

English Language and Literature

By the end of this session, you should:

- Know what to expect from the course
- Explore some of the key skills you will use on the course
- Understand what to do between now and September

Joining Instructions

Make sure you read them in your own time.

We follow the Pearson Edexcel specification.

The Course

The course is made up of three main components:

Component 1: Voices in Speech and Writing (40%)

You will answer two questions, one on 20th and 21st century texts (Section A) and one on *A Streetcar Named Desire* (Section B)

Component 2: Varieties in Language and Literature (40%)

You will answer two questions, one on unseen prose non-fiction texts (Section A) and one comparing *The Great Gatsby* and *Othello* (Section B)

Component 3: Coursework (20%)

You will create a portfolio consisting of two pieces of original writing and an analytical commentary of each

The Course

Component 1: Voices in Speech and Writing

*Paper code: 9EL0/01

- Externally assessed
- Availability: May/June
- First assessment: 2017

**40% of the
total
qualification**

Overview of content

Students study:

- *Voices in Speech and Writing: An Anthology*
- one drama text from a prescribed list.

Overview of assessment

- Written examination, lasting 2 hours 30 minutes.
- Open book – a clean copy of the prescribed drama text can be taken into the exam.
- Two sections – students answer the question in Section A and **one** question on their chosen drama text in Section B.
- Total of 50 marks available – 25 marks for Section A and 25 marks for Section B.
- Section A – Voices in 20th- and 21st century Texts: **one** comparative essay question on one unseen extract selected from 20th- or 21st-century sources and one text from the anthology (AO1, AO2, AO3, AO4 assessed).
- Section B – Drama Texts: **one** extract-based essay question on the chosen drama text (AO1, AO2, AO3 assessed).

The Course

Component 2: Varieties in Language and Literature

*Paper code: 9EL0/02

- Externally assessed
- Availability: May/June
- First assessment: 2017

40% of the
total
qualification

Overview of content

Students study:

- a wide range of non-fiction texts on their chosen theme, in preparation for responding to an unseen text
- two literary texts from a chosen theme; one compulsory prose fiction text (anchor text) from a choice of two and one other literary text.

Themes:

- Society and the Individual
- Love and Loss
- Encounters
- Crossing Boundaries

Overview of assessment

- Written examination, lasting 2 hours 30 minutes.
- Open book – clean copies of the prescribed texts can be taken into the exam.
- Two sections – students answer **one** question from a choice of four in Section A and **one** question from a choice of four in Section B.
- Total of 50 marks available – 20 marks for Section A and 30 marks for Section B.
- Section A – Unseen Prose Non-fiction Texts: **one** essay question on an unseen prose non-fiction extract. The unseen extract is linked to the studied theme (AO1, AO2, AO3 assessed).
- Section B – Prose Fiction and Other Genres: **one** comparative essay question on one prose fiction anchor text and one other text from a theme (AO1, AO2, AO3, AO4 assessed).

The Course

Non-examination assessment: Investigating and Creating Texts

*Code: 9EL0/03

- Internally assessed, externally moderated.
- Availability: May/June
- First moderation: 2017

**20% of the
total
qualification**

Overview of content

Students study:

- a chosen topic (free choice)
- two texts relating to their chosen topic; one fiction and one non-fiction text.

Overview of assessment

Students will produce **two** assignments:

- Assignment 1 – **two** pieces of original writing: one piece of fiction writing and one piece of creative non-fiction writing (AO5 assessed).
- Assignment 2 – **one** analytical commentary reflecting on their studied texts and the pieces of writing they have produced (AO1, AO2, AO3, AO4 assessed).
- The advisory total word count is 2500–3250: 1500–2000 words for the original writing pieces and 1000–1250 for the commentary.
- Total of 60 marks available – 36 marks for the original writing and 24 marks for the commentaries.

Voices

What does it mean to have a voice?

What sort of things go into creating your voice?

Accent and
dialect

Emotions

Moral codes
and values

Sexuality

Political
beliefs

Life
experiences

Out of these, which are the most important?

The writer's voice

Whether they are creating fictional or non-fictional texts, writers must carefully craft their language choices in order to create a distinct and meaningful voice.

Let's read an example from a master of this art, Edgar Allan Poe, from his famous short story *The Tell-tale Heart*.



The writer's voice

TRUE! --nervous --very, very dreadfully nervous I had been and am; but why will you say that I am mad? The disease had sharpened my senses --not destroyed --not dulled them. Above all was the sense of hearing acute. I heard all things in the heaven and in the earth. I heard many things in hell. How, then, am I mad? Hearken! and observe how healthily --how calmly I can tell you the whole story.

It is impossible to say how first the idea entered my brain; but once conceived, it haunted me day and night. Object there was none. Passion there was none. I loved the old man. He had never wronged me. He had never given me insult. For his gold I had no desire. I think it was his eye! yes, it was this! He had the eye of a vulture --a pale blue eye, with a film over it. Whenever it fell upon me, my blood ran cold; and so by degrees --very gradually --I made up my mind to take the life of the old man, and thus rid myself of the eye forever.

Now this is the point. You fancy me mad. Madmen know nothing. But you should have seen me. You should have seen how wisely I proceeded --with what caution --with what foresight --with what dissimulation I went to work! I was never kinder to the old man than during the whole week before I killed him. And every night, about midnight, I turned the latch of his door and opened it --oh so gently! And then, when I had made an opening sufficient for my head, I put in a dark lantern, all closed, closed, that no light shone out, and then I thrust in my head. Oh, you would have laughed to see how cunningly I thrust it in! I moved it slowly --very, very slowly, so that I might not disturb the old man's sleep. It took me an hour to place my whole head within the opening so far that I could see him as he lay upon his bed. Ha! would a madman have been so wise as this? And then, when my head was well in the room, I undid the lantern cautiously--oh, so cautiously --cautiously (for the hinges creaked) --I undid it just so much that a single thin ray fell upon the vulture eye. And this I did for seven long nights --every night just at midnight --but I found the eye always closed; and so it was impossible to do the work; for it was not the old man who vexed me, but his Evil Eye. And every morning, when the day broke, I went boldly into the chamber, and spoke courageously to him, calling him by name in a hearty tone, and inquiring how he had passed the night. So you see he would have been a very profound old man, indeed, to suspect that every night, just at twelve, I looked in upon him while he slept.

What is the character like?

How has Poe crafted language to create this written voice?

The writer's voice

What is the character like?

Cunning

Foolish

Insane

Rational

Logical

Irrational

Unreliable

Psychotic

Intelligent

Emotional

Emotionless

Sympathetic



The writer's voice

How has Poe crafted language to create this written voice?

Accent and dialect

- How has Poe made the narrator's phrasing sound unusual?

Moral codes and values

- How has Poe used juxtaposition and oppositions to present the narrator's morals?

Emotions

- How has Poe used emotive language to convey the narrator's feelings?

Sexuality

- How has Poe used language with connotations of masculinity and femininity to reveal the narrator's character?

What to do before September...

- Read the booklet of summer reading tasks and complete them for September. This is compulsory, and will form important knowledge for the start of the course.
- Access your school email and use the email that will be sent to you to join google classroom for next year. You can also access google classroom directly at:
<https://classroom.google.com/>
- Once you receive your results and you have met the requirements for the course, buy or borrow the course texts you will need for English Language and Literature.

Contact Details

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