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college

Inspiring minds.  
Shaping futures.

# ENGLISH

COURSE GUIDE 2017

ENGLISH LANGUAGE | ENGLISH LITERATURE  
ENGLISH LANGUAGE & LITERATURE

“You develop the insight of an artist, the analytical precision of a scientist and the persuasiveness of a lawyer.”

PROF MORAN BRUNEL UNIVERSITY

## Linear A Level

# English Language

Exam Board EDUQAS

### What will the course involve?

English Language is a popular A Level appealing to students because it examines texts in the real world such as adverts, speeches and newspaper articles. The emphasis is on understanding how and why language is used in specific ways and developing knowledge of key terminology which will help you analyse texts in a concise and focused style.

After learning how to analyse unseen texts, you will continue to develop your understanding of key frameworks as well as studying the development of English Language over time. This topic covers historical, social and cultural aspects as well as examining current attitudes towards the effects of new technology. There is also a focus on spoken language. You will analyse a wide range of transcripts from television and radio, spontaneous real life talk, comedy and child language acquisition.

### How will I be assessed?

There will be three exams at the end of the second year (80%) and one piece of coursework (20%).

## Linear A Level

# English Literature

Exam Board EDUQAS

### What will the course involve?

English Literature is a great subject for students who enjoy reading, thinking independently and evaluating ideas. This is a two year linear course where you will gain a better understanding of interpretations within literary texts through methods of analysis, expressing this in cogent, detailed and critical essays. For the exams, you will read and compare a variety of literature, from classic plays to modern poetry, evaluating interpretations from your close reading of texts such as *King Lear*, *The Duchess of Malfi* and *The Whitsun Weddings* in addition to analysing unseen prose and poetry in the exam. The coursework, which is worth 20%, is a 2500-3500 word comparative essay and allows you to pick a novel of your choice from your own wider reading at A Level.

### How will I be assessed?

There will be three exams at the end of the second year (80%) and one piece of coursework (20%).



Students visit the BBC Studios at Media City

## Our students say...

The commitment of the English department has helped me to develop many transferable skills, both as a student and as an employee outside of college.

The written communication skills I've acquired have given me confidence in my other subjects. I am now able to write well formulated arguments in a concise manner. The English staff are approachable and provide constructive feedback on written assessments.

The lessons are enjoyable, and encompass the study of a variety of relevant text types aided by lively class discussions; this encourages students to adopt an ethos for hard work and the belief that they will attain, if not surpass, their minimum expected grades.



**Sarah Finney**  
Byrchall High School

**Studying:**  
English Language, History, Health & Social Care

# English Language & Literature

Exam Board PEARSON

## What will the course involve?

This is a popular course that links the skills of both English Language and English Literature study. It will appeal to students who have enjoyed both aspects at GCSE and wish to continue studying them in a broader and more in-depth manner.

During the two years you will explore how 'voice' is crafted in both speech and writing, focusing on a drama text (*All My Sons*) and a range of short literary, non-literary and digital texts. You will also study texts that give you the opportunity to explore the ways in which different writers use language techniques and literary devices to convey their thoughts or ideas on a theme in literary and non-fiction writing. For example, you will analyse the techniques Fitzgerald uses to explore 'Society and the Individual' in 'The Great Gatsby'.

As well as reading and analysing texts written by other people, you will also be given the opportunity to develop your own skills as a writer by producing a fiction and a non-fiction text in response to a topic area, such as, 'Crossing Boundaries'. You will also undertake wider reading to further your understanding of texts from a range of genres and time periods.

## How will I be assessed?

There will be two exams at the end of the second year (80%) and one coursework component (20%).

## Where does an English course lead?

English subjects are challenging, but are an excellent preparation both for university and your future career. Obvious careers include journalism, sales, teaching, management, administration, information management, publishing and careers in the public services.

## What support will I receive?

All staff in the department are there to enable you to achieve the best grades possible and you can ask for help from any tutor. This is in addition to regular individual interviews with your own specific tutor. Additional revision classes are held for all re-sits and we take pride in the level of support given to our students.

## What is the English Department like?

There are eight tutors in the English Department all of whom teach the whole range of courses. There is an excellent library containing both traditional texts, but also the very best of contemporary writing. The Department has a 'book of the month' programme giving students the opportunity to enjoy the latest publications. We have comprehensive IT facilities in the college and the English Department subscribes to a range of magazines and on-line resources such as Pro-Quest and the Oxford English Dictionary.

## What other activities do English students get involved in?

The English Department offers the opportunity to be involved in theatre visits, trips to places of literary interest, study days on specific examination modules, workshops on creative writing, examination preparation delivered by Senior Examiners and conferences on English Language. You can also, through Enrichment, be involved in debating, personal creative writing, and the poetry group.

## Our students say...

I enjoy Carmel's friendly atmosphere and the chance I have had to meet lots of new people.

English Literature is my favourite subject as the lessons are always interesting and there are lots of opportunities to participate in class discussions and debates. The teachers are supportive and happy to help with any problems and there are many enrichment activities, such as visiting New York City and watching 'King Lear' in preparation for our exam. I would recommend English Literature to anyone who enjoys reading and analysing the different interpretations within texts, and also because it complements other humanities subjects due to the transferable skills of essay writing and analysing. After Carmel I plan to further develop the skills that I have learnt by studying English at university.



**Anna Killilea**  
De La Salle

### Studying:

English Literature, French, Philosophy and Religion, Chemistry

Trip to see a production of Macbeth



## Our students say...

I like the atmosphere at Carmel. The teachers put their trust in you to work hard and you are encouraged to become an independent learner.

I enjoy studying English Language and Literature as it has enabled me to develop my analytical skills and introduced me to genres and texts I would never have thought I would be interested in. The course offers its students a range enrichment opportunities, including visits to the theatre and even a trip to New York. After college, I hope to go to university to study English or English with Law and this course has helped me to develop the skills I will need to do that. I would definitely recommend it!



**Rachel Cheshire**  
St Gregory's

### Studying:

English Language and Literature,  
Law, Psychology

## Frequently Asked Questions

### How successful are Carmel's English students?

Carmel's English students achieve consistently high results across all three subjects:

	2013	2014	2015	2016
English Language	100%	100%	100%	100%
English Literature	100%	100%	100%	100%
English Language & Literature	100%	100%	100%	100%

### Is there anything I should consider when choosing which English subject to take?

Students who know which specific English degree they are going to pursue should take the same A Level course. Students who are applying to Oxbridge, or prestigious universities should check with the university's admissions team to see which English course is preferred.



### What are the entry requirements for these courses?

For all English subjects you will need a **grade 5 in GCSE English Language** and a **grade 5 in GCSE English Literature** (if studied).

### Meet the Tutors

**Janet Gater**  
Acting Assistant Principal

**Mark McGrath**  
Head of English Language

**Daniel Bryant**  
Acting Head of Faculty,  
Head of English Literature

**Elaine Peet**  
**Lynn McCormack**  
**Rebecca Blakey**  
**Nicholas Williams**  
**Elizabeth Connor**

### More Information

The Exam Board websites contain details of the full course specifications:

English Literature / English Language: [www.eduqas.co.uk](http://www.eduqas.co.uk)

English Language & Literature: [www.qualifications.pearson.com](http://www.qualifications.pearson.com)



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