

English Interview Questions

1. How is poetry linked to music and other arts?
2. Do you like ambiguity?
3. If you could make up a word, what would it be?
4. How would you describe an apple?
5. What books are bad for you?
6. What makes a novel a classic? Can a modern novel be a classic?
7. Is an understanding of rhythm important when writing prose?
8. Is an author's life important when looking at their work?
9. Would you rather be a novel or a poem?
10. Do you know who decided to put English Literature on to the school syllabus?
11. Is a protagonist's gender important?
12. If it could take a form, what shape would the novel "To the Lighthouse" become?
13. Was Shakespeare a rebel?
14. Do you think there is any point to reading criticism?
15. Can a carrot be considered a theatrical fruit, if it is used as a prop during a play?
16. Why bother write a poem?
17. If you could design the A level English course, which texts would you include?
18. What is the difference between poetry and prose?
19. What is tragedy?
20. Is the Bible a fictional work?
21. Does every work of literature always have a moral? Is there such a thing as an immoral book?
22. If you could make up a word, what would it be? Why?
23. Is there a difference between innocence and naivety?
24. Should politicians study English?
25. Can a reader ever know a writer's 'intention'?
26. Can you justify the imbalanced ratio of male to female writers in the canon of English literature?
27. Could the sentence 'Tom failed to catch the train on time again' be said to be poetry?
28. Did Shakespeare write Shakespeare's plays?
29. Do you think Hamlet knows he is being listened to when he says 'To be, or not to be'?
30. Do you think there is any point to reading criticism?
31. Have you ever visited an author's birthplace, or home, or a place that a text is about? If yes, did this change the way you read the text? Is it a valuable thing to do?
32. How is poetry linked to music and media?
33. How would you describe a cucumber to an alien?

34. If language is 'the house of being' (Martin Heidegger) what might that make literature?
35. Is an understanding of rhythm important when writing poetry? What about prose?
36. Is a protagonist's gender important?
37. Is an author's life important when looking at their work?
38. Is it necessary to see the text of a play performed on stage to understand it?
39. Is literature a different language to speech?
40. Is poetry a particularly good medium for expressing doubt over words?
41. Is poetry meant to be difficult to understand?
42. To what extent is Romeo a rebel? What about Shakespeare?