

Progression between Year 12 and Year 13

Study for the second year of the course commences as soon as students return from completion of their Year 12 examinations. All work covered in the second year will build on that covered in the first year with the exception of the 'fresh' course work module.

Coombe Sixth Form English Language and Literature A Level



Megan

"I'm studying Business Studies, History, English Literature and Language, Philosophy and Ethics at A level. I hope to go to Brunel University to complete a BA in Modern History.

I stayed at Coombe Sixth Form as I know the teachers are always supportive with help and advice. My ultimate ambition for the future is for a career in journalism."



English Language and Literature

What does studying English Language and Literature involve?

It is essential that all students are keen and adaptable readers. The best candidates will constantly be advised to stretch themselves with further independent reading. The course also requires that students write a range of assignments (including, in the second year of the full A level, a challenging course work assignment). These will test the candidates' ability to analyse, recreate and opine about some of the texts they have studied in class. Research and wider reading are, of course, activities connected with more independent tasks. It is therefore very important that students considering English are confident in their ability to express themselves with clear, sophisticated and organised writing as necessary.

Discussion is a big part of English lessons at A level. Without the variety of ideas generated by this activity, broad textual understanding will be limited which ultimately may restrict the quality of coursework and exam responses. Students will therefore be expected to offer opinions, make educated guesses and substantiate and develop their own and others' assertions from the start of the course.

What skills will I develop and where could studying this subject lead?

If you begin this course with the good communication skills mentioned above, these will be enhanced and diversified. Your ability to take and assimilate notes, to research effectively, to present information in a variety of ways to groups of listeners will also be honed. Being excellent communicators opens all kinds of doors with regard to careers and choice of university course, too.

Employers need people who can crisply and concisely convey information, as well as those who can use their initiative in responding to and manipulating ideas they receive.

Entry requirements / prior knowledge:

Students are required to gain a numerical grade 6 or above in both English Language and English Literature at GCSE in order to access this course.

Modules that you will cover and assessment details

A Level

- **Voices in Speech and Writing** – Students study a range of talk in literary, non-literary and digital texts through reading of an anthology and a drama text from a prescribed list. They will be tested at the end of the course in a 2 hour and 30 minutes exam through a comparative essay and an extract-based essay on the chosen drama text.
- **Varieties in Language and Literature** – Students study two texts (one compulsory anchor text and one other literary text from a chosen theme). They will be tested at the end of the course in a 2 hour 30 minutes exam with an essay on an unseen prose non-fiction extract linked to a studied theme with another essay question based on the anchor text.
- **Investigating and Creating texts (Coursework)** – Students will study two texts (one fiction, one non-fiction) which relate to a topic of their own choosing. Two assignments will be then be completed: 1 – the creation of two pieces of original writing (creative non-fiction and fiction); 2 – a piece

of analytical commentary which reflects on the studied texts as well as the pieces of created writing.

Which other subjects does it combine well with?

For a student who genuinely enjoys reading, English can be studied with most A Level subjects. However, given the creative and aesthetic aspects of this type of study, Humanities subjects are likely to be partnered best by English.

Similarities between GCSE and A Level

The biggest difference in this regard is that students need to be much more autonomous in the way they approach A Level English. GCSE is very directed and prescribed. The best students at A Level will rapidly realise that, within the bounds of the syllabus and according to teacher guidance, setting their own agenda and parameters will give them most pleasure and reward.