

# OCR English Language and Literature H474

## Overview

The Language and Literature course will comprise the reading and analysis of literary and non-fiction written and spoken texts. Students will study all three literary genres (drama, prose and poetry), and an anthology of historical and contemporary non-fiction and extended non-fiction. They will be expected to engage in written and spoken tasks designed to improve their ability to respond in a structured, logical and thoughtful manner and to become confident readers and producers of texts.

## Course Structure and Content

Students will study four components in total.

### Component 1: Exploring Non –Fiction and Spoken Texts

This component focuses on an anthology of spoken and written texts written from different time periods and contexts. The chosen texts will offer candidates the opportunity to consider the development of language and style over time. The unit requires students to consider how meanings and effects are created; apply relevant methods for textual analysis and make connections across the range of texts.

Component 1 will be assessed by a **written examination**. The examination will require candidates to compare one specified text from the anthology with an unseen text (both printed in the exam), applying concepts and methods from their linguistic and literary study.

Paper 1 is worth 16%

### Component 2: The Language of Poetry and Plays

This component is split into two parts. Section A focuses on a poetry text, Jacob Sam-La Rose's anthology **Breaking Silence**. Students will analyse poetic and stylistic techniques and consider connections across poems and the effect of contexts. In section B, the modern American drama, **A Streetcar Named Desire** by Tennessee Williams will be studied with a focus on dramatic devices and performance elements.

Component 2 will be assessed by a **written examination**. The examination will require candidates to answer two questions. In section A the question will require students to write an essay comparing one specified text from the poetry collection (printed on the paper) with another poem of their choice. The focus of the comparison will be poetic and stylistic techniques and significant literary or other relevant contexts. In section B, students will be required to write an essay analysing an extract from the play, considering the use of dramatic and stylistic techniques and their significance within the play, and any other relevant dramatic or other contexts.

Paper 2 is worth 32%

### Component 3: Reading as a Writer, Writing as Reader

Students will study the novel *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald developing their knowledge and understanding of the text and its language and context. The **examination** will offer students a choice from two generic questions on an aspect of the narrative from which they will choose one.

The second part of this component focuses on developing the students' ability to write their own creative fiction. They will be assessed by **final examination** which will give them a choice of two story outlines to develop as the beginning of a narrative. They will write a 500 word narrative focusing on narrative technique plus a 250 word commentary.

Paper 3 is worth 32%

#### Component 4: Independent Study – Analysing and Producing Texts

Students will produce a **coursework portfolio of two tasks** based on the study of one taught non-fiction text from a prescribed list and a second free choice text which can be from any literary or non-literary genre. They will produce one piece of analytical and comparative writing based on these. The second piece is original non-fiction writing with a 150 word introduction which can draw on the task 1 texts as models.

Component 4 is worth 20%

#### Assessment Objectives

Having followed the English Language & Literature course students should be able to demonstrate:

- an ability to respond in a personal and considered way to both literary and non-fiction texts
- an ability to recognise literary, stylistic and linguistic features of written and spoken material
- an ability to express themselves with clarity, coherence, conciseness and precision
- a command of the language appropriate for literary and linguistic analysis
- some familiarity with aspects of literary heritage
- knowledge of individual works studied and, where appropriate, relationships between them
- an ability to comment on the language, content, structure, meaning and significance of written and spoken material studied
- awareness of the effects of technique and style employed by writers and speakers
- an ability to structure analyses and arguments in a sustained and logical way, and to support them with precise and relevant examples.
- expertise and creativity in the use of English to communicate in different ways
- an ability to use a range of techniques to produce and evaluate texts from different audiences and purposes, informed by wider reading

#### Entry Qualifications

A grade 5 or above in English / English Literature at GCSE is required.

#### Career Prospects

Students who complete the courses will be well prepared for further study on linguistic or literature based courses at university, or, diverse courses or careers in many fields, for example, journalism, media, business, education, law and so on.

