

Subject: English Literature

Level: A Level Exam Board: AQA



Course Outline

The course involves the close reading and study of several texts from a wide variety of prose, poetry and drama, ranging from pre-1900 to post-2000. The course also covers a range of genres such as dystopia and tragedy.

Final assessment at A Level includes two exam papers and one non-exam (coursework) unit. Students must be prepared to undertake a wide range of independent study, involving extensive reading of a variety of texts such as other works of fiction, biography and critical responses in order to build up a sophisticated and informed response to the study of literature. They must have a thorough knowledge of the text studied in order to be able to respond relevantly and in detail in exam conditions, where they will not always have reference to the text.

What will I learn on this course?

The course will enable you to:

- Develop your interest in, and enjoyment of, literature by reading widely
- Develop as a confident, independent and reflective reader
- Express your responses to a wide variety of texts through discussion, debate and writing
- Gather, select, synthesise and evaluate information
- Make informed judgements and opinions of what you have read
- Form clear, detailed and convincing independent arguments
- Consider other readers' responses to texts
- Gain an understanding of the traditions of English literature

Who will be a successful student of English literature?

The course will appeal to students who:

- Are enthusiastic and avid readers;
- Enjoy making links across subjects to fully appreciate the historical contexts, literary movements and critical approaches that help us view literature in a variety of illuminating ways
- Enjoy studying a subject which is relevant to, or different from, their own and others' lives and experiences
- Enjoy expressing their opinions and justifying their comments on texts
- Can listen to and read others' opinions and respond insightfully and appropriately
- Enjoy learning in a variety of active ways, including group discussions, presentations, role-play and research, as well as individual study and research and extensive essay writing
- Wish to extend and develop options for further study at a higher level – English literature is a popular qualification for a wide range of courses in Higher Education and for future careers

Career Opportunities

The course develops strong communication and written skills as well as analytical, critical and interpersonal skills, all of which are valuable transferable skills in a wide range of careers. Students who continue to study the subject at degree level have the opportunity to enter a varied range of exciting careers such as:

- Teaching
- Journalism
- Industry, Business & Commerce, where communication skills are highly valued
- Broadcasting
- Publishing
- Marketing
- Law
- Advertising and Media
- Public Sector
- Research
- Library careers

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Course content

Unit	Assessment
Paper 1: Love through the ages	
Study of three texts: one poetry and one prose text, of which one must be written pre-1900, and one Shakespeare play. The examination will include two unseen poems.	Written exam: 3 hours Open book in Section C only 75 marks 40% of A-level
Paper 2: Texts in shared contexts - Option 2B: Modern times: literature from 1945 to the present day	
Study of three texts: one prose, one poetry, and one drama, of which one must be written post-2000. The examination will include an unseen prose extract.	Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes Open book 75 marks 40% of A-level Exam will include unseen prose extract
Non-exam assessment: Independent critical study: texts across time	
Comparative critical study of two texts, at least one of which must have been written pre-1900 One extended essay (2500 words) and a bibliography	50 marks 20% of A-level Assessed by teachers Moderated by AQA