

English Literature & Language

English is a vital subject which helps you to develop core, transferable skills while also enabling you to develop your independence and creativity. You will be able to enjoy the experience of reading and explore wider, universal issues, promoting better understanding of yourself and the world around you. English is a diverse, creative subject which can ultimately lead to a wide range of careers in various sectors and industries. In English lessons, you will study for two separate qualifications in English and English Literature.

What do the courses involve?

Lessons will be varied, enabling you to develop both your analytical skills and your ability to communicate.

As preparation for the English – First Language IGCSE, you'll study a range of texts, enjoying and appreciating a variety of language. You'll be encouraged to read these critically, using the knowledge gained to inform and improve your own writing. You'll be encouraged to develop your skills of evaluation and analysis in preparation for the Reading paper, and to write accurately, articulately and creatively in preparation for the Writing Paper.

Assessment in IGCSE Literature in English comprises two examinations, inviting you to explore a range of poetry, drama and prose texts. You'll develop your ability to understand and respond to literary texts in different forms and from different periods and cultures. Text choices are regularly rotated by the examination boards. You'll be encouraged to appreciate literature and to develop and communicate an informed personal response. In lessons, you'll balance close analysis of the set texts with discussion of broader themes and ideas and refinement of essay skills.

What can GCSEs in English Language and Literature lead to?

The subject is vital and the qualifications are an important springboard to further study and careers. English Literature can be studied at A Level and will complement other arts subjects such as History, Religious Studies and Classical Civilisation, but is extremely popular with linguists and scientists who enjoy a different method of study. Indeed, pupils have gone on to study an extremely diverse range of subjects, from English Literature itself to Medicine. With respect to higher education, the subject is highly popular in its own right and well respected for its academic rigour, but it is also useful for many arts-related courses such as journalism, law, philosophy and Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE). English is a very flexible subject; English graduates are employed in a wide range of sectors, not simply those more traditionally linked to the subject, such as publishing or advertising.

What skills do the English courses develop?

In both IGCSEs, you will develop your ability to think critically about texts, identifying the writer's purposes and how these are achieved. You will be encouraged to infer, to look for underlying ideas and attitudes. The analytical skills which enhance your study of English will also be developed in English Literature, where you will develop an understanding of literal meaning, relevant contexts and of the deeper themes or attitudes that are expressed. Through your studies, you will learn to recognise the ways in which the writers use English to achieve a range of effects, and will be able to present an informed, personal response to the material you have studied. Indeed, central to English is communication and expression; you will develop your ability to communicate clearly, accurately and effectively when speaking and writing, tailoring your content to purpose and audience.

At a Glance

Exam Board
IGCSE

Assessment Type

Both courses are assessed entirely by examination.

CIE IGCSE Literature in English (0992):

- Paper 1: Poetry and Prose
- Paper 2: Drama

CIE IGCSE English – First Language (0990):

- Paper 1: Reading
- Paper 2: Writing

Head of Department
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