

Advanced GCE in English Literature

Board: OCR

Qualification: Advanced GCE in English Literature

What is the course about?

English Literature is about exploring a wide range of set texts, critical positions that provide exciting new ways of reading literature, the history of these texts and how writers came to shape their language. It is a vibrant, compelling course for those who love reading and love a challenge.

How will I be assessed?

A Level English Literature is a linear course with 80% of the assessment through 2 exam components:



Component 1: Drama and poetry pre-1900. For their Shakespeare study, students explore the tense political tragedy *Coriolanus*, followed by a comparison between John Milton's epic *Paradise Lost* and John Webster's superb tragedy *The Duchess of Malfi*. In this section of the course students explore different dramatic productions as well as developing their skills in close reading and using critical theory to interpret texts.

Component 2: Comparative and contextual study. Students explore the gothic genre with a detailed focus on Angela Carter's *The Bloody Chamber* and *Dracula* by Bram Stoker. Students complete a comparative and critical analysis of both texts in the exam. Students also explore an unseen gothic text as part of the examination providing a critical analysis which demonstrates their developed expertise in this genre.

20% of the course is assessed through coursework.

Component 3: Literature post-1900- the contemporary world

Students will complete two coursework tasks based on three modern texts: one poetry collection, one play and one novel. The literature in this section of course examines contemporary problems and challenges, resonating with our experiences of modern life and the world around us.

What skills will I develop?

You will be developing your skills of research and editing as well as analysing and presenting ideas with clear justification. You will also be developing confidence in independently evaluating and interpreting texts and drawing links between different ages and genres. You will also deepen your appreciation and enjoyment of a wide range of literature.

Why might this course be for me?

If you love reading and discovering the world through literature then this course will interest and excite you. You will have a good degree of self-motivation and organisation to keep up with the reading required. An interest in history and how it is represented through literature will heighten your appreciation of this course.

Where can I go next?

English Literature is a highly regarded A-Level valued by universities due to the emphasis on research, analysis and communication. The skills developed through this course are highly transferable to the workplace and an A-Level in English Literature is highly valued in many careers including journalism, media and law.