



ENGLISH LITERATURE

A-LEVEL

Examination Board: EDEXCEL

The first year of this course introduces students to the discipline of advanced literary study and requires focused study of the content, context and reception of literature. The second year extends and builds on this study and develops the skills needed to analyse, evaluate and compare literary works.

Course content and assessment:

Year 12	Year 13
<p>UNIT 1: 'Twenty-first century poetry; Modern Drama'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A collection of poems from <i>Poetry of the Decade</i> anthology (post-2000) <i>A Streetcar Named Desire</i> by Tennessee Williams The significance of considering the historical context of the creation and reception of the poetry and drama studied Using more advanced terminology when analysing poetry and drama Improving essay skills to a more advanced level Externally assessed written examination in Y13; internal examinations at the end of Y12 to assess progress. 	<p>UNIT 1: 'Drama: Tragedy'</p> <p>Examination (2 hours 15): 30% of A-Level</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Othello</i> by William Shakespeare is studied; a critical anthology is also used to develop understanding of existing literary scholarship and how to use it. <i>A Streetcar Named Desire</i>, studied in the first year, is revised. Questions set on each text (not together) in the externally assessed written examination.
<p>UNIT 2: 'Prose'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One pre-1900 prose text (<i>Frankenstein</i> by Mary Shelley) and one other prose text (<i>The Handmaid's Tale</i> by Margaret Atwood) are studied Using more advanced terminology when analysing prose The significance of considering the historical context of the creation and reception of the prose studied Improving essay skills to a more advanced level Externally assessed written examination in Y13; internal examinations at the end of Y12 to assess progress. 	<p>UNIT 2: 'Prose'</p> <p>Examination (1 hour 15): 20% of A-Level</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The two novels studied in year 12 are the set texts for this externally assessed written examination. Revision time for both texts in Y13.
<p>UNIT 3: 'Poetry'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One pre-1900 prose text (<i>Frankenstein</i> by Mary Shelley) and one other prose text (<i>The Handmaid's Tale</i> by Margaret Atwood) are studied Using more advanced terminology when analysing prose The significance of considering the historical context of the creation and reception of the prose studied Improving essay skills to a more advanced level Externally assessed written examination in Y13; internal examinations at the end of Y12 to assess progress. 	<p>UNIT 3: 'Poetry'</p> <p>Examination (2 hours 15): 30% of A-Level</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poetry. A second collection - focusing on the Romantic poet John Keats - is studied. The externally assessed written examination has one question on poetry from John Keats, with a second essay question on the twenty-first poetry studied in Y12. One poem from the modern collection (printed in exam) is compared with an unseen poem. The poems for the Keats question are also printed on the exam paper. There is no need to memorise poems by heart.
<p>UNIT 4: 'Coursework'</p> <p>20% of A-Level</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students choose two literary texts for their own individual focus and analysis. Final essay wordcount: max. 3000 words. 	

Skills acquired:

- a critical and cultural overview of complex literary texts and criticism
- the analytical and essay-writing skills needed to convey a developed response to reading in writing
- how to research into the background and reception of literary texts
- the ability to evaluate the political, cultural, personal and social impact of literature

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Links with other subjects:

Most - if not all - other subjects are enriched by the ability to analyse text closely.

Possible careers:

Because of the recognition of the subject generally, students will be able to use the skills they improve in English Literature in an extensive range of careers. The development of written and verbal communication skills, the ability to use words to your advantage and to be able to think and respond analytically clearly transfers from A-Level to degree level (any subject) and a huge range of career pathways.

Prior experience:

To start this course we prefer you to have a Level 5 in GCSE English Literature and be a very keen reader, although we will consider a Level 4.