

GCE AS/A level English Language and Literature 2015

AS and A level co-teachability

The AS and A level Language and Literature course has been designed to be entirely co-teachable, with **the same set text and thematic options** at both AS and A level. Please note that AS and A level content will be assessed to a different standard, appropriate to the level of study.

Students who sit the AS examination and then decide to also take the separate A level will be assessed on their AS content again, at the end of their course of study, at the A level standard.

Please see the Sample Assessment Materials for examples of the different question structures.

Teachers who will not be entering students for the AS examination are welcome to approach the course content in any order.

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

Year 1	Year 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Voices in Speech and Writing: An Anthology</i>. A wide selection of non-literary and digital texts from the 20th and 21st centuries • 1 prose text • 1 further text from the genres of poetry, prose and/or drama 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 drama text • 2 further texts; 1 fiction and 1 non-fiction
<p>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.</p>	

Co-teaching FAQs

Q: If students sit their AS exams, do their results carry forward to their final A level grade?

A: No. AS and A level are separate qualifications, so the AS results do not contribute to the A level grades

Q: If the students achieve an AS grade, and then go on to achieve an A level grade, will they have UCAS points for AS and A level?

A: No. They will have an A level in their subject, with the associated points. AS points will only contribute for students for whom AS is their highest level of study in the subject.

Q: Can students sit AS exams and then continue into the second year and sit A level exams too?

A: Yes. The students would be assessed at the end of Year 1, at AS standard, on the AS content. They would then be assessed at the end of the second year at A level standard, on the full A level content. This means that they would be assessed on the content they had already covered in their AS exams, to a higher standard. For example, students studying *The Great Gatsby* and *Othello* in their Varieties component would sit an AS paper at the end of year 1 on these texts. They would then sit an A level paper at the end of Year 2 on these same texts, as well as their A level only content. For the differences in the questions structures, please see the SAMs.

Q: Can students decide to continue to A level study after receiving their AS results?

A: Yes. However, bear in mind that results are not known until August, and the AS exams will be in May/June. Students may need to continue with the course until the end of the academic year so that in the event that they want to continue into Year 2 following their results, they have not missed out on any post-AS exam taught content, or summer holiday work.

Q: Can all of the students be entered for AS as a progress check, or as an indicator of their abilities for university applications purposes, for example?

A: Yes, you can choose to enter all students for the AS examinations as a matter of course, and then return to their AS content in Year 2 to review and bring to the required A level standard.

Q: Can we ignore AS altogether and just focus on a two-year linear A level course?

A: Yes. If you do not wish to make entries for AS, you can then teach the course content in any order

Q: Can we decide half-way through the first year that some students will sit the AS after all?

A: Yes, but remember that if you have not organised the course to put AS content into Year 1, the students may not have covered all of the AS exam content. If you think that you might want students to decide during the course, you should follow a course planner for a co-taught AS and A level cohort. That way, you ensure you have covered the AS content whether you end up having students sit the AS or not.