

# English Language and Literature A Level



## HEAD OF DEPARTMENT

Jane Anthony

## EMAIL ADDRESS

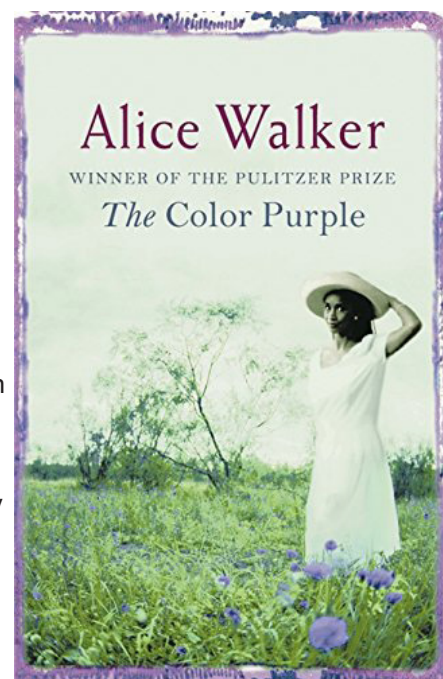
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## EXAM BOARD

EDUQUAS

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

A Level English Language and Literature has been introduced at The Grey Coat Hospital to provide an opportunity to study aspects of English beyond Literature. This course would appeal to students who enjoyed the creative aspect of GCSE English and who are also interested in spoken English. However, there are overlaps between the two A Level courses. Both A Levels include the study of a Shakespeare play, twentieth century drama and poetry. However, A Level Language and Literature contains a much smaller unseen element and also provides the opportunity to study non-fiction in a variety of forms.



## SKILLS REQUIRED

- A history and enjoyment of reading widely
- Enjoyment of language in all its forms
- Ability to analyse a range of fictional and non-fictional texts
- Interest in the links between writing, speaking and society
- Ability to use a range of robust evidence to support interpretations
- Participation in critical debates about different genres Ability to engage enthusiastically with new ideas
- Readiness to transfer learning between the different aspects of the course
- Ability to evaluate the way in which context shapes written and spoken language

## TEXTS STUDIED INCLUDE

*Othello* - William Shakespeare  
*The Colour Purple* - Alice Walker  
*Homage to Catalonia* – George Orwell

## PROGRAMME OF STUDY

### Poetry and Prose

Comparison between poems from a pre-1914 Anthology and an unseen post-1914 text  
Novel *The Colour Purple* by Alice Walker

Exam paper  
2 hours  
30% of total A Level

### Drama

*Othello* by Shakespeare  
Translations by Brian Friel

Exam paper  
2 hours  
30% of total A Level

### Non Literary Texts

Study of Spoken Language  
*Homage to Catalonia* by George Orwell

Exam paper  
2 hours  
20% of total A Level

### Critical and Creative Genre Study

Analysis of a selected genre e.g. crime writing  
Two creative pieces linked to the genre (fiction and non-fiction)

Coursework of 3200-3500 words  
20% of the A Level

## ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

Last year, we organised a creative writing trip to the Queen's Gallery where students produced pieces based on items in the Gallery collection. Students are also encouraged to participate in the many theatre trips which are organised by the department throughout the year. Recently these have included trips to *Twelfth Night*, *King Lear*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Hamlet*, *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead* (Stoppard), *The Deep Blue Sea* (Rattigan). We run a Sixth Form book club with a view to exploring different genres or styles of writing. This year so far the focus is on literature in English written outside the British Isles. Many of our Year 12 students also participate in a Paired Reading scheme with Year 7 students.

## FUTURE CAREERS

A Level English Language and Literature offers a pathway for students to a wide range of degrees and careers. Students can still pursue degrees in English Literature including at Russell Group universities. However, this course encourages an interest in the links between society and language and so students may wish to pursue this in the form of Linguistics, Humanities subjects or Social Sciences. The creative element will encourage students to consider Creative Writing or Journalism courses while the non-fiction element may invite them to think about Politics or History. Students enjoy the breadth of the course and appreciate that the transferable skills they acquire prepare them for careers in a wide range of industries.

We offer a wide range of support for students studying A Level English Literature. We offer a trip to New College, Oxford where students experience a mock-tutorial and are advised on the admissions process. We also advertise other taster days and summer schools; in the Summer term students have an opportunity to attend a lecture at King's College, London. Students are given detailed support with university applications through recommended reading and one-to-one feedback on their personal statements. We run weekly Oxbridge preparation sessions which prepare students for the ELAT test and the interview.

## EXAMINATION RESULTS

English Language and Literature results in 2021: A\* - A = 58%, A\* - B = 100%

Every year many students go on to study English related courses at university, in 2020 and 2021 students enrolled onto the following courses:

2020: Queen Mary - English and Creative Writing, Queen Mary-Language and Linguistics, Leeds - English Literature, King's - English, Nottingham- English and Creative Writing, UCL-English, Oxford - English Literature.

2021: King's College, London - English Literature, Cambridge - English Literature, Birmingham - English and Classical Literature, Surrey - English Literature with Creative Writing, Leeds- English with Sociology, Manchester - Art History with English Literature.

