

A-Level English Literature

Course Outline

English Literature at A-Level is a broad and diverse curriculum, allowing for open discussion, in depth exploration and consider the context of a text in a modern world.

The AQA Literature 'B' specification is engaging and up-to-date in its text choices; it approaches the study of great literature through the consideration of context, both social and historic and across genres. Students will be encouraged to independently study a range of invigorating texts within a shared context. Studied together they create an understanding of English Literature that will deepen students' knowledge and love of the subject.

Much of the course will encourage group discussion, in which students will exchange views, defend opinions, demolish arguments and sharpen their wits against teachers and fellow students. There is nothing like a good debate about a good book!

Course Requirements

You must have at least five GCSEs Grade 9 - 4 including a good GCSE pass, Grade 6 or above, in English Language or English Literature or preferably, both.

Course Content & Assessment

80% examination at A-Level, 20% non-examination assessment.

Paper 1 - Literary Genres

Aspects of Tragedy - covering texts from Shakespeare to Present Day.

Study of three texts: one poetry, one prose text - one of which must be pre-1900 and one Shakespeare play.

Assessed by examination.

Paper 2 - Elements of Social and Political Protest Writing

Study of three set texts: one poetry, one prose, one drama, one of which must be post-2000.

Assessed by examination.

Non-Exam Assessment - Independent Critical Study

One poetry and one prose text, informed by study of the Critical Anthology.

An opportunity for students to engage independently with 2 texts of their choice across time and genre - 2500 words.

Progression

An English Advanced Level qualification is very useful to those who wish to pursue a career in Media and/or the Arts, in Public Relations and Tourism, and, as referred to above, for entry to degree courses at university, leading to a range of professional opportunities.

English Literature is a facilitating subject, meaning it continues to be valued highly by universities, especially those in the Russell Group. Studying English Literature is stimulating and rigorous - it will cultivate a love for reading whilst developing skills of analysis and evaluation. It combines well with any other subject that requires a critical overview and appreciation.