

AS Level English Language (8693)

Do our candidates have to have studied a Cambridge English examination at a ‘lower’ level in order to enter this syllabus?

The syllabus is designed to allow progression from GCE O Level or IGCSE syllabuses in English Language. However, it is not a compulsory entry requirement that candidates have passed one of these.

Is there an A Level examination in English Language?

No.

Can my students take AS English Language AND AS English Literature?

Yes, and these will count as two separate AS qualifications.

Can my students take AS Language and Literature 8695 in addition to one of the separate syllabuses, AS Language or AS Literature?

No, because the combined Language and Literature syllabus consists of one paper from each of the separate syllabuses, so there would be too much overlap in this combination.

Can students take dictionaries into the examination?

No, dictionaries may not be used in either Paper.

Can we use literary material for this syllabus?

A Literary material may be used in classroom preparation for both papers. Paper 2 may feature a literary extract. Candidates benefit from exposure to a variety of types of writing, and literary texts have a part to play in Language work.

What sort of material should be expected to appear as passages for comment in Paper 1?

See the specimen papers for some examples. Passages will cover informative and narrative writing. Sources will include: newspapers and magazines, advertisements, leaflets and other promotional material, textbooks, fiction, letters, and transcriptions of speeches. Candidates should be prepared for a wide a range of possibilities.

What other support material is available for this syllabus?

There is a booklet of specimen questions and marking schemes, and a booklet of specimen answers, both available from CIE publications.

To what extent is use of accurate English essential for this examination?

Candidates are marked on their use of English as well as their understanding of the their own and others' use of language.

How much time should be spent on preparing for each of the two papers?

The papers are weighted at 50% each, and time should be divided equally between them.