



English Literature

Who is this course for?

It is for students who have enjoyed their study of literature during GCSE. We follow AQA Specification B. Students must not only read but develop further their ability and desire to think, talk and write about the way characters in books and plays behave, and about why novels, plays and poems are written as they are, using such media as video and audio tapes as well as print and the texts themselves. The skills you will develop in this subject are highly sought after in other areas of the curriculum, such as evaluation of sources, critical thinking, moral debates, essay writing skills. They are highly regarded by universities and this course can be used to go on to study a wide array of university subjects (see below.)

What will I study A Level?

Option 1B: Literature Genres: Aspects of comedy (closed book exam) 40%

Study of one Shakespeare play: Twelfth Night
The Importance of Being Earnest by Oscar Wilde
A selection of comic poetry from the AQA Anthology

Option 2B: Elements of Political and Social Protest Writing (open book exam) 40%

The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini.
Poetry selection from an AQA Anthology by Tony Harrison
A Doll's House by Henrik Ibsen.
The exam will also include an unseen passage where you can show your analytical skills

Coursework Unit 20% of the final grade

Study of two texts: one poetry and one novel or set of short stories, chosen and studied independently.
Two essays of 1,250 – 1,500 words, each responding to a different text and linking to a different aspect of the Critical Theory eg Feminist/Marxist/Ecocentric interpretations

Course entry requirements

5 GCSEs at Grade 5 or above in different subjects including English [at least Grade 5 recommended] and Maths.

What can I do with this qualification?

A Level English Literature is recognised and highly valued by universities for entrance to higher education, as well as being particularly useful for students interested in a career in Journalism, Advertising, Law, Public Relations and marketing, the Civil Service, Psychology, Creative script writing, Publishing, and teaching as well as any other career where you have to use communication skills.

Also consider: English Language, History, Creative Media, Performing Arts, Sociology, Criminology, Psychology.

