

### What is the English A: Language and Literature course about?

In this two-year course, students explore and analyse literary texts such as poems, novels, and plays, as well as non-literary texts such as advertisements, newspaper reports and magazine articles.

Students can choose to study this course either at higher level or at standard level.

### What are the differences between higher level and standard level?

- The number of texts studied—6 literary works and more non-literary works at higher level; 4 literary works and fewer non-literary works at standard level
- Teaching time—a minimum of 240 hours at standard level; a minimum of 150 hours at standard level
- Fewer assessment tasks at standard level
- More assessment guidance at standard level
- The criteria of assessment are different to account for greater rigour at higher level
- Grade boundaries are higher at higher level—a higher level student has to score more marks than a standard level student to achieve the same grade.
- The duration of the assessment components, such as examination papers, is longer at higher level.

### What are the texts studied at Neev Academy?

At higher level students will read Shakespeare's *King Richard II*, Toni Morrison's *The Bluest Eye*, Nadine Gordimer's short stories, John Donne's poems and two texts in translation: *Kokoro*, which is a Japanese novel and *Medea* which is a Greek play.

At standard level students will read the same texts except the Japanese novel and Nadine Gordimer's Short Stories.

In addition to these texts, all students will study a range of non-literary texts.

### What is the assessment like in English?

Students have five assessment components in this course:

- An oral commentary on an extract from a literary text
- Two or more oral activities, such as a presentation or a monologue
- Three or four written tasks, creative and formal, based on texts studied
- A written examination paper that requires the analysis of unseen texts
- A written examination paper that requires an essay based on two literary texts studied

### How will this English course help me later?

This can be answered in two ways:

In the short term, this course is highly desirable for admission into the top universities around the world, even if one is applying for an undergraduate course in science or economics. Also, a good grade allows students to be admitted to undergraduate without having to sit a language proficiency test such as the IELTS.

In the long run, this course helps students develop the ability to analyse ideas critically and make relevant connections in any sphere of life. It also helps develop a student's powers of expression, and encourages an appreciation of other cultures and perspectives, something the world is in need of now.

The skills acquired in this English course are transferrable and demonstrable in subjects as differently perceived from English as mathematics, science and economics at university. The analysis of ideas and the language they are couched in forms an integral part of the course, and is applicable in various professional and personal environments and scenarios throughout life.