



Aldercar High School

Post-16

A-Level English

Language and

Literature



A Level English Language and Literature

At Aldercar, students study the OCR English Language and Literature course. This is a vibrant, two year A Level which helps students to build on the skills they developed at GCSE. We study a range of texts, from speeches and TV interviews, to literary works such as Shakespeare's *Othello* and the poetry of Carol Ann Duffy.

The course also allows students to follow their own independent reading preferences and interests in the coursework unit.

Our Results:

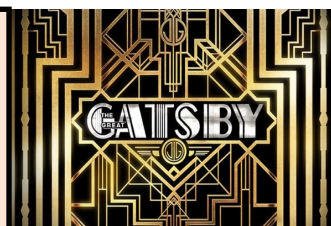
- In 2017, 100% of our students passed the course and 80% achieved or surpassed their target grade.
- In 2018 100% of our students passed the course.
- Our 2019-2020 cohort all achieved or surpassed their target grade.

What do I need?

- You'll need to be someone who reads independently and finds the written word enjoyable.
- We usually ask for at least a Level 5 in English Language or Literature at GCSE.

Why study English?

- This A-Level can be a gateway to a really broad range of university courses and jobs.
- Studying English develops communication skills which are essential in all working environments.



Course Structure

Component 01 Exploring non-fiction and spoken texts

Compare a text from the spoken and written language anthology (selection of 20) with an unseen text. Anthology text is reproduced in the exam. 1 hr exam. 1 question. 32 marks. 16% of A-Level.

Skills required are comparative and context based. Ability to analyse texts using appropriate terminology.

Question: Carefully read the two texts and compare the ways in which the speakers in Text A and the writer in Text B present the event.

In your answer you should analyse the impact that the different contexts have on language use, including for example, mode, purpose and audience

Some anthology texts: Samuel Pepys' diary extracts, Jamie Oliver speaking to camera, Alan Bennett's diary entry, CBBC's *Horrible Histories*, an NSPCC charity advert, a Twitter conversation.

Component 02 The language of poetry and plays

Answer one question on Blake's poetry, comparing a named poem with 'one or two other' poems by the same writer. Answer another question on Shakespeare's *Othello*, analysing how a theme, issue or character is presented in an extract. 2 hr exam. 2 questions. 32 marks each. 32% of A-Level.

Skills required are analytical and comparative. You also need to understand the context in which the writers worked.

Poetry Question: Explore how _____ presents ideas about _____ in _____ and make connections with one or two other poems from your collection.

You should consider the poet's use of poetic and stylistic techniques and significant literary or other relevant contexts.

Drama Question: Explore how _____ presents _____ in this extract from the play.

You should consider the use of dramatic and stylistic techniques in the extract, its significance within the play and any relevant dramatic or other contexts.

Component 03 Reading as a writer, writing as a reader

Answer one question on Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby* and complete another, creative task. Write a commentary explaining some of the techniques you used to make your creative task effective. 2 hr exam. 3 questions. 64 marks. 32% of A-Level.

Skills required are an ability to analyse the language of the text and your own writing, a detailed understanding of how language works and an ability to write in an engaging, creative way.

Prose Question: How does the writer of your text use settings / suspense / speech / sound / colour, etc. ?

Commentary: Outline the key narrative and linguistic techniques you have used in your writing for the creative question.

Creative Question: Choose one of the storylines below to develop as the opening of a narrative.

Component 04 Independent Study

You will create an analytical, comparative essay on a set text and a second, free-choice text. One of these must have been published after the year 2000.

You will also create a piece of original, non-fiction writing for this unit.

This component is worth 20% of the overall A-Level.

Our set text will be *Stuart: A Life Backwards*, a biography of a homeless man which was written by Alexander Masters.

You will need to read widely and consider texts which would form appropriate comparisons. Think about texts with similar themes:

- mental illness
- drug and alcohol abuse
- people on the margins of society.

**For further information contact:
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