

Contents

Acknowledgements	viii
Introduction	1
1 English as a subject	5
Perceptions of English	5
The coming of subject-English	11
One subject or two?	21
Why choose to study English?	26
What is to be gained from English?	28
The relationship with other subjects	32
2 The students of English	36
The 16+ divide	36
The balance of the sexes	41
Their family background	44
Their academic record	46
Who go on to university?	48
3 Development and continuity	54
Student views of continuity	55
Views of teachers and lecturers	60
Development of personal response	66
4 Courses of study	78
Literary studies	80
The literary curriculum	82
Student views of literature and criticism	93
Views of literature courses at different stages	100
The perceived influence of English courses	113
5 Teaching and learning	117
Unanswered questions	117
Perceptions of teachers and learners	122
Proposals for change	128

6 The assessment process	136
Doubts about examinations	136
What is to be assessed?	142
Students' views of assessment	144
Staff views of assessment	148
Examiners' views of assessment	153
Examinations at 16	157
Examinations at 18 and beyond	165
Conclusion	172
Notes	185
Index	198