



Preparing for English A Level

What are my English A Level options?

- There are three A Level English courses:
 - English Language
 - English Literature
 - English Language and Literature

What are the differences between the courses?

- English Language is for you if you are intrigued by language and how it is used (and sometimes abused) in the world. You'll discover how children learn language, how politicians manipulate language, and how language continues to change over time, among many other fascinating topics. You will never read a newspaper article or listen to a speech in the same way again!
- English Literature is for you if you love to read. Over two years you'll be introduced to novels, poetry and plays that will challenge your view of the world. You'll meet captivating villains, desperate victims and heroic rebels, and explore how and why authors bring their stories to life, often connecting the fictional worlds to the real world.
- English Language and Literature draws together the two disciplines. You'll explore powerful novels, poetry and plays with a focus on how language *and* literary techniques are used within them. Combining the best of both worlds, this course is for you if you enjoy variety and have an equal interest in both language and literature.

What is similar about the courses?

- All of the A Level English options allow you to be creative, ambitious, independent, and inquisitive.
- Lessons are often based around a central discussion, where you will have the opportunity to share and debate ideas.
- All of the courses ask you to read widely and your teachers will support you with this.
- All of the courses require you to complete written work, including creative and analytical pieces.

Where can English A Levels take me?

- Universities and employers value English A Levels. An A Level in English shows that you are able to communicate effectively and that you are able to engage with challenging and important ideas. If you are thinking about a career in law, journalism, publishing, advertising, education or social sciences, you should seriously consider an English A Level.

Scroll through and check the attachments for ideas on how to prepare or sample each course. If you have any questions please contact Miss Knight (stknightc@caludoncastle.co.uk) and check the prospectus on the school website for further information about each course.



English Language (AQA)

Try the activities in the attached *Leaping into Language* booklet from the English and Media Centre. There is a resources booklet as well as the activities booklet. Our login for the emagazine is:

<https://www.englishandmedia.co.uk/e-magazine/emag-login/>

Username: emagcaludon

Password: Caludon2019

English Literature (AQA Literature B)

Try the activities in the English and Media Centre's *Making the Leap: Moving from GCSE to A Level Literature Study* booklet. There is a resources booklet as well as the activities booklet. Our login for the emagazine is

<https://www.englishandmedia.co.uk/e-magazine/emag-login/>

Username: emagcaludon

Password: Caludon2019

English Language and Literature (AQA)

Try the activities in the attached Pixl A Level Language and Literature booklet.

TIF: Recommended Wider Reading and Resources

[The British Library Discovering Literature](#)

[BBC iPlayer](#) for plays from the Royal Shakespeare Company among others

[Audible](#) for free audiobooks

[Radio 4 In Our Time](#) podcasts

Language	Literature	Language and Literature
<i>Mother Tongue</i> (Bill Bryson)	<i>This is Shakespeare</i> (Emma Smith)	<i>Cat on a Hot Tin Roof</i> (Tennessee Williams)
<i>A Little Book of Language</i> and <i>The Fight for English</i> (David Crystal)	<i>Brave New World</i> (Aldous Huxley)	<i>Mother Tongue</i> (Bill Bryson)
<i>For Who the Bell Tolls</i> (David Marsh)	<i>1984</i> (George Orwell)	<i>A Little Book of Language</i> (David Crystal)
<i>You Are What You Speak</i> (Robert Lane Greene)	<i>A Thousand Splendid Suns</i> (Khaled Hosseini)	<i>Alias Grace</i> (Margaret Atwood)
<i>You Just Don't Understand</i> (Deborah Tannen)	<i>Hamlet</i> (William Shakespeare)	<i>Jazz</i> (Toni Morrison)
<i>The Life of Slang</i> (Julie Coleman)	<i>Pride and Prejudice</i> (Jane Austen)	<i>The Sun Also Rises</i> (Ernest Hemingway)
<i>Eats, Shoots and Leaves</i> (Lynne Truss)	<i>Jane Eyre</i> (Charlotte Bronte)	<i>Mrs Dalloway</i> (Virginia Woolf)
	<i>Wuthering Heights</i> (Emily Bronte)	<i>Tender is the Night</i> (F. Scott Fitzgerald)
	<i>Great Expectations</i> (Charles Dickens)	



<p><i>The Language Wars</i> (Henry Hitchens)</p> <p><i>Dent's Modern Tribes and What Made the Crocodile Cry?</i> (Susie Dent)</p>	<p><i>The Bell Jar</i> (Sylvia Plath)</p> <p><i>Frankenstein</i> (Mary Shelley)</p> <p><i>The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde</i> (Robert Louis Stevenson)</p> <p><i>Tess of the d'Urbervilles</i> (Thomas Hardy)</p> <p><i>The Great Gatsby</i> (F. Scott Fitzgerald)</p> <p><i>Literary Theory: A Very Short Introduction</i> (Culler, Yen, et al)</p> <p><i>The Art of Writing English Literature Essays for A Level and Beyond</i> (Meally and Bowen)</p> <p><i>The Color Purple</i> (Alice Walker)</p> <p><i>Birdsong</i> (Sebastian Faulks)</p> <p><i>The Picture of Dorian Gray</i> (Oscar Wilde)</p> <p><i>Never Let Me Go</i> (Kazuo Ishiguro)</p>	<p>Travel blogs (Just Another American in Paris)</p> <p>Travel writing (any Bill Bryson)</p> <p>Historical texts (Seven Ages of Paris)</p> <p>Memoirs (<i>Breathless: An American Girl in Paris</i>)</p> <p>Travel forums (Trip Advisor/ Lonely Planet)</p>
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