

# English Literature

**Qualification:**

A-level English Literature

**Additional Entry Information:**

English B

To cope with the demands of the course, a B grade at GCSE in English Language and English Literature is strongly recommended. Pupils with a C grade have been accepted on the course but pupils must meet with Head of Department to discuss demands and realistic outcomes of the course. An enjoyment of reading is essential.

Speak to **Mrs J Dyson** for more information.

## What do students need to know or be able to do before taking the course?

Advance reading of the set texts would be beneficial. A student of English Literature should also be a voracious reader, and reading a wide range of novels- classical and modern- will prove invaluable to their appreciation of literature.

## What will students learn on this course (skills and course content)?

English Literature A Level is an enriching, exciting course which allows pupils to develop the analytical and linguistic skills introduced in GCSE English Literature. It also encourages learners to develop their historical knowledge and cultural understanding of the eras and countries of the texts' setting, and explore plural interpretations of language. Pupils develop a critical appreciation of texts, examining how texts are influenced and shaped by their social, literary and historical contexts.

### AS

AS English Literature covers a range of prose, poetry and drama and is assessed through two external examinations at the end of the course.

- Prose Study: Pupils study a pre-1900 prose text such as Jane Eyre.
- Drama Study: Pupils read and examine a play such as Doctor Faustus.
- Poetry Study: Pupils explore the poetry of two poets, written post 1900, developing fine analysis of language and poetic devices and draw comparisons between the two poets' work.

### A Level

A Level English Literature allows pupils an element of freedom in a controlled assessment prose comparison task, whilst also introducing Shakespeare and pre-1900 poetry. This qualification is also assessed through two external examinations and a non-examination controlled task.

- Prose Study controlled assessment: Pupils will write a 2500-3500 word assignment based on the reading of two prose texts from different periods, one pre-2000 and one post-2000, nominated by the centre. Pupils have an element of choice in this task to select their reading material.
- Drama Study: Pupils study a Shakespearean play such as King Lear.



- Poetry Study: Pupils examine pre-1900 poetry of a named poet such as John Donne or Chaucer, and develop their wider reading of poetry by exploring unseen poetry for the comparative element.

### **What sort of student is this course suitable for?**

Pupils opting for AS/A2 Level English Literature must love reading for pleasure and have an interest in drama, theatre, poetry and prose texts. An appreciation of culture and history would also benefit students of English Literature. The ability to discuss and share ideas and theories is essential in this subject, and pupils are expected to deliver prepared presentations at points in the course.

### **What kind of work will students need to be able to do outside of lessons?**

- Independent study and research of social, historical, cultural and literary influences on a texts.
- Independent wider reading of critics' views on texts.
- Revision of analysis completed in lessons.
- Writing essays and exam responses as part of homework set.
- Prepare presentations and tutorials to deliver to other pupils in the class.

### **What is the course content and how is this assessed?**

#### AS Unit 1 Prose and Drama

2 hour written, closed-book exam – 20% of the qualification

- Section A – Prose fiction pre-1900. One question in two parts, based on the reading of one prose text from a prescribed list.
- Section B – Drama. One question based on the reading of one play from a prescribed list.

#### AS Unit 2 Poetry post-1900

2 hour written, open-book exam – 20% of qualification

- Section A – critical analysis. One question requiring critical analysis of poem from the prescribed list of poetry texts for this unit.
- Section B – poetry comparison. One question requiring comparison of two poetry texts from the prescribe list for this unit.

#### A2 Unit 3 Poetry pre-1900 and Unseen Poetry

2 hour written, open-book exam – 20% of qualification

- Section A – Poetry pre-1900. One question in two parts, based on the reading of one poetry text from a prescribed list.
- Section B – Unseen poetry. One question requiring comparative analysis of two unseen poems.



## A2 Unit 4 Shakespeare

2 hour written, closed-book exam – 20% of qualification

- Section A – Shakespeare extract. One question based on an extract from one Shakespeare play from the prescribed list for this unit.
- Section B – Shakespeare essay. One essay question based on the reading of one Shakespeare play from the prescribed list for this unit.

## A2 Unit 5 Prose Study

Non-examination assessment – 20% of qualification

One 2500-3500 word assignment based on the reading of two prose texts from different periods. One pre-2000 and one post-2000, nominated by the school.

### **What could students go on to do at the end of this course?**

- English Literature
- English Language
- Law
- Business
- Combined with History, Modern Foreign Languages.
- Journalism
- Media
- Publishing and Editing
- Creative Writing