



neec National
Extension
College



A level English Language and English Literature Non-Exam Assessment (NEA): Everything You Need to Know

WHAT IS THE NEA AND WHY IS IT SO IMPORTANT?

The Non-Exam Assessment (NEA) is the coursework component of your A level. Unlike traditional written exams sat under strict timed conditions, the NEA gives you the opportunity to undertake independent, research-led study on topics and texts that truly interest you.

- **Crucial to Your Final Grade:** The NEA accounts for 20% of your overall A level result. Because it is completed over time with expert feedback, securing a strong mark on your NEA provides a vital safety net before you even step into the exam room.
- **A level Only:** The NEA is a requirement for the full A level qualification (there is no NEA component at AS level).
- **Carrying Marks Forward:** If you ever resit the qualification in the future, your NEA mark can be carried forward, so your effort is never wasted.



WHAT IS EXPECTED IN EACH SUBJECT?

English Language: Language in Action

You will produce an independent portfolio exploring how language works in real-world contexts:

- **Language Investigation (2,000 words):** A mini-dissertation where you collect your own linguistic data (spoken, written, or digital) and analyse it using formal language frameworks.
- **Original Writing and Commentary (1,500 words combined):** You'll produce a piece of creative or persuasive writing based on a chosen "style model" and write an analytical commentary reflecting on your choices.

English Literature: Independent Critical Study

You will complete an extended comparative essay (2,500 words) and bibliography examining two literary texts:

- You will select **two texts** (one must be pre-1900) and compare them through a critical lens of your choice (such as Feminism, Marxism, or Post-Colonialism).

HOW WE HELP YOU SUCCEED

Navigating an independent research project can feel daunting, but you are never left to figure it out alone. NEC's courses are specifically engineered to guide you through the coursework process step-by-step:

- **Expert Lead Tutors and Examiners:** Your NEA is supervised and marked by qualified subject specialists, many of whom are active or former exam board examiners. They know exactly what the assessment objectives demand and how to help you meet the criteria.
- **Structured Progress Milestones:** On learn@nec, your NEA journey is broken down into manageable steps, from choosing your topic and analysing data/texts, to drafting, refining, and final submission.
- **Expert Tutor Guidance and Authentication:** Your tutor will review your progress at key stages, offering general feedback to ensure your project stays aligned with exam board criteria. They will also verify and authenticate your work, giving the exam board full confidence in your submission.

THE NEC ADVANTAGE: GUARANTEED EXAM PLACES AND MARKS SUBMISSION

For private candidates, finding an exam centre willing to supervise, authenticate, and mark A level coursework can be a huge hurdle. Most independent exam centres refuse external candidate NEAs because of the administrative burden.

With NEC, this is completely taken care of:

- **Dedicated Tutor Support:** You aren't passed off to an unknown third party. The personal subject tutor who supports you through your course modules is the same specialist who oversees your NEA progress, ensuring continuous, familiar guidance through every milestone.
- **Seamless Authentication and Marking:** Having built an understanding of your academic style over the course, your tutor can confidently supervise, authenticate, and mark your work in line with exam board standards.
- **Guaranteed Partnership Centres:** We manage all administration, submit your coursework marks directly to the exam board, and guarantee you a written exam place at one of our approved partnership centres across the UK.

KEY DEADLINES AND HOW TO REGISTER

- **Final Submission:** Your final NEA portfolio must be submitted by 15th March in the year of your exams.
- **Milestone Deadlines:** To keep your progress on track and give your tutor time to review your drafts, milestone dates are published clearly in your learn@nec study planner.
- **Booking Your Exams:** Simply download the exam application form from learn@nec. Once submitted, our dedicated Exams Team handles all the administrative coordination behind the scenes.

WHERE ARE THE PARTNERSHIP CENTRES?

We work with a nationwide network of approved partnership exam centres where you can sit your written papers. You can explore our full range of available centre locations on our website (www.nec.ac.uk), or view up-to-date options and select your preferred location directly via learn@nec once enrolled.



GET IN TOUCH

From the moment you enrol to when you receive your results
- we're here to support you.

✉ info@nec.ac.uk

☎ 0800 389 2839 or 01223 400200

www.nec.ac.uk



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