

POST 16 SUBJECT OVERVIEW

Name of Subject - English Literature

Which Examination Specification is Studied for this Course?

AQA Literature B

Why should I study this course? -

Reading literature broadens your knowledge of philosophers, historical eras and events, art and architecture, scientific concepts, cultural history, politics, society and psychology. You will sharpen your analytical skills as you connect themes from one text and link them with other texts, theories and events to show that you can handle complex ideas, search for patterns and interpret information in a wider context. The course is designed to develop your understanding of the human condition and will help you to express your own ideas about interesting topics.

Who is suitable to study this course? -

For those who love to read and investigate human behaviour, English Literature is an excellent course to broaden horizons and challenge the kind of world we live in. Potential learners are required to have studied, and enjoyed, English Literature at GCSE and are looking to study a wider and more challenging range of texts and themes.

A Level English Literature compliments the study of subjects such as Psychology, Sociology, History, Religious Studies and English Language due to the overlap of theories, knowledge, and skills.

The most suitable students of Literature are those who are willing to speak out and share their ideas and opinions. The subject lends itself well to discussion and collaboration to fully appreciate multiple perspectives and readings of a text. Students must be dedicated and willing to spend time outside of class preparing for lessons through independent reading or research. There is an expectation that pupils will spend an equal amount of time outside of lessons studying or reading.

English Literature is a challenging academic subject that is useful if you wish to explore any of these career options: advertising and marketing, writing, publishing and journalism, law, consultancy, business, teaching, performing arts, linguistics, media and design.

What GCSE Qualifications Support the Study of this Course?

GCSE English Literature and Language

What are the Qualification Requirements for this Course?

GCSE English Literature Grade 7+

How is the Course Delivered? -

Four hours a week direct teaching time is split between two members of staff each looking at an individual text. On top of this students will be expected to complete pre-reading of text and wider reading to prepare for lessons as well as complete assignments during their own time or directed study periods.

Students are expected to compile a folder of their annotated texts, study notes and guides, knowledge organiser and assessments which will be checked periodically. Class time will focus on the close discussion and evaluation of the texts with use of critical theories, but students must be prepared to organise and keep up to date with their notes independently.

Throughout the study of the texts, exam style questions will be set and assessed to consolidate understanding of key themes, genre conventions and characters.

| Subject Overview | | |
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| Half Term | Year 12 | Year 13 |
| Autumn 1 | Introduction to the Tragic Genre | Introduction to Political and Social Protest Genre |
| Autumn 2 | Othello by William Shakespeare | The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini |
| Spring 1 | Death of a Salesman by Arthur Miller | William Blake's Songs of Innocence and Experience |
| Spring 2 | John Keats' Poetry | The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood |
| Summer 1 | NEA/ Unseen Political Extracts | Consolidation of Paper 2 |

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| Summer 2 | Consolidation of Paper 1 | Exam Skills |
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How is the Course Assessed?

Detail the examination and coursework break down and the assessment objectives, add in about the assessments and Praising Stars etc

Paper 1: Literary Genres

Aspects of Tragedy-

Section A: Shakespeare extract 25 marks

Section B: Shakespeare essay 25 marks

Section C: Comparison question Miller and Keats 25 marks

Closed book exam in 2 hours 30 minutes

Worth 40% of overall grade.

Paper 2: Texts and Genres

Elements of political and social protest writing-

Section A: Unseen Extract 25 marks

Section B: Genre essay Blake, Atwood or Hosseini 25 marks

Section C: Comparison question Blake, Atwood or Hosseini 25 marks

Open book exam in 3 hours

Worth 40% of overall grade.

Non exam assessment: Theory and Independence

Students independently produce two essays of 1250-1500 words long on poetry and prose. 20% of overall grade.

What is our Recommended Subject Reading list to Support your Study? - Book list can also include articles, websites, podcast, wider reading, links to a school intranet of resources etc

Beyond reading out our course texts, we recommend reading widely with:

A Thousand Splendid Suns by Khaled Hosseini

The Testaments by Margaret Atwood

Hamlet by William Shakespeare

A View from the Bridge by Arthur Miller

Films:

Bright Star is a 2009 British-French-Australian biographical fiction romantic drama film based on the last three years of the life of poet John Keats and his romantic relationship with Fanny Brawne. It stars Ben Whishaw as Keats and Abbie Cornish.

Artwork:

Take a closer look at several of Blake's Songs of Innocence and Experience prints in their original illustrated form on the Tate website.

<https://www.tate.org.uk/art/artists/william-blake-39/blakes-songs-innocence-experience>

Podcasts:

NoHoldsBard: Every other week, you'll get our regular episode featuring a lightning round on several intersections of Shakespeare and the present day, an underused Shakespearian phrase that you can roll into your everyday conversation. Once a month, we offer SO YOU'RE GOING TO SEE SHAKESPEARE, a half-hour briefing on a specific play to listen to on your commute to the theatre that will prepare you to be the best little audience member you can be.

<https://noholdsbard.libsyn.com/>

Shakespeare Unlimited: William Shakespeare and his works are woven throughout our global culture, from theatre, music, and films to new scholarship, education, amazing discoveries, and more. In the Folger's Shakespeare Unlimited podcast, Shakespeare opens a window into topics ranging from the American West, to the real history of Elizabethan street fighting, to interviews with Shakespearean stars. As you'll hear, he turns up in surprising places, too—including outer space. Join us for a "no limits" tour of the connections between Shakespeare, his works, and our world.

<https://www.folger.edu/shakespeare-unlimited>

Frank Skinner's Poetry Podcast: Frank Skinner loves poetry. And he thinks you might like it too. Join Frank each week as he takes you through some of his choice picks of poems. There may be laughter. There may be tears. There will certainly be poetry.

<https://planetradio.co.uk/podcasts/frank-skinner-poetry-podcast/>

Free Texts:

Local libraries offer millions of ebooks and audiobooks. You can borrow them — for free, instantly — with a library card and the **Libby app**.

Sparknotes website hosts full visions of multiple free texts from Stoker's Dracula to Fitzgerald's The Great Gatsby and Poe's short stories.

<https://www.sparknotes.com/search?q=full%20text&site=all&page=1>

