

# 2015 A level English Language and Literature launch event





# Agenda

1. The changes
2. Our approach
3. Our specification
4. Supporting you through the changes
5. Contact information



# The changes



# Changes to all A Levels

- In new A level the AS level will be a separate, linear qualification and the grade will not contribute to the overall A level Grade
- The content of the AS can be a subset of the A level content to allow co-teachability with the A level
- HE/Russell Group involvement in subject content.

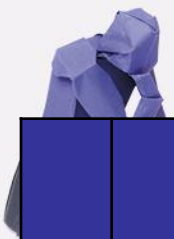
## Timeline

	2014	2015	2016	2017
Current specification	Summer series as normal	Summer series as normal	Final AS and A2 examinations	
New specification	Specifications in centres	First teaching	First AS examinations	First A level examinations



## Changes to subject criteria

- Reduction in coursework weighting from 40% to 20%
- Less genre prescription at both AS and A Level
- One of the texts studied must be non-literary
- Inclusion of specific language levels
- Emphasis on comparison is reduced



		AS/A level %
A O 1	Apply concepts and methods from integrated linguistic and literary study as appropriate, using associated terminology and coherent written expression	20-30
A O 2	Analyse ways in which meanings are shaped in literary texts	20-30
A O 3	Demonstrate understanding of the significance and influence of the contexts in which texts are written and received	20-30
A O 4	Explore connections across texts, informed by linguistic and literary concepts and methods	10-15
A O 5	Demonstrate expertise and creativity in the use of English to communicate in different ways <i>Note: This Assessment Objective must be targeted with at least one of A02, A03, or A04, either in the same task or in two or more linked tasks.</i>	10-15



# Our approach



## Our focus for English Language and Literature

- A clear subject vision underpinning the specification content
- Co-teachable AS and A level
- Selecting engaging texts, themes and content
- Maintaining the current A level standard – no ‘recalibration’
- Holistic mark schemes which have been trialled to ensure they’re as clear as possible
- Holistic assessment – equal coverage of assessed AOs





# Our specification



## Key principles

- Integrated approach
- Retention of current strengths – refine not redo
- Celebration of diversity
- Old favourites and exciting new text options
- Reduced emphasis on comparison



## A and AS level at a glance

Component	Assessment Method	Weighting
<b>A level</b>		
1 – Voices in Speech and Writing	Examination	40%
2 – Varieties in Language and Literature	Examination	40%
3 – Investigating and creating texts	Coursework	20%
<b>AS level</b>		
1 – Voices in Speech and Writing	Examination	50%
2 – Varieties in Language and Literature	Examination	50%



# A Level Language and Literature



# Content: Component 1 and 2

<b>Component 1: Voices in Speech and Writing</b>	<b>Component 2: Varieties in Language and Literature</b>
<p>Students study voices in speech and writing in literary, non-literary and digital texts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Voices in Speech and Writing: An Anthology</i> - non-literary and digital texts from the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries</li><li>• one drama text from a prescribed list.</li></ul>	<p>Students study:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• one compulsory prose fiction text (anchor text) from a choice of two plus one other literary text from a chosen theme.</li></ul>



# Component 3

## Component 3: Coursework

Students study:

- a free choice of topic and texts.

Chosen texts must be complete texts and be selected from different genres: one must be fiction and one non-fiction.



# Voices in Speech and Writing – Anthology texts

<b>1 Article</b>	
1.1 Charlie Brooker: ‘Too much talk for one planet: why I’m reducing my word emissions’	8
1.2 Ian Birrell: ‘As gay people celebrate, the treatment of the disabled just gets worse’	10
<b>2 Autobiography/Biography</b>	
2.1 <i>De Profundis</i> by Oscar Wilde	11
2.2 <i>Mom &amp; Me &amp; Mom</i> by Maya Angelou	12
<b>3 Diary/Memoir</b>	
3.1 <i>Diary: What I Did in 2013</i> by Alan Bennett	14
3.2 Eye-witness account written by a young radio operator in the First World War	15
<b>4 Digital Text</b>	
4.1 Blog by George Scott: ‘A ride of two halves...’	17
4.2 Past Masters Podcast: ‘The Truth is in Here: UFOs at The National Archives’	18
<b>5 Interview</b>	
5.1 BBC1 <i>Panorama</i> interview between Martin Bashir and Princess Diana	19
5.2 Jay Leno’s interview with President Obama (transcript)	21



# Voices in Speech and Writing – Anthology texts cont...

<b>6</b>	<b>Radio Drama/Screenplay</b>	
6.1	<i>The King's Speech</i> by David Seidler	23
6.2	<i>When I Lived in Peru</i> by Andrew Viner	25
<b>7</b>	<b>Reportage</b>	
7.1	Chris Rainier: 'Tsunami Eyewitness Account by Nat Geo photographer'	27
7.2	Jessica Read: 'Experience: I survived an earthquake while scuba diving'	29
<b>8</b>	<b>Review</b>	
8.1	Flemmich Webb on <i>Boxer Handsome</i> by Anna Whitwham	31
8.2	Martin Hoyle on television drama <i>The Bridge</i>	32
<b>9</b>	<b>Speech</b>	
9.1	John F. Kennedy's Inaugural Address in Washington on January 20, 1961	33
9.2	Colonel Tim Collins to 1st Battalion, Royal Irish Regiment, in Iraq in 2003	35
<b>10</b>	<b>Travelogue</b>	
10.1	<i>Sea and Sardinia</i> by D.H. Lawrence	37
10.2	<i>Riding the Iron Rooster: By Train Through China</i> by Paul Theroux	38





# Drama texts

- All My Sons
- A Streetcar Named Desire
- Elmina's Kitchen
- Equus
- The History Boys
- Top Girls
- Translations



# Component 2

## Section B – Themed texts

- Society and the Individual
- Love and Loss
- Encounters
- Crossing Boundaries

**For the list of text options within each theme, follow the link and see pages 5 and 6 of the [A level specification](#).**



Paper	Overview of assessment	
1	<p>Paper length: 2 hours and 30 minutes</p> <p>Section A – <b>one</b> comparative essay question on an unseen extract selected from 20th or 21st century sources and one text from the Anthology (AO1, AO2, AO3, AO4 assessed).</p> <p>Section B – Drama Texts: <b>one</b> extract-based essay question on the chosen drama text (AO1, AO2, AO3 assessed).</p>	<p>40% 50 marks</p> <p>Sec A 25 marks</p> <p>Sec B 25 marks</p>



Paper	Overview of assessment	
2	<p>Paper length: 2 hours and 30 minutes</p> <p>Section A – one essay question on an unseen prose non-fiction extract. The unseen extract is linked to the studied theme (AO1, AO2, AO3 assessed).</p> <p>Section B – Prose Fiction and Other Genres: <b>ONE</b> essay question on one prose fiction anchor text and one other text from studied theme (AO1, AO2, AO3, AO4 assessed).</p>	<p>40%</p> <p>50 marks</p> <p>Sec A 20 marks</p> <p>Sec B 30 marks</p>



# Assessment

	Overview of assessment	
Coursework	<p><b>Overview of assessment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Assignment 1 – <b>two</b> pieces of creative writing; one fiction and one non-fiction (AO5 assessed).</li><li>• Assignment 2 – <b>one</b> analytical commentary reflecting on the two pieces they have produced (AO1, AO2, AO3, AO4 assessed).</li><li>• Advisory word count is 1500–2000 words (combined) for the two creative pieces and 1000–1250 for the commentary.</li></ul> <p>The advisory total word is 2500–3250.</p>	<p>20% 60 marks</p> <p>36 marks for 1 &amp; 2</p> <p>24 marks for 3</p>



# AS Level Language and Literature



# Content

## Component 1 – Voices in speech and writing

Students study voices in speech and writing in non-literary and digital texts:

- *Voices in Speech and Writing: An Anthology* - non-literary and digital texts from the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries

## Component 2 – Varieties in Language and Literature

Students study:

- one compulsory prose fiction text (anchor text) from a choice of two
- and
- one other literary text selected from a chosen theme.



# Texts

- AS texts are taken from the A level options
  - 1 x Voices in Speech and Writing Anthology (same as A level)
  - 1 x prose anchor text (same options as A level)
  - 1 x second text from studied theme (same options as A level)
- Allows for complete co-teachability





# Co-teachability

## Example of content for the delivery of a co-taught AS and A level cohort

Year 1

- *Voices in Speech and Writing: An Anthology*. A wide selection of non-literary and digital texts from the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries
- 1 prose text
- 1 further text from the genres of poetry, prose and/or drama

Year 2

- 1 drama text
- 2 further texts; 1 fiction and 1 non-fiction

Teachers may wish to begin preparation for the coursework with A level 2-year students towards the end of year 1, whilst the AS students prepare for their AS examinations. Therefore, the 2 coursework texts (one fiction and one non-fiction, as above) may be covered in year 1, year 2 or a combination of both, as appropriate.



# Assessment

## Overview of assessment

1	<p>Paper length: 1 hour and 30 minutes</p> <p>Section A – Creation of Voice: one text transformation response to one text from <i>Voices in Speech and Writing: An Anthology</i> (AO3, AO5 assessed).</p> <p>Section B – Comparing Voices: one comparative essay question on one unseen extract selected from 20th- or 21st century sources and one text from the anthology (AO1, AO2, AO3, AO4 assessed).</p>	<p>50 marks</p> <p>Sec A 20 marks</p> <p>Sec B 30 marks</p> <p>50%</p>
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# Assessment

## Overview of assessment

2	<p>Paper length: 1 hour and 30 minutes</p> <p>Section A – Prose Fiction Extract: <b>one</b> essay question based on an extract from a chosen prose fiction anchor text (AO1, AO2, AO3 assessed).</p> <p>Section B – Exploring Text and Theme: <b>one</b> essay question based on the study of the other text selected from a chosen theme (AO1, AO2, AO3 assessed).</p>	<p>50 marks</p> <p>Section A 25 marks</p> <p>Section B 25 marks</p> <p>50%</p>
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# Supporting you through the changes



# Supporting you through the changes

- Planning and delivery
- Teaching and learning
- Understanding the standard
- Personal support
- Tracking progress
- Training from Pearson



# Planning and delivery

We will provide you with:

- Course planners
- Schemes of work
- In depth lesson plans focused on new content
- Set text recommendations and key teaching points
- Getting Started guide, with teaching examples and detailed guidance



# Teaching and learning

- Non-Literary Anthology

Free hard copy to every student

A wide range of example of non-literary, digital and non-fiction texts from a variety of different sources.  
Valid for AS and A level students

Plus – **online teacher guide** covering every Anthology text with teaching and learning points, discussion and activity ideas



# Understanding the standard

We will provide you with information and support to help you understand the standard:

- Example student work with examiner commentaries, prior to first teaching
- Clear mark schemes that have been developed following research and trialling.





## Endorsed resources

We are committed to helping teachers deliver our Edexcel qualifications and students to achieve their full potential.

To do this, we aim for our qualifications to be supported by a wide range of high-quality resources, produced by a range of publishers, including ourselves.

However, it is not necessary to purchase endorsed resources to deliver our qualifications.

A list of all endorsed resources will be available on [edexcel.com](https://www.edexcel.com)



# Personal support

Subject Advisors – Clare Haviland and her team will help keep you up to date about:

- training events and support materials
- news and government announcements affecting our qualifications
- key dates and entry deadlines
- new qualifications and resources.

Curriculum and centre support:

- **Curriculum Development Managers** are curriculum experts who provide information and guidance to senior management.
- **Curriculum Support Consultants** provide invaluable support to our existing heads of department.

[www.edexcel.com/contactus](http://www.edexcel.com/contactus)



## Tracking progress

**ResultsPlus**

- ResultsPlus provides the most detailed analysis available of your students' exam performance. It can help you to identify topics and skills where students could benefit from further learning.
- Mock Analysis provides analysis of past exam papers which can be set as mock exams.
- Extra assessment materials

[www.edexcel.com/resultsplus](http://www.edexcel.com/resultsplus)



# Training from Pearson

Events in a timely manner to help you prepare to teach the new specification:

- Getting ready to teach events in early 2015.
- Professional development events with a focus on developing expertise to support good teaching and learning.

[www.edexcel.com/training](http://www.edexcel.com/training)





# Contact information



## Contact information

- Subject Advisor email: [TeachingEnglish@pearson.com](mailto:TeachingEnglish@pearson.com)
- Subject Advisor telephone number: 0844 372 2188
- Subject page link:  
<http://www.edexcel.com/quals/gce/gce15/eng-lit/Pages/default.aspx>
- **[www.edexcel.com/contactus](http://www.edexcel.com/contactus)**
- **[www.edexcel.com/learningforabetterfuture](http://www.edexcel.com/learningforabetterfuture)**