

A Level English Literature

Course introduction

This course aims to encourage students to develop interest in and enjoyment of English Literature, through reading widely, critically and independently, across centuries, genre and gender, and through experience of an extensive range of views about texts and how to read them.

Course Content

This AQA course offers a clear progression from GCSE as the course allows 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.

YEAR 12 Study will include: Love through the Ages: Shakespeare and Poetry. Study of two texts: one Shakespeare play and one AQA anthology of love poetry through the ages (pre-1900 or post-1900).

Love through the Ages: Prose. This involves the study of a prose text and unseen extracts. (**Please note**-As there is no AS examination at the end of this year students are assessed throughout the first year of this course).

A2 Paper 1 – Love through the Ages. This will involve the study of three texts: one poetry and one prose text, which must be written pre-1900, and one Shakespeare play. The examination will include two unseen poems. The examination will be 3 hours long and open book only in Section C. It is worth 75 marks (40% of the A-Level).

Paper 2 – Texts in Shared Contexts. Choice of two options – Option 2A: WW1 and its aftermath. Option 2B: Modern times, literature from 1945 to the present day. Three texts will also be studied – one prose, one poetry and one drama, one of which must be written post-2000. The examination will be 2 hours 30 minutes long, will include an unseen extract and be open book and worth 75 marks (40% of A-Level).

Paper 3 – Coursework, Independent Critical Study, texts across time. This will be a comparative critical study of two texts, at least one of which must be pre-1900. The assessed piece will be an extended essay of 2500 words, with a bibliography. It is worth 50 marks (20% of A Level) and is assessed by your teachers and moderated by the exam board.

Where does it lead?

An AS or A Level in English Literature is an extremely valuable qualification to have, both in terms of university studies and the wider world beyond. The skills developed during the course, such as the ability to analyse, to communicate effectively, and to develop a skilful written argument, are skills much sought after and highly regarded by universities and employers alike. English Literature is a key subject for any career in the Law, Journalism, Publishing, the Performing Arts, Librarianship, Arts Administration, Media Industries and Education.

For further information, please contact Mr Marshall or Mrs Newton

