

A-LEVEL ENGLISH LITERATURE

Why study A-level English Literature?

A level Literature will challenge students to think critically and analytically about texts. Plays, poetry and novels will be studied in detail.

A qualification in English Literature is widely recognised by universities. Skills developed through the study of English Literature are among the most transferable, with English graduates going on to develop the widest range of careers.

The course creates independent thinking and sophisticated discussions on how writer's shape meaning through their texts and influence the reader's understanding of a wide variety of themes and topics.

Exam Board: Edexcel

Course overview...

The Year 12 (AS) includes: the study of two modern novels, a modern play, an anthology of poetry, unseen poetry, and a literary critical text.

In Year 13 students will sit three externally examined papers and one non-examination assessment component. The non-examination assessment will require students to write one extended comparative essay referring to two texts. Students study:

Paper 1: DRAMA

- One Shakespeare play and one other drama from either tragedy or comedy.
- Critical essays related to selected Shakespeare play. Students' preparation is supported by Shakespeare: A Critical Anthology.

Paper 2: PROSE

- Two prose texts from a chosen theme.
- At least one of the prose texts must be pre-1900.
- Written examination, lasting 1 hour and 15 minutes.
- Total of 40 marks available.
- Students answer one comparative essay question from a choice of two on their studied theme.

Paper 3: POETRY

- Poetic form, meaning and language.
- A selection of post-2000 specified poetry.
- A specified range of poetry from named poet from within a literary period.
- Written examination, lasting 2 hours and 15 minutes.

Non-Examination Assessment:

- Students complete one extended comparative essay on Othello and A Cat on a Hot Tin Roof.
- Advisory total word count is 2500–3000 words

Possible careers linked to this qualification:

Publishing, broadcasting, marketing and PR, journalism, law and teaching.

Some of our students have gone on to study Law, Biomedical Science, Psychology, Film Studies and English and Comparative Literature.