

ENGLISH LITERATURE



Course content

We follow the AQA A Level English Literature A specification. This course offers clear progression from iGCSE.

The AQA English Literature A Level enables students to study literature through the lens of historicism, encouraging the independent study of a range of texts within a shared context, for example 'Modern Times: Literature from 1945 to present'. This unifying approach facilitates the inclusion of a range of wider reading, thus extending students' experience and appreciation of literature.

The variety of assessment styles used, such as passage-based questions, unseen material, single-text questions, multiple-text questions, open and closed book approaches, allows students to develop a wide range of skills: the ability to read critically, analyse, evaluate and undertake independent research which are valuable for both further study and future employment.

Syllabus

Paper 1: Love Through the Ages

Set Text: Othello (Shakespeare)

Set Text: The Great Gatsby (FS Fitzgerald)

Assessment - written exam: 3 hours
- open book in Section C only 40% of A level

Paper 2: Texts in Shared Contexts Modern Times: Literature from 1945 to present.

Set Texts: A Streetcar Named Desire (T Williams); The Handmaid's Tale (M Atwood); modern poetry text

Assessment - written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes
- open book 75 marks 40% of A level

Non- Examined Assessment (coursework)

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.

Assessment - 50 marks 20% of A Level assessed by teachers, moderated by AQA

Wider reading

Students are issued with a wider reading list and are encouraged to read a range of texts from major authors such as Thomas Hardy, Emily Bronte, Jane Austen, Henrik Ibsen, George Orwell as well as other texts by the writers of the set texts they are studying. They are also encouraged to engage with critical readings of their set texts.

Enrichment opportunities

The department offers a range of enrichment opportunities including: theatre visits, conferences, trips, Literary Society.

Why study English Literature at A Level?

Students who opt to continue their study of English Literature at A Level do so with a diverse range of A Level subjects such as History, Politics, Graphics, Drama, Languages, Sciences and Mathematics.

A Level English Literature is an academically challenging qualification and the desirability of the skills that this subject develops means that an A Level in English Literature is highly regarded by employers and by universities for all undergraduate courses.

50% of students achieved A*/A
83% of students achieved A*-B
English Literature A Level in 2024



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