

# International Baccalaureate English

@ Durham Sixth Form Centre

“And who, in time, knows whither we may vent The treasure of our tongue, to what strange shores T'enrich unknowing nations with our stores?”

What worlds in th'yet unformed Occident May come refined with th'accents that are ours?”

- Samuel Daniel

The IB Language A1 English course at Durham Gilesgate Sports College & Sixth Form Centre aims to provide a well balanced and cohesive course, covering a variety of genres, times and places, endeavouring to build upon prior knowledge and understanding as well as providing new challenges and opportunities in all of our World Literature texts.

We intend to develop and enhance the skills necessary to foster a love for literature whereby students will be able to analyse and evaluate texts, reflecting upon their content and style so as to become increasingly aware of the impact an individual's decisions can have upon others and the society in which they live. Our choice of texts enables students to put themselves in the shoes of the characters in the books and for them to look at situations from a variety of perspectives developing the abilities to empathise and sympathise.

## Overview:

We are offering both Higher and Standard Level in this subject. All students will complete four compulsory units of work, studying a range of diverse texts, including some which were originally written in a foreign language. Those students who opt to take English at Standard Level will study 11 texts with Higher Level students covering an additional four texts, making 15 in total.

We have chosen our selection of texts carefully to create a course where you will read prose, plays, poetry as well as autobiography. We have done this with the deliberate aim of fostering your love of literature. Some of the texts we will study include Shakespeare's *The Tempest*, *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker, a number of poems by Larkin and the autobiographical work *I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou.

## Assessment:

Throughout the IB Language A1 diploma you will be exposed to a range of internal and external assessment methods. The external examinations occur at the end of the course and all students will sit two papers. The Standard Level examinations are 90 minutes long and those for the Higher Level students are 2 hours long.

Paper 1: Commentary - Two unseen texts for commentary; no guiding questions. One commentary to be written on one of the texts. (2 hours)

Paper 2: Essay - One question to be answered based on poetry studied in Part 3. (2 hours)

Additionally, you will be expected to complete World Literature assignments. You will produce assignments based upon texts studied of between 1000 and 1500 words. Standard Level students have to write one assignment and Higher Level students write two. These will be externally assessed and regardless of the Level are worth 20% of your final mark.

There will also be two Oral Internal Assessments worth 30% of your final mark:

1. Individual Oral Commentary (15 minutes) (15%)

Commentary on an extract with guiding questions chosen from Part 2 works.

2. Individual Oral Presentation (10-15 minutes)

(15%) Presentation of a topic chosen by you from Part 4 works

There will be a host of other assessments throughout the programme, usually conducted after completion of a module.

These will include traditional examinations, presentations, essays and mock exams. In addition, you will be expected to complete assignments as part of your homework activities each week.

*Don't walk in front of me;  
I may not follow.  
Don't walk behind me;  
I may not lead.  
Just walk beside me and be my friend.*



*Albert Einstein*

“The public is wonderfully tolerant. It forgives everything except genius.”

- Oscar Wilde