

Switching to OCR from AQA

Introduction

Whether taking on the AS or the full A Level, this innovative course is structured to underpin the knowledge and understanding needed for the next generation of thoughtful and passionate critical readers and writers. So why choose OCR's English Language and Literature?

- The specification is stimulating and varied to teach and learn, giving students the essentials for related higher education courses as well as many transferable, marketable skills for a range of possible career paths
- Developed in partnership with The English and Media Centre (EMC)
- The course supports the development of the key skills and concepts in the study of both language *and* literature in a clear, coherent way
- There are opportunities for personal, tailored choices of texts for study
- There are opportunities for genuine creative writing within both the non-examined assessment (NEA) and an examined component.

How do I find out more?

- Visit our [A/AS Level English Language and Literature \(EMC\) subject webpage](#) to access the specification, specimen assessment materials and a wide range of free support materials, from teacher guides to delivery guides, lesson elements, practical activities, candidate exemplars and more.
- Join our conversation on the [OCR Community](#) and [@ocr_english](#) to exchange ideas and information and share good practice.

Key differences

OCR English Language and Literature	AQA English Language and Literature
Our specification was developed in partnership with the EMC and incorporates their well respected approach to English pedagogy.	Thematic grouping of texts across the examined and NEA components.
We provide a high quality anthology of non-fiction texts, from a wide range of sources and time periods. This collection is diverse and non-themed to support flexibility and differentiation in your teaching approach.	'Paris': a themed anthology.
We have a straightforward assessment structure that is easy for teachers and learners to understand with a clearly defined focus for each component.	Exam lengths differ and do not correspond to percentage weighting. The AO weighting split for AS level is complex. Components mix genres of texts under the thematic approach taken.
There's an exciting list of set texts to choose from as well as free choice of non-fiction for the second text for the NEA.	No set texts.
There are genuine creative writing opportunities in both an examined component (H474/03) and the NEA.	There is one recreative task, in component two of the AS and A level.
We offer an exciting choice of poetry collections, including both contemporary and classic poetry.	Choice of four poetry collections.
The inclusion of unseen analysis in the A level facilitates wider reading beyond the anthology for component 1.	No unseen content.
We offer a coherent approach to integrating language and literature that draws on the discipline of stylistics and other literary and linguistic approaches.	Thematic approach.

Content

We've structured the AS to maximise opportunities for co-teaching with the A level, and you can [find out more about co-teachability](#) in our guide.

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<p>Set texts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OCR/EMC anthology of non-fiction texts • One poetry collection (from a choice of six) • One prose text (from a choice of five) • One drama text (from a choice of six) • NEA - one non-fiction text (from a choice of 12) and one other free choice <p>Four texts are assessed in the exams, and two in the non-examined assessment</p> <p>Poetry choices:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Blake</i> - <i>Dickinson</i> - Heaney - <i>Boland</i> - Duffy - <i>Sam-La Rose</i> <p>Prose choices:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Jane Eyre</i> - The Great Gatsby - <i>Things Fall Apart, God of Small Things</i> - <i>Atonement</i> - <i>The Namesake</i> 	<p>Set texts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AQA Anthology: Paris • One poetry collection (from a choice of four) • One prose text (from a choice of four) • One prose text (from a choice of four) • One drama text (from a choice of four) • NEA – free choice of two texts (one literary, one non-literary) <p>Five texts are assessed in the exams, and two in the non-examined assessment</p> <p>Poetry choices:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Donne</i> - <i>Browning</i> - Duffy - Heaney <p>Prose choices:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Frankenstein</i> - <i>Dracula</i> - <i>The Handmaid's Tale</i> - <i>The Lovely Bones</i> <p>Prose choices: (A level only)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Into the Wild</i>

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<p>Drama choices:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Othello - <i>The Importance of Being Earnest</i> - A Streetcar Named Desire - <i>Translations</i> - <i>Our Country's Good</i> - <i>Jerusalem</i> <p>NEA Non-fiction choices (plus free choice text):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Down and Out in Paris and London</i> - <i>Skating to Antarctica</i> - <i>Stuart: A Life Backwards</i> - <i>Hyperbole and a Half</i> - <i>The Lost Continent</i> - <i>I Am The Secret Footballer</i> - <i>Stasiland</i> - <i>Why Be Happy When You Could be Normal</i> - <i>The Examined Life</i> - <i>Twelve Years a Slave</i> - <i>What the Chinese Don't Eat</i> - <i>In Cold Blood</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>The Suspicions of Mr Whicher: or the Murder at Road Hill House</i> - The Great Gatsby - <i>The Kite Runner</i> <p>Drama choices:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Othello - <i>All My Sons</i> - A Streetcar Named Desire - <i>The Herd</i>

Assessment

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<p>AS Component 1: Non-fiction written and spoken texts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50% of AS • Written paper 1 hour 30 minutes • 50 marks <p>Section A: Reading spoken and written non-fiction One question comparing two texts from the non-fiction anthology (30 marks)</p> <p>Section B: Writing non-fiction One creative writing task from a choice of three (20 marks)</p>	<p>AS Component 1: Views and Voices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50% of AS • Written paper 1 hour 30 minutes • 75 marks <p>Section A: Imagined Worlds One compulsory question on prose set text (35 marks)</p> <p>Section B: Poetic Voices One compulsory question on poetry set text (40 marks)</p>
<p>AS Component 2: The language of literary texts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50% of AS • Written paper 1 hour 30 minutes • 50 marks <p>Section A: The language of prose One compulsory question on prose set text (25 marks)</p> <p>Section B: The language of poetry One compulsory question on poetry set text (25 marks)</p>	<p>AS Component 2: People and places</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50% of AS • Written paper 1 hour 30 minutes • 75 marks <p>Section A: Remembered Places One question comparing two texts from the non-fiction anthology (40 marks)</p> <p>Section B: Re-creative Writing One piece of re-creative writing using extract provided in Section A (15 marks) Critical commentary of recreative writing (20 marks)</p>
<p>A level Component 1: Exploring non-fiction written and spoken texts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 16% of A level • Written paper 1 hour • 32 marks 	<p>A level Component 1: Telling Stories</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 40% of A level • Written paper 3 hours • 100 marks

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<p>One compulsory question comparing one anthology set text with and unseen text (32 marks)</p>	<p>Section A: Remembered Places One compulsory question on the AQA Anthology: Paris (40 marks)</p> <p>Section B: Imagined Worlds One question from a choice of two on prose set text (35 marks)</p> <p>Section C: Poetic Voices One question from a choice of two on poetry set text (25 marks)</p>
<p>A level Component 2: The language of poetry and plays</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 32% of A level • Written paper 2 hours • 64 marks <p>Section A: Poetry: Poetic and stylistic analysis One compulsory question on poetry set text (32 marks)</p> <p>Section B: Plays: dramatic and stylistic analysis One compulsory question on drama set text (32 marks)</p>	<p>A level Component 2: Exploring Conflict</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 40% of A level • Written paper 2 hours • 100 marks <p>Section A: Writing about Society One piece of re-creative writing using set text (25 marks) Critical commentary (30 marks)</p> <p>Section B: Dramatic Encounters One question from a choice of two on drama set text (45 marks)</p>

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<p>A level Component 3: Reading as a writer, writing as a reader</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 32% of A level • Written paper 2 hours • 64 marks <p>Section A: Reading as a writer One question from a choice of two on prose set text (32 marks)</p> <p>Section B: Writing as a reader One creative writing task from a choice of two (18 marks) Critical commentary (14 marks)</p>	<p>Component 3: Non-examined assessment</p> <p>Making Connections 20% of A level 50 marks A personal investigation that explores a specific technique or theme in both literary and non-literary discourse (50 marks)</p>
<p>Component 4: Non-examined assessment</p> <p>Analysing and producing texts 20% of A level 40 marks</p> <p>Task 1: Analytical comparative essay on a set text from a list of 12 non-fiction texts and a second free choice text. One text must be post-2000 (24 marks)</p> <p>Task 2: Learners also produce a piece of original non-fiction writing (16 marks)</p>	

Want to switch to OCR?

If you're an OCR-approved centre, all you need to do is download the specification and start teaching.

Your exams officer can complete an [intention to teach form](#) which enables us to provide appropriate support. When you're ready to enter your students, you just need to speak to your exams officer to make estimated entries then confirmed entries by the specified deadline ahead of the examination session.

If you are not already an OCR-approved centre please refer your exams officer to the [centre approval section](#) of our website.

Next steps

1. Familiarise yourself with the specification, sample assessment materials and teaching resources on the [A/AS Level English Language and Literature \(EMC\)](#) qualification page of the OCR website.
2. Get a login for our secure extranet, Interchange – allows you to access the latest past/practice papers and use our results analysis service, Active Results.
3. Sign up to receive [subject updates](#) by email.
4. Sign up to attend a [training event](#) or take part in webinars on specific topics running throughout the year and/or to join our Q&A webinar sessions every half term.
5. Attend one of our free [teacher network events](#).
6. When you're ready to plan text pairings and task titles with your learners for the NEA component, first take a look at our [Non-exam assessment guide](#).
7. Then submit your tasks using the [Text and Task proposal form](#) before your learners begin work on their tasks.