Section B: Drama Texts

One extract-based essay question on the chosen drama text. Section B. 25 marks

Paper/Component 2 – VARIETIES IN LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

Paper length: 2 hours and 30 minutes examined summer 2020

Section A: Unseen Prose Non-fiction Texts

One essay question on an unseen prose non-fiction extract from a choice of four. The unseen extract is linked to the studied theme. Section A. 20 marks

Section B: Prose Fiction and Other Genres

One comparative essay question from a choice of four on one prose fiction anchor text and one other text from a theme. Section B. 30 marks

Paper/Component 3 – Coursework – Investigating and Creating texts

Assignment 1: two pieces of original writing – one fiction and one creative non-fiction. 1500-2000 words. 36 marks.

Assignment 2: one analytical commentary reflecting on their studied texts and the two original writing pieces you have produced. 1000-1250 words. 24 marks.

What do we expect from you?

- Enthusiasm and commitment – students who really want to know more about language and literature and who love reading;
- Originality – students with lots of ideas but who also ground their ideas in research;
- Contributions to class discussions;
- Thorough preparation for lessons;
- Care for accuracy and structure in your writing;
- Effective time management, ensuring you meet deadlines;
- Communication with your teachers, particularly if you are unsure about something;
- Maturity and organisation, bringing everything you need to lessons (texts, pens, A4 paper, a folder with recent work, preparation notes, reading book);
- Attendance at all lessons.

What can you expect from us?

- Lessons focused on the requirements of the specification;
- Marking of essays and mock exams which sets you targets for improvement;
- Availability, by appointment, to discuss queries, either with your class teacher or the Key Stage 5 Coordinator;
- Availability to 'drop in' with any queries or worries every Wednesday lunch time;
- Communication regarding your target grade and progress and regular reviews.

English Literature and English Combined – what's the difference?

There are more similarities than differences between the two types of English course, but the following aspects are a useful way of differentiating between them:

English Literature	English Combined
Students study a range of literary texts; fiction.	Students study a range of literary and non-literary texts; fiction and non-fiction
Students focus on whole novels and plays as well as a selection of works by poets.	Students study whole works as well as a focus on extracts from a wide variety of genres.
Students focus mostly on the effects of the written word, with a focus on dramatic effects in spoken literary texts such as drama.	Students study concepts and theories of spoken language as well as written language genres.