

ENGLISH LITERATURE

WHERE CAN IT TAKE YOU?

Journalism and Writing

If you have a passion for writing, editing and experimenting with language, you could consider a career in journalism or writing. Many careers in this field require a relevant university degree; some degree courses offer Creative Writing and English Combined. You should think about developing a portfolio of writing, something we can support you with through extra curricular writing opportunities at One.

Career Paths - Magazine or newspaper journalist, editor, proof reader, researcher, broadcaster, digital copywriter, playwright, novelist, poet, critic, publisher, copywriter, blogger, speech writer, technical writer.

Marketing & PR

Although these are not necessarily careers directly related to the study of English, they are certainly fields that the study of English could lead you into. Businesses in the marketing sector and financial world need staff to market, sell and present services in an articulate and creative manner. Careers in this field may require a relevant degree, or others could be pursued through apprenticeships and gaining work experience.

Career Paths - Management, advertising, marketing, Public Relations Officer, Human Resources, social media manager, charity worker.

Education

If you are thinking of going into teaching after your A Levels then a degree in the relevant field is desirable. After studying an undergraduate degree you would go on to study a PGCE to gain your teaching qualification. You could also consider further study to gain a Masters or Doctorate.

Career Paths - Teacher (primary or secondary), lecturer, tutor, teacher of English as a foreign language.

Research and Information Services

English students often have a passion for texts and reading, which can be used to pursue exciting and original research projects or within public information services. Careers in this field may require a relevant degree, or others could be pursued through apprenticeships and gaining work experience.

Career Paths - Information officer, research officer, head of an information service, records management, librarianship.

Social Sciences

Particularly pertinent to students with an interest in English Language, careers in this field can combine linguistic knowledge with a passion for helping others. Careers in this field will usually require a relevant undergraduate degree.

Career Paths - Speech and child therapy, counselling, criminology, forensic linguistics.

Law

English is a popular subject to study at A Level if you want to go on to study a law degree; some law degrees ask specifically for an English A Level. English helps with key oral and written communication skills which are particularly pertinent to the study of law.

Career Paths - Barrister, paralegal, solicitor, chartered legal executive, conveyancer.

FURTHER CAREER INFORMATION

These are just a small selection of the careers you could go on to pursue should you study an A Level in one of our English subjects.

The study of English opens up a vast array of different career paths as communication, analysis and interpretation are key and transferrable employment skills.

English Literature is considered a facilitating subject by Russell group universities.

English degrees are excellent in terms of their broad and general scope for career choices.

As an English degree is a non-vocational subject, gaining relevant work experience can be really beneficial in a competitive jobs market.

ENGLISH LITERATURE

WHAT TO EXPECT

What does the course involve?

As one of our English Literature students said, "If you have enjoyed exploring plays, poems and novels at school you will love English Literature at A-Level. The texts are so much more enjoyable and challenging."

To be successful in this course you will need a passion for reading widely and for analysing and interrogating texts to find meaning.

You will read, discuss and actively explore a range of set texts, as well as having the exciting opportunity to pursue your own literary passion by choosing your own texts to study for coursework.

Books are at the heart of our course, offering you a wonderful opportunity to delve into modern classics such as F Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby* as well as strikingly modern texts such as Sebastian Barry's *A Long Long Way*.

You will study:

- Two novels
- Two collections of poetry
- A Shakespeare play and a more modern drama text
- Two coursework texts of your choice, one written pre 1900

The texts we study have been carefully chosen to give you an insight into how writers craft their work but also to inspire and entertain you. In exploring these texts we think about writers' methods, but also about the portrayal of some of the most universal human emotions and experiences.

The focus of the course is lively and varied; we explore the representation of love in Literature and the portrayal of the First World War and its political and social aftermath.

Your own independent reading will be crucial throughout the course but particularly in the coursework unit when you will have the opportunity to choose your own texts to research and write about.

As such, you need to be self-motivated, conscientious and, above all, a committed reader with interesting interpretations and the confidence to express them.

Can I take additional qualifications?

If you choose to study English Literature, you will usually take it alongside two other A levels. Subjects which complement English Literature include: Drama and Theatre Studies, History, Media Studies, Social Sciences, Modern Languages and Sciences.

How will I be assessed?

Through examination (80%) and one non-examined assessment (20%).

What are the costs?

There are no charges to study this course. However, there may be some costs for trips and – although all course texts are available from the LRC on long term loan – you may wish to buy your own copies.

What is the duration?

This is a two year course.

Entry Requirements

Grade 5 in GCSE English Language and Grade 5 in GCSE English Literature.