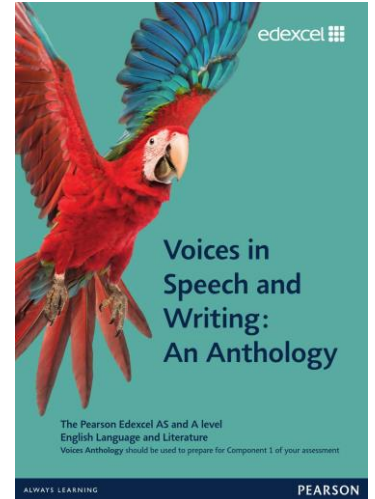
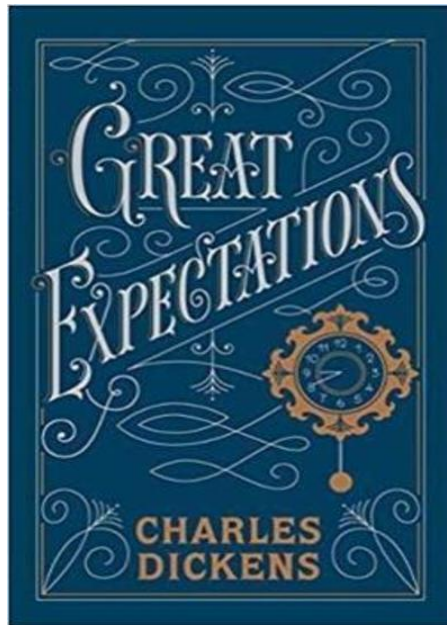
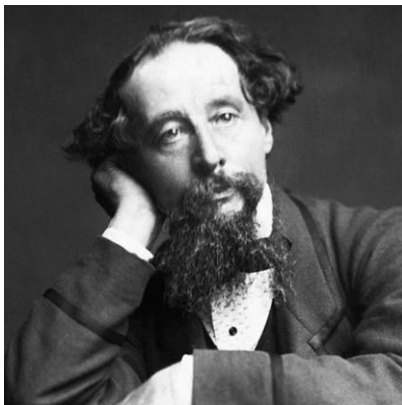
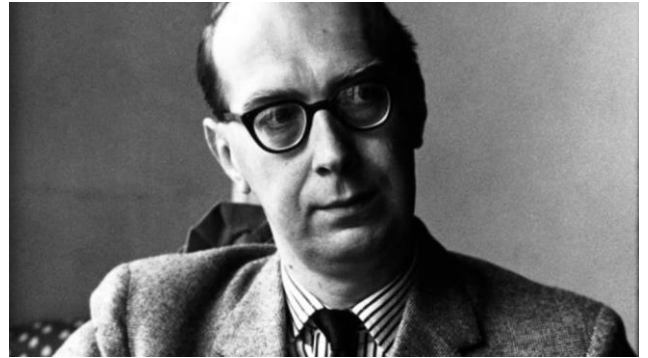




Hartismere College



English Language and Literature

A Student's Guide to the A Level in English Language and Literature

AS is short for Advanced Subsidiary. This is a standalone qualification studied for one year. All Hartismere students will sit AS exams so that they can have as much choice as possible about the subjects they continue with in year 13. All work in year 12 is preparation for the full A level qualification which is taken at the end of year 13. At Hartismere, we study Edexcel, A level English Language and Literature.

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

In order to study this course it is usual to have a GCSE qualification in English and English literature; students should achieve at least a grade 5 or better at GCSE. Several areas covered in the course are developments of the work at GCSE but others are new. Since the course aims to provide a balance between the study of both language and literature, you must expect to study the two as interconnecting disciplines.

What will I learn on this A Level course?

The course will:

- develop your interest, knowledge and enjoyment of both language and literature as interconnecting and mutually supportive disciplines
- develop your skills as an independent, confident and reflective reader and writer
- develop your expertise in writing for a variety of specific purposes and audiences
- teach you how to use key features for the systematic study of spoken and written English
- help you to understand and explore concepts and issues relating to language in use
- show you how to analyse variations in the meanings and forms of literary and non-literary language from different times

What kind of student is this course suitable for?

This course will appeal to students who:

- have an interest in reading a wide variety of examples of spoken and written language from past and present
- enjoy expressing their opinions and justifying their comments on texts
- enjoy studying a subject which is relevant to their own lives and experiences
- want to keep their options open for further study – English language is a popular qualification for a wide range of courses in higher education or for future careers

What examinations will I have to take to get my qualification?

Paper 1: Voices in Speech and Writing

- **Voices in 20th and 21st Century Texts** - one comparative essay question
- **Drama Texts** - one extract based essay question

How is it assessed?

- written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes
- 50 marks
- 40% of A-level

Paper 2: Varieties in Language and Literature

- **Unseen Prose Non-fiction Texts** - one essay question
- **Prose Fiction and Other Genres** - one comparative essay question

How is it assessed?

- written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes
- 50 marks
- 40% of A-level

Non-exam assessment (coursework): Investigating and Creating texts (2500-3250 words)

- **Assignment 1 – two pieces of original writing: one piece of fiction writing and one piece of creative non-fiction writing**
- **Assignment 2 – one analytical commentary reflecting on the studied texts and pieces of writing produced**

How is it assessed?

- Assessed by teachers
- Moderated by Edexcel
- 60 marks
- 20% of A-level

What could I go on to do at the end of my course?

You will have a wide range of possible career and higher education prospects. You will learn and be able to use a wide range of transferable skills. These include writing for a variety of audiences and purposes, responding to literary, non-fiction and spoken texts, expressing informed and independent opinions and identifying and developing the links between literature and language. These skills are in demand from employers, universities and colleges and are also valuable in their own right.

English language can be studied as a single subject in higher education or can be combined with English literature or a wide variety of other subjects. It could form a good basis for study in any arts-based subject in combination with, for example history, media studies, philosophy, law, politics or foreign languages.

Many students will also use their qualifications to go straight into employment rather than higher education. A wide range of occupations is open to students, including areas such as journalism, the media or the law.

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