

# A Level English Literature

## Grade entry requirements:

To study this course at A Level it is recommended that students have obtained grade 5 in both English and English Literature at GCSE.

## Subject Outline and Progression

A-level English Literature is a subject which emphasises creativity, disciplined thought and communication, plus an ability to synthesise and contextualise ideas. A level English Literature is a particularly suitable course for students who are keen readers and who enjoyed GCSE English Literature. It widens your understanding of the foundation topics of this discipline: drama, poetry and prose. At A – level, English Literature can complement many other subjects and can be a valuable contrast to scientific subjects, demonstrating a breadth of interests.

We study a broad variety of literature which includes Renaissance drama, thematic poetry and 20<sup>th</sup> century novels. Your study will involve: research based on social and historical contexts; classroom discussion; essay planning and writing and analysis of literary features. Students are taught in small groups and, when drafting coursework, in one to one tutorials.

**Exam Board:** AQA

Exam details: **AQA Literature (Specification A)**

Course structure:

| <b>Year 1 Content</b><br><br><b>Paper 1:</b><br>Love through the ages   | <b>Year 2 Content</b><br><br><b>Paper 2:</b><br>Texts in shared contexts  | <b>Non-exam assessment:</b><br>Independent critical study:<br>texts across time.   |
|---|---|--|
| <b>What's assessed:</b><br>Study of three texts:<br>Poetry ( <b>pre 1900 anthology</b> )<br>Prose text ( <b>Gatsby</b> )<br>Shakespeare play ( <b>Othello</b> )<br>Exam will include two unseen Poems<br><b>Assessed</b><br>Written exam: 3 hours <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open book in Section C only</li> <li>• 75 marks</li> <li>• 40% of A-level</li> </ul> | <b>What's assessed:</b><br>Option 2B: <b>Modern times:</b><br>literature from 1945 to the present day:<br>Prose: <b>The Handmaid's Tale</b><br>Play: <b>A Streetcar Named Desire</b><br>Poetry: <b>Owen Sheers, Skirrid Hill</b><br>Exam will include an unseen Extract<br><b>Assessed</b><br>Written exam: 2 hours<br>30 minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• open book</li> <li>• 75 marks</li> <li>• 40% of A-level</li> </ul> | <b>What's assessed:</b><br>Comparative critical study of two texts, at least one of which must have been written pre-1900.<br>One extended essay (2,500 words) and a bibliography<br><b>Assessed</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•50 marks</li> <li>• 20% of A-level</li> <li>• assessed by teachers</li> <li>• moderated by AQA</li> </ul> |

**Skills that will be developed**

A level English Literature has a high academic reputation with Higher Education institutions and with employers. An A level in English Literature gives students confidence and a solid basis for undergraduate study. The course is wide ranging and aims to produce students who are confident, well-read, have excellent analytical skills and are capable of expressing themselves fluently, both verbally and in writing.

**Works well with:**

Students of English Literature often also study other subjects such as History, Sociology and Psychology. These subjects compliment each other, particularly in relation to the contextual elements of literary study.

**Careers:**

The analytical, discursive and creative skills which are developed are useful in many careers such as: journalism, broadcasting, advertising, law, social services, teaching and government.

**Any expenses:**

Students will be required to purchase their own copies of the set texts so they can be annotated and used for revision.

*(Clean copies of the text will be provided for the examination)*