Here’s an experience from a student applying to do Languages

Here are some of the questions I got asked at the interview. Although I was interviewing for modern languages it was so literature based that I'm sure that at least some of these would be relevant for a english interview!

* 'What did you think the poem was about?' (very general and I was able to talk about anything that I found interesting until they would stop me and ask me to be more specific)
* They sometimes stopped me half way and gave me new information I then had to apply eg 'Some critics believe that this poem reflects the author's strong Christianity, what do you think?'
* 'How does the form etc influence the reader's ideas about bthe peom?'
* 'What else have you read?' OUTSIDE of statement OUTSIDE of curriculum OUTSIDE of Oxford orientated lit.
* They asked me my interpretations of the texts I was given. However I found that it was better to go through the rough ideas very fast and then talk about the ideas I thought were better in more length as they would sometimes ask me things on points I thought were not very good, perhaps thinking that they were all I had. Often ran out of time. That said I think really showing them your resoning is helpful.

I hope all of this is useful, I have other questions but they are purely language based. I got an offer to study Spanish and Portuguese if I get three As. I think the practice interview was very, very useful and, if anything, just helped me calm down during the real thing, I would really recommend people applying to do one or two... I found planning what order you want to say things from your notes was useful too, and the more notes the better!