



ENGLISH LITERATURE

A-level English Literature focuses on a range of wider reading, thus extending students' experience and appreciation of literature. Offering clear progression from GCSE, A-level English Literature allow students to build on the skills and knowledge already gained and prepare for their next steps. 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, such as the ability to read critically, analyse, evaluate and undertake independent research which are valuable for both further study and future employment.

COURSE DETAILS:

A love of reading and analysing texts is central to the course as over the two years students will have studied a range of substantial texts including: one Shakespeare play, two prose texts, pre-1900 poetry and a collection of post-2000 poetry, in addition, students will respond to two unseen poems and an unseen extract.

Example texts to be studied:

Love Through the Ages:

Othello, The Great Gatsby, pre-1900 poetry and unseen poems.

Texts in Shared Contexts:

Handmaid's Tale, A Streetcar Named Desire, Feminine Gospels, unseen prose.

COURSE DETAILS:

Paper 1: Love Through the Ages

- Study of Othello
- The Great Gatsby and compare to pre-1900 poem
- Comparison of love in two unseen poems

How is it assessed?

- Written exam: 3 hours
- Closed book - except for Section C
- Worth 40% of the overall grade

EXAM BOARD:

AQA A LEVEL ENGLISH LITERATURE SPEC A (7712)

ASSESSMENT:

THE COURSE ENCOURAGES STUDENTS TO RESPOND WITH KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING TO A VARIETY OF LITERARY TEXTS, OF DIFFERENT GENRES AND FROM DIFFERENT CENTURIES. FOR THE A LEVEL, STUDENTS WILL STUDY A RANGE OF POETRY, PROSE AND DRAMA TEXTS AND ANALYSE A FURTHER TWO TEXTS INDEPENDENTLY. THE THEME OF THE FIRST EXAM WILL BE LOVE THROUGH THE AGES AND THE SECOND EXAM WILL FOCUS ON TEXTS IN SHARED CONTEXTS. IN ADDITION TO THIS, STUDENTS WILL BE REQUIRED TO PRODUCE A PIECE OF NON-EXAMINED ASSESSMENT, STUDENTS WILL BE ASKED TO COME UP WITH A FOCUS AND COMPARE TWO DIFFERENT GENRES, THIS IS WORTH 20%.



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Paper 2: Texts in Shared Context

- Handmaid's Tale
- A Streetcar Name Desire comparison with Feminine Gospels
- Unseen prose

How is it assessed?

- Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes
- Open book exam
- Worth 40% of the overall grade

Non-exam assessment: Theory and independence

What's assessed?

- Study of two texts: one poetry OR one prose text OR drama
- One essay of 2,500 words - students choose the focus of the comparison

How is it assessed?

- 20% of A-level Assessed by teachers
- Moderated by AQA

OTHER LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES:

Students will be able to support KS4 students with GCSE studies and lead A-level taster sessions for KS4 students. They will also be encouraged to see live performances of their drama texts and participate in any study opportunities offered by higher educational institutes. Students are given opportunities to participate in a range of extra-curricular opportunities including: lectures from the British Library and the English in Action programme. They are also encouraged to sign up to become Reading Mentors with students in younger years.

WHERE NEXT WITH THIS COURSE?

Both English Literature and English Language A-level will equip with you with much-sought after literacy skills valued by employers and universities alike. We will teach you to communicate effectively, think independently, challenge assumptions and ideas, critically assess information and evaluate the importance of historical, social and political context. It is also very useful if you are considering degrees in English related courses, education, law, media studies, history, drama, creative writing, journalism or any of the social sciences. Students considering careers in law, accountancy, engineering, economics – in fact anything that requires strong written and verbal communication, should not underestimate the desirability of an English A-level!



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