

POST 16 SUBJECT OVERVIEW

Name of Subject – English Literature

AQA A' Level English Literature Specification B

Why should study this course?

The course allows pupils to develop a wide knowledge of English Literature and encourages them to become independent and critical thinkers. They are expected to explore the wider context of their set examination texts and explore different interpretations through independent research. Also, you would need to explore how texts are constructed and the importance of authorial methods. Pupils will have the opportunity to develop their written and analytical skills and ultimately be able to produce essays which are fluent, convincing and academic in tone. In English Literature pupils will study a range of texts across the two-year A' level course. In Year 12 their work will be based on the study of 'Othello' by William Shakespeare, 'Death of a Salesman' by Arthur Miller and a selection of poetry by John Keats. They will also focus on elements of political writing in the following texts: 'Songs of Innocence and Experience' by William Blake, Margret Atwood's 'The Handmaid's Tale' and 'The Kite Runner' by Khaled Hosseini.

Pupils will take their examinations at the end of Year 13.

As well as the examined unit students will complete two pieces of written coursework based on their study of the AQA Critical Anthology. This will account for 20% of your grade. The course is taught by one expert teacher who delivers all aspects of the course. You will need to work independently and carry out your own reading particularly on your NEA.

Who is suitable to study this course?

If you enjoyed GCSE English Literature, then you are very suitable for this course as you will enhance and develop your skills by moving into A level. Remember though that most of the course is new and you need to be an avid reader of all kinds of genres. A level English Literature will allow you to move on to a range of degree courses. A Level English Literature allows you to follow a variety of different career paths. In the past students who have taken this course have gone on to pursue a career in medicine, acting, teaching and legal professions.

What GCSE Qualifications Support the Study of this Course?

Students should hold a minimum of 5 GCSE grades at 4+

What are the Qualification Requirements for this Course?

Students should hold a grade 6 at GCSE English Language.

How is the course Delivered?

Subject Overview		
Half Term	Year 12	Year 13
Autumn 1	Aspects of Tragedy 'Othello' by William Shakespeare	'The Kite Runner' by Khaled Hosseini
Autumn 2	Poems of Johns Keats – 'Lamia', 'Isabella;or the Pot of Basil', 'La Belle Dame Sans Merci' and 'The Eve of St Agnes'	'The Kite Runner' by Khaled Hosseini
Spring 1	'Death of a Salesman' – by Arthur Miller	'Songs of Innocence and Experience' by William Blake
Spring 2	Critical Anthology and NEA (coursework)	Revision and exam preparation
Summer 1	Elements of Social and Political Protest Writing 'The Handmaid's Tale' Margaret Atwood	Revision and exam preparation
Summer 2	'The Handmaid's Tale' by Margaret Atwood. Unseen extracts	Final exam

How is the course assessed?

NEA (coursework)

What's assessed 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.

Paper 1 – Literary Genres

What's assessed?

1A Aspects of Tragedy

Study of three texts: Shakespeare text; a second drama text and one further text, of which one must be written pre-1900.

Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes • closed book • 75 marks • 40% of A-level

Questions: 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 Texts and Genres:

Option 2B: Elements of political and social protest writing Study of three texts: one post-2000 prose text; one poetry and one further text, one of which must be written pre-1900 Examination will include an unseen passage.

Assessed • written exam: 3 hours • open book • 75 marks • 40% of A-level

Questions 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: Theory and independence

What's assessed 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. Assessed • 50 marks • 20% of A-level • assessed by teachers • moderated by AQA

Recommended Subject Reading list to support your study.

Novels and Short Stories

'Jane Eyre' – Charlotte Brontë
'Wuthering Heights' – Emily Brontë
'Persuasion' – Jane Austen
'Pride and Prejudice' – Jane Austen
'Great Expectations' – Charles Dickens
'Bleak House' – Charles Dickens
'The Mill on the Floss' – George Eliot (Mary Ann Evans)
'Middlemarch' - George Eliot (Mary Ann Evans)
'Silas Marner' – George Eliot
'Frankenstein' – Mary Shelley
'Dracula' – Bram Stoker
'The Castle of Otranto' – Horace Walpole
'The Woman in White' – Wilkie Collins
'The Woman in Black' – Susan Hill
'The Color Purple' – Alice Walker
'The Invisible Man' – Ralph Ellison
'Beloved' – Toni Morrision
'Bluest Eye' – Toni Morrison
'The Great Gatsby' – F Scott Fitzgerald
'The Beautiful and the Damned' - F Scott Fitzgerald
'The Woman in Black' - Susan Hill
'The Yellow Wallpaper' - Charlotte Perkins Gilman
'The Bell Jar' – Sylvia Plath

