



President
Kennedy
School

Building Brighter Futures



English Language and Literature

English Language and Literature remains a popular subject for A Level study and supports students in developing skills that are useful for many other areas of study and employment. English Language and Literature is an A Level designed with a focus on the integration of language and literature. It enables students to see how linguistic and literary methods are related and to explore these links in their work.

Entry Requirements

Students will be expected to achieve a grade 6 in English Literature or Language at GCSE.

Topics covered

Unit 1: Telling Stories

Telling stories covers a range of themes from “Remembered Places” in our Paris Anthology and “Imagined Worlds” in “The Handmaid’s Tale” to Duffy’s “Poetic Voice”. The unit integrates methods of language analysis across the genres. It is assessed through a three-hour examination.

Unit 2: Exploring Conflict

In this unit we examine themes from “Dramatic Encounters” focusing on the conflict within Shakespeare’s “Othello” to writing about society and the role of individuals in F. Scott Fitzgerald’s “The Great Gatsby.” The unit also provides the opportunity for creative writing and critical evaluation.

Assessment is through a two-and-a-half-hour examination.

Unit 3: Non-Examination Assessment – Making Connections

The unit provides the opportunity for a personal investigation on a chosen theme in a literary and non-literary text of the student’s choice, culminating in an extended essay of 2500-3000 words.

Skills you will develop on the course

Students will develop the skills to read, think and write in a critical and academic way. Students will study a range of texts from different periods within the 20th and 21st Century and this will enable them to sharpen their ability to attribute contextual depth and understanding to texts.

Assessment

There are two exams and one coursework element. The exams form 80% of the grade and coursework accounts for 20% of the course grade.

Educational trips, visits and wider experiences

We commit to going to see a play at Shakespeare’s famous stage ‘The Globe’, visit Bristol University for taster sessions, work with and meet a journalist, visit The Library of Birmingham and visit Paris to further understand the city of Paris for the anthology component of Unit 1.

What type of students will do well on this course?

Students who will do well on this course are those who have a love and a passion for English. Students need to be prepared to read, think and speak critically and discuss critical theory and ideas amongst their peers. Students need to be driven and motivated.

For more information contact:

Miss Donaldson – Donaldson.k@barrshill.coventry.sch.uk

Mrs Fife – fife.b@barrshill.coventry.sch.uk

Post-School Progression Opportunities

University	Entry requirements	Other similar courses offered
Loughborough University English BA (Hons)	AAB including English (Literature, Language or both)	English with Business Studies (BA) English with Creative Writing (BA) Liberal Arts (BA)
University of York English BA (Hons)	AAA/A*AB including an A in English Literature (English Language and Literature is also acceptable)	English and Philosophy (BA) English and History (BA) English and Politics (BA)
University of Bristol English BA (Hons)	AAA including English Literature or combined English Literature and Language	English with study abroad (BA) English and Classical Studies (BA)

Career Opportunities

Digital Copywriter

What would I do?

- understand your target audience - you're not writing for the client, you're writing for their readers, so you'll need to know what interests them
- identify key messages - understand the main thing that you want the reader to feel and do and how to communicate this powerfully
- work with creative teams to ensure that the visual elements of the webpage complement the words

Salary: Starting: Starting salaries for junior copywriters are between £22,000 and £30,000 per year or you can work as a freelancer and determine your own wage.

Routes in: Bachelor degree in English

Secondary School English teacher

What would I do?

- As a secondary school teacher you'll teach pupils aged 11 to 18. Specialising in a particular subject, you'll plan, teach and assess lessons in line with curriculum objectives.
- You'll aim to ensure a healthy culture of learning and will support, observe and record pupils' progress.
- Teachers must keep up to date with developments in their subject area, new resources, methods and national objectives. The role involves liaising and networking with other professionals, parents and carers, both informally and formally.

Salary: Starting: New entrants to the profession in England start on the main salary scale, which rises incrementally from £25,714 to £36,961.

Routes in: Relevant Bachelor's degree and PGCE

Web Content Manager

What would I do?

- manage your company CMS, working with developers and editors to ensure it's meeting the needs of your organisation
- conduct content audits to identify gaps and redundancies in the site content
- create and implement content schedules for people to produce or update content

Salary: Starting: Experienced web content coordinators, web content executives and web content managers can earn between £25,000 and £40,000.

Routes in: Relevant Bachelor's degree