

POST 16 SUBJECT OVERVIEW

Name of Subject - English Literature

Which Examination Specification is Studied for this Course? AQA

Why should I study this course? - The English Literature course offers the opportunity to study a range of Literature texts including poetry, prose and drama. This course also provides the opportunity for students to study texts of their own choice for coursework. The course offers the chance for students to study the genre of tragedy in detail and explore political and social protest writing.

Who is suitable to study this course? - This course is ideal for students who thoroughly enjoyed Literature at GCSE level. This course also provides the opportunity for students to move on to further study in English at degree level and beyond.

What GCSE Qualifications Support the Study of this Course? English Language and Literature GCSE.

What are the Qualification Requirements for this Course? Students are required to have achieved at least a grade 6 in English Language or Literature.

How is the Course Delivered? - The English Literature course is taught 5 hours a week by two members of the English department. Students are expected to undertake 5 hours per week of independent study, and submit additional work for teachers to assess and give feedback. 20% of this course is made up of coursework, including a critical essay and a recreative piece if they choose.

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How is the Course Assessed?

The English Literature course is a linear course, meaning that students are formally assessed at the end of Year 13. Students are assessed in school in half termly assessments and complete 2 mock exams in preparation for their final A Level exams.

Subject Overview		
Half Term	Year 12	Year 13
Autumn 1	Introduction to tragedy and study of Othello	Study of The Kite Runner
Autumn 2	Study of Othello	Study of The Kite Runner and coursework continued.
Spring 1	Keats Poetry	Study of The Handmaid's Tale
Spring 2	Death of A Salesman	Study of The Handmaid's Tale
Summer 1	Introduction to coursework module.	Revision unit.
Summer 2	Revision unit	

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Paper 1- Aspects of Tragedy (40% of A-level)

Section A: one passage-based question on set Shakespeare text (25 marks)

Section B: one essay question on set Shakespeare text (25 marks)

Section C: one essay question linking two texts (25 marks)

Paper 2- Social and Political Protest Writing (40% of A-level)

Section A: one compulsory question on an unseen passage (25 marks)

Section B: one essay question on set text (25 marks)

Section C: one essay question which connects two texts (25 marks)

Non-exam assessment (20% of A-level)

Study of two texts: one poetry and one prose text, informed by study of the Critical Anthology

Two essays of 1250–1500 words, each responding to a different text and linking to a different aspect of the Critical anthology

One essay can be re-creative. The re-creative piece will be accompanied by a commentary.

Students are assessed in 5 assessment objectives, broken down as below:

AO1 essentially requires informed and relevant responses which are accurately written and use appropriate concepts and terminology.

AO2 requires students to analyse ways in which meanings are shaped in literary texts, with particular focus on the structures of texts as a form of shaping.

AO3 relates to the many possible contexts which arise out of the text, the specific task and the period being studied.

This specification treats AOs 1, 2 and 3 as broadly equal, given their relative weightings: AO1 has a weighting of 28% whilst AOs 2 and 3 both have a weighting of 24%.

AO4 involves connections across texts and sees possible meanings and interpretations arising not only out of the contexts of the text itself (AO3 above) but also out of the wider and broader contexts which comes from the study of period. Thus even when an individual text is being investigated it should still be seen as being framed by a wider network of texts and contexts to which it connects.

AO5 completes the picture by acknowledging that if work in AOs 2, 3 and 4 had been included in the response to the question then debate and interpretations will arise out of this work showing that the interpretation of texts is not a fixed process but a dynamic one. In non-exam assessment only, discussion of different interpretations must include, on at least one text in a conventional response, consideration of different interpretations of the text(s) over time.

AOs 4 and 5 each have a weighting of 12% in all questions.

What is our Recommended Subject Reading list to Support your Study?

Students will study a variety of texts as part of this qualification which include: The Handmaid's Tale, Othello, The Kite Runner and Keats poetry. Students are recommended to read widely around the subject, particularly in the genre of fantasy, utopian and dystopian fiction. Other wider reading ideas:

- Material from the 'Prizes' e.g. The Man Booker prize or the Orange prize

- HAYS Literature Festival - Online talks available.

