

Switching to OCR from Edexcel

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	Edexcel English Language and Literature
Our specification was developed in partnership with the EMC and incorporates their well respected approach to English pedagogy.	Genre and theme-based groupings of texts across the two examined units and one NEA.
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.	Learners prepare for unseen non-literary texts linked to other studied texts by theme and study an Edexcel anthology: <i>Voices in Speech and Writing</i> , non-literary and digital texts from the 20 th and 21 st centuries.
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.	Alongside the texts set for the two examined components, learners study two free-choice texts, from different genre, relating to a chosen topic or theme for the NEA. One will be from a literary genre and the other a non-fiction genre such as travel writing, journalism, reportage, diaries, biographies and collections of letters.
There are genuine creative writing opportunities in both an examined component (H474/03) and the NEA.	Two pieces of original writing for one of the two assignments in the NEA: one piece of fiction writing and one piece of creative non-fiction writing.
Original writing a feature of both the AS and the A Level, allowing learners to demonstrate their understanding of non-fiction forms (AS level) and narrative prose (A level) implicitly and creatively, and support this with an analytical commentary	No original writing assessment in the examinations. Responses to and understanding of prose narrative at A level assessed by examination question on set text alone.
We offer an exciting choice of poetry collections, including both contemporary and classic poetry.	Learners do not have to study poetry for this A level, but a poetry collection can be chosen as the non 'anchor' text for Component 2.
We offer a coherent approach to integrating language and literature that draws on the discipline of stylistics and other literary and linguistic approaches.	The A Level is based around a theme-based study of literary and non-fiction genre, as opposed to foregrounding the close study of language and style.

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 six) 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>Set texts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edexcel anthology: <i>Voices in Speech and Writing</i>, non-literary and digital texts from the 20th and 21st centuries One drama text (from a choice of seven) One prose 'anchor' text (from a choice of eight: choice of 4 themes, 2 texts per theme) One other prose, drama or poetry text (choice of six texts per theme) NEA – free choice of two texts (one fiction, one non-fiction) <p>Four texts are assessed in the exams, and two in the non-examined assessment</p>
<p>Poetry choices: <i>Blake – Dickinson – Heaney – Boland – Duffy – Sam-La Rose</i></p> <p>Prose choices: <i>Jane Eyre – The Great Gatsby – Things Fall Apart, God of Small Things – Atonement – The Namesake</i></p>	<p>Poetry choices: students may choose a poetry collection as one of their text choices for Component 2: <i>Chaucer or Larkin - Metaphysical Poetry or Sylvia Plath – T S Eliot or Romantic Poetry – Rossetti or Heaney</i></p> <p>Prose 'anchor' choices: students study at least one (from two per theme): <i>The Great Gatsby</i> and/or <i>Great Expectations</i> – <i>A Single Man</i> and/or <i>Tess of the D'Urbervilles</i> – <i>A Room with a View</i> and/or <i>Wuthering Heights</i> – <i>Wide Sargasso Sea</i> and/or <i>Dracula</i></p> <p>Students may choose second prose text: <i>The Bone People</i> or <i>Enduring Love</i> or <i>The Bloody Chamber</i> or <i>The Lowland</i>.</p>

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<p>Drama choices: <i>Othello</i> – <i>The Importance of Being Earnest</i> – <i>A Streetcar Named Desire</i> – <i>Translations</i> – <i>Our Country's Good</i> – <i>Jerusalem</i></p> <p>Non-fiction text choices: <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></p>	<p>Drama choices (Component 1): <i>All My Sons</i> – <i>A Streetcar Named Desire</i> – <i>Elmina's Kitchen</i> – <i>Equus</i> – <i>The History Boys</i> – <i>Top Girls</i> – <i>Translations</i></p> <p>Students may choose a drama text as one of text choices for Component 2: <i>Othello</i> or <i>A Raisin in the Sun</i> – <i>Much Ado About Nothing</i> or <i>Betrayal</i> – <i>Hamlet</i> or <i>Rock 'N' Roll</i> – <i>Twelfth Night</i> or <i>Oleanna</i></p>

Assessment

OCR English Language and Literature	Edexcel English Language and Literature
<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</p> <p>One question comparing two texts from the non-fiction anthology (30 marks)</p> <p>Section B: Writing non-fiction</p> <p>One creative writing task from a choice of three (20 marks)</p>	<p>AS Component 1: Voices in Speech and Writing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50% of AS • Written paper 1 hour 30 minutes • 50 marks <p>Section A: Creation of Voice</p> <p>A text transformation exercise in response to one text from the <i>Voices in Speech and Writing</i> anthology (20 marks)</p> <p>Section B: Comparing Voices</p> <p>A comparative essay question on one unseen extract selected from 20th or 21st century texts and one text from the anthology (30 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>AS Component 2: Varieties in Language and Literature</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50% of AS • Written paper 1 hour 30 minutes • 50 marks

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<p>Section A: The language of prose</p> <p>One compulsory question on prose set text (25 marks)</p> <p>Section B: The language of poetry</p> <p>One compulsory question on poetry set text (25 marks)</p>	<p>Section A: Prose Fiction Extract</p> <p>One compulsory question based on an extract from a chosen prose fiction 'anchor text' (25 marks)</p> <p>Section B: Exploring Text and Theme</p> <p>One compulsory question based on the study of the other text selected from the paired text on a chosen theme (25 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>One compulsory question comparing one anthology set text with and unseen text (32 marks)</p>	<p>A level Component 1: Voices in Speech and Writing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 40% of A Level • Written paper 2 hours and 30 minutes • 50 marks <p>Section A: Voices in 20th and 21st century Texts</p> <p>One comparative essay question on an unseen extract selected from 20th or 21st century sources and one text from the Edexcel anthology <i>Voices in Speech and Writing</i> (25 marks)</p> <p>Section B: Drama Texts</p> <p>One compulsory question on drama 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</p> <p>One compulsory question on poetry set text (32 marks)</p>	<p>A level Component 2: Varieties in Language and Literature</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 40% of A Level • Written paper 2 hours and 30 minutes • 50 marks <p>Section A: Unseen Prose Non-fiction Texts</p> <p>One essay question on an unseen prose non-fiction extract linked to the studied theme that has been chosen (20 marks)</p>

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<p>Section B: Plays: dramatic and stylistic analysis One compulsory question on drama set text (32 marks)</p>	<p>Section B: Prose Fiction and Other Genres One comparative essay question on one prose fiction 'anchor text' and one other set text on a studied theme (30 marks)</p>
<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: <i>Reading as a writer</i> One question from a choice of two on prose set text (32 marks)</p> <p>Section B: <i>Writing as a reader</i> One creative writing task from a choice of two (18 marks) Critical commentary (14 marks)</p>	<p>Component 3: Non-examined assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigating and Creating Texts • 20% of A level • 60 marks <p>Task 1: Two pieces of original writing: one piece of fiction writing and one piece of creative non-fiction writing (36 marks)</p> <p>Task 2: One analytical commentary reflecting on the texts studied and the creative writing produced. The advisory total word count is 2500–3250: 1500–2000 words for the original writing (24 marks)</p>
<p>Component 4: Non-examined assessment Analysing and producing texts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20% of A level • 40 marks <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.