

Specification for the Diploma in English Studies



Thank you for enquiring about our Access to Higher Education Diplomas in English Studies. This booklet will provide you with the following details:

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English

Qualification Code: 40012281

Unit of Study	Unit Value	Achievement & Comments
Communication: Academic Essay Writing [3]	3	This is an ungraded unit so you can only achieve this at pass level. To achieve this you must create 3 essay plans and submit them to your tutor. The assignment brief for this unit is in the Google Classroom 'Developmental Ungraded Units, and you will be given access to this remote learning space during your application process.
Communication: Presentation Skills [3]	3	This is an ungraded unit so you can only achieve this at pass level. To achieve this you must undertake one oral presentation of a unit of study. The assignment brief for this unit is in the Google Classroom 'Developmental Ungraded Units, and you will be given access to this remote learning space during your application process.
Professional Behaviours	3	This is an ungraded unit so you can only achieve this at pass level. You complete this unit as your initial assesment before joining us. The assignment brief for this unit is in the Google Classroom 'Developmental Ungraded Units, and you will be given access to this remote learning space during your application process.
Personal Development: Applying to HE	3	This is an ungraded unit so you can only achieve this at pass level. You can achive this unit alongside your application to university. The assignment brief for this unit is in the Google Classroom 'Developmental Ungraded Units, and you will be given access to this remote learning space during your application process.
Writing for Magazines	3	This is the first curriculum based unit of study that you will do and the aim of this unit is to align to the Short Stories graded unit and provides insight into short pieces of work that adds understanding to creative and blog writing.
Key Traditions in Political Philosophy	3	This is a graded unit and you can achieve it at a Pass, Merit or Distinction. This unit explores and evaluates three key political philosophies pivotal in European and Western development. That is Liberalism, Socialism and Feminism. Understanding of these is really the foundation stone of understanding British and European development from the 18 th century onwards and is particularly useful in helping to grasp the role of the state as the western world becomes more complex due to industrial development.
European Expansion & Disaster	3	This is a graded unit and you can achieve it at a Pass, Merit or Distinction. The focus of this unit is on the causation factors that led to the outbreak of the First World War. This is a complex story and your focus will be to look at both the long and short term events that led to this conflict. One

		<p>thing we can be very sure about is that this war changed so many aspects of life, such as in the field of medicine and industrial warfare. So what led to the outbreak and who might be seen to be the main agitator?</p>
Appreciating Poetry	3	<p>This is a graded unit and you can achieve it at a Pass, Merit or Distinction.</p> <p>Within this unit you will learn about the variety of devices used within poetry, for example, rhyme, imagery, language and form. You will also study a poem and discuss how the poet uses those devices to create effects and develop themes.</p> <p>You might choose to read poems that relate to what you have studied or will study on this diploma. For example, Alison Dunbar <i>All These Things the Old Tales Tell</i>; Phillis Wheatley <i>Being Brought from Africa to America</i>; Wilfred Owen <i>Anthem for Doomed Youth</i>; Siegfried Sassoon <i>The Kiss</i>.</p>
Appreciating a Play	3	<p>This is a graded unit and you can achieve it at a Pass, Merit or Distinction.</p> <p>The purpose of this unit is to introduce you to themes within a play. You will also explore roles and functions alongside literary style and stagecraft within a play. You will study Arthur Miller's play <i>The Death of a Salesman</i> for this unit. This play explores consumerism and urbanisation in 20th century America.</p>
Appreciating a Novel	3	<p>This is a graded unit and you can achieve it at a Pass, Merit or Distinction.</p> <p>Within this unit you will analyse all aspects of a novel, for example, structure, plot, imagery, symbolism and characterisation. You will also evaluate the socio-historical context of a novel and apply literary critical approaches to generate and evidence your own interpretation of the novel.</p> <p>You might choose to read novels that relate to what you have studied or will study on this diploma. For example, <i>Regeneration</i> by Pat Barker; <i>On Hitler's Mountain</i> by Irmgard Hunt; <i>The Reader</i> by Bernhard Schlink; <i>The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas</i> by John Boyne; <i>Doctor Zhivago</i> by Boris Pasternak; <i>Uncle Tom's Cabin</i> by Harriet Beecher-Stowe; <i>Falling Angels</i> by Tracy Chevalier.</p>
Liverpool & the Slave Trade	3	<p>This is a graded unit and you can achieve it at a Pass, Merit or Distinction.</p> <p>The Slave Trade played a pivotal role in the industrial revolution but at what cost? You will be encouraged to explore this with particular reference to Liverpool. In addition, you will also evaluate this triangular trade and its abolition.</p>

<p>The Suffragette Movement</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>This is a graded unit and you can achieve it at a Pass, Merit or Distinction.</p> <p>Women were not able to vote until legislation was passed in both 1918 and 1928. What was the journey to this milestone like and what battles did those women face to secure, what we see today, as a basic freedom? You will explore what life was like for women in the 19th century and how they agitated for change.</p>
<p>Short Stories</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>This is a graded unit and you can achieve it at a Pass, Merit or Distinction.</p> <p>This unit will introduce you to the genre of short stories and encourage you to identify key characteristics and themes within short story writing.</p>
<p>Literary Theory & Criticism</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>This is a graded unit and you can achieve it at a Pass, Merit or Distinction.</p> <p>This unit will link into other units on the diploma such as appreciating a play, appreciating and novel and appreciating poetry.</p>
<p>Hitler's Persecution of the Jews</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>This is a graded unit and you can achieve it at a Pass, Merit or Distinction.</p> <p>After Hitler's rise to power it is inevitable that a focus be given to the ideology behind Nazism. The persecution of the Jews is often seen as a low point in human history but how was it 'allowed' to happen? How and why were the Jews persecuted? You will explore this within the unit.</p>
<p>Persuasive Communication</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>This is a graded unit and you can achieve it at a Pass, Merit or Distinction.</p> <p>This unit will explore the use of oratorical techniques used in literary or real life situations. It will encourage you to distinguish between valid and invalid arguments and identify examples of generalisation, false cause and persuasive use of analogy and metaphor.</p>
<p>Standard and Non-Standard English</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>This is a graded unit and you can achieve it at a Pass, Merit or Distinction.</p> <p>The purpose of studying this unit is to introduce you to the main differences between standard and non-standard English. You will explore grammatical terms, sentence structure alongside attitudes to standard English in the form of regional accents and dialects.</p>
<p>Child Language Acquisition</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>This is a graded unit and you can achieve it at a Pass, Merit or Distinction.</p> <p>The purpose of studying this unit is to support and develop your understanding of research methods used to investigate child language development. You will also explore the main stages of language acquisition.</p>

<p>Regional History</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>This is a graded unit and you can achieve it at a Pass, Merit or Distinction.</p> <p>This is a long term research project that you do and can be based on any historical topic that you are interested in and wish to explore in more depth. You will focus on historical developments within a geographical area (perhaps close to where you live) and identify primary and secondary sources that facilitate a wider understanding of that area of study. You will assess historical developments that may be political, ideological, cultural, social or have a local or national impact. This unit is worth 6 credits, which is double the size of all other units on the diploma. You will receive support, advice and guidance on how to set this project out and undertake your research. Universities appreciate the independence of study needed for this project and it would be good to begin thinking about what you want to do in this area as soon as you can. Feel free to book an appointment with your tutor to discuss this.</p>
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Progression Information

From the above diploma you might expect to apply for undergraduate programmes in the following areas:

- English Literature
- English Language
- History
- Journalism
- International Relations
- Humanities
- English and History Dual Honours
- Literary Studies
- Critical Theory
- Cultural Studies

Students from the above diplomas have been successful in gaining places at the following universities

University of Sheffield

University of Bristol

University of Glasgow

John Moores University in Liverpool

University of Manchester

University of Herefordshire

Lancaster University

University of East Anglia

Leicester University

Middlesex University

University of Liverpool

Sheffield Hallam University

University of Essex

Bath Spa University

Progression beyond your degree

A degree in psychology can lead to a number of progression areas beyond undergraduate study. You may choose to continue with your academic career and progress on to MA studies or your PhD. However, there are also some known careers you may move into and they are:

- Teaching
- Research
- Journalist
- Editor
- Acting
- Theatre Director
- Librarian
- Author

Testimonials of Learners

These testimonials are taken from learners who have completed an English based diploma with us.

“I was very nervous about going back to ‘school’ and really did not believe in myself at all. I made a number of enquiries before plucking up the courage to talk to Sam and I really need not have worried. She explained everything so clearly and was so understanding about my anxiousness. So I started the diploma and it was brilliant. Loved the mix of history and English and found so many connections between the two. They are like a married couple! 😊 The course flew by and I am now about to go to university, I can’t believe it!” **Emma**

“This diploma gave me a real good grounding to a career I want to pursue in international relations. It helps to see how Europe had developed and, of course, those dark areas that are often glossed over, were covered really well. The materials in the classroom were amazing and I had a number of tutorials with Sam and Dave, don’t forget to book these in as they are really helpful. UCAS was a bit daunting but was doable with the help you get from the team here. You won’t look back and this diploma genuinely changes lives!” **Jacob**

Your Next Steps to Joining Us

You will have been sent **two** things following your initial enquiry

1. **An application form** – please return to samantha@returntolearningonline.com as soon as possible. This does not commit you to the course but gives our administration office a chance to start your files and related paperwork. It also registers your interest. Should you decide not to join your application form will be held in a vaulted file for 3 years and then destroyed. Your data is not at risk.
2. **An option to book in for a tutorial** – this is an informal chat that enables us to discuss your chosen diploma with you and respond to any questions you may have. There is no pressure to make a decision following this tutorial as joining a life changing programme, such as this, is a big step. We know that and will give you as much time as you need to make the right decision for you. If you did not get the link, here it is <https://calendly.com/samantha-410returntolearning/progress-reviews>

After your tutorial you may decide to progress onto the next stage, which is:

1. **Completing an Initial Assessment** – this is not a test, or a pass or fail scenario but it does allow you to see how you might work remotely and online. The assessment is based around a unit on all diplomas, that of Professional Behaviours. It consists of seven tasks on the topic area of communication with some activities aimed at supporting managing your studies and mental health. If you complete this initial assessment and decide not to join us, that is not a problem. However, if you do want to enrol, this is what will come next.
2. You will be sent a **Next Steps email** – this email will give you a step by step guide of what happens next and includes:
 - a) Feedback from the initial assessment, highlighting what you have done well and any potential areas for development
 - b) Payment plans and proposals
 - c) Information on how to start your UCAS application form
 - d) A link to the first curriculum unit on your diploma with a target deadline
 - e) An introduction to your Curriculum Tutor – this will prompt them to get in touch to help and support you in your academic journey with us
 - f) An invitation to an Induction via Zoom – these normally take place in the evening and enable us to take you through some of the key aspects of your diploma now you have decided to join us.

Please do not hesitate to contact Sam on samantha@returntolearningonline.com or 07875710049 should you have any further questions.

We look forward to hearing from you and helping you achieve your dream of going to university.

The Access Curriculum Teaching Team