St Benedict's Sixth Form

# A Level English Combined

## Course Description

English Language and Literature Combined is a challenging and versatile subject which combines well with Science subjects as well as Arts and Humanities. It teaches students how to use linguistic tools alongside an appreciation of literature, so that they are able to explore the richness of language and literature and cultivate their own critical responses. This subject enables depth and breadth of study, with flexible interesting content supporting independence, wide reading and creativity. The Language element of the course takes you through the analysis of disparate texts ranging from comic books to letters to charity leaflets and encourages you to create your own texts, whereas the Literature element focuses on one poet, one play and one novel in great detail, deepening your appreciation and understanding of writers and their craft.

## Skills Attained

Students develop their analytical skills by learning how to apply linguistic frameworks and literary techniques to texts. The course will also require them to participate in group discussions, give presentations and work in groups, therefore improving their oral communication skills. On top of this they will also become more confident at writing in a variety of styles and being able to evaluate their own work. They will develop their critical reading, research and evaluation skills through completing their own research and investigation into a specific aspect of language and literature in use.

## Assessment

1. Exam =16% Language of Non-Fiction Texts
2. Exam =32% The Language of Poetry and Drama
3. Exam= 32% Reading as a writer, writing as a reader
4. Coursework = 20%



## Progression

One of the strengths of English Language is that it is relevant for a wide variety of careers and university courses. The analytical skills gained are useful for areas such as law or history, the theoretical elements of language around power, gender and occupation give a profound insight into the underlying meanings of texts whilst the creative side of the course lends itself to journalism or advertising. More obviously, students are given a significant start towards studying English or Linguistics at University.

Beyond university, employers welcome A-level English Combined as it develops a rich and varied skill set including communication skills, critical reading skills and elite level academic and creative writing skills. Past students are found in a wide variety of fields including journalism, working in television, nursing, social work, speech therapy, law and accountancy to name but a few.

"I like that you get to see the deeper meaning of language and get to understand different perspectives. It's got the wow factor!"
-Javayria Ali

"I like the analytical side of it but also enjoy the poetry. It's nothing like the GCSE!"
-Joe Reed

## Entry Requirements

Grade 5 in GCSE English Language
OR GCSE English Literature

**Exam Board: OCR**

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