

ENGLISH LITERATURE

Qualification: A-Level | Exam Board: OCR



SUBJECT OVERVIEW

English Literature will build on the knowledge, understanding and skills established at GCSE level. You will be introduced to the discipline of advanced literary studies and will be required to read all the major literary genres of poetry, prose, and drama.

You will develop knowledge and understanding of how writers shape meaning in texts; how individual texts are interpreted by different readers, and how texts relate to one another and to the contexts in which they are written and read.

It will develop skills that can benefit students in a range of careers including Teaching, Journalism, Research, Administration and Translating.



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YEAR ONE COURSE CONTENT

You will study a Shakespeare play and a poetry collection from before 1900. You will also study a drama text written after 1900 and a prose text (novel) written after 1900.

Possible choices include Hamlet, Coleridge's poems, A Streetcar Named Desire by Tennessee Williams, and The Great Gatsby by F Scott Fitzgerald.

COURSE SUPPORT AND ENRICHMENT

During the subject, you will have the opportunity to attend academic conferences on English Literature which will feature prominent scholars and writers.

In previous years we have heard Jeanette Winterson and Carol Ann Duffy read. There will also be the opportunity to go on theatre trips. We have also seen productions of War Horse and Much Ado About Nothing.

YEAR TWO COURSE CONTENT

You will consolidate the learning from the first year and study a drama text from before 1900.

Possible authors include John Webster, Henrik Ibsen, and Oscar Wilde. You will also study a range of texts from one of the following possible topics: American literature 1880-1940, the gothic, or women in literature.

WHAT DOES THIS COURSE PREPARE ME FOR?

English Literature will prepare you for a range of Higher Education study including English, History, Communications, Journalism, and Languages.

ASSESSMENT

Year One

Two closed text exams, each of 1 hour 30 minutes – Shakespeare and poetry pre-1900; Drama and prose post-1900.

Year Two

Two closed text exams, each 2 hours 30 minutes long – Drama and poetry pre-1900; Comparative and contextual study. One coursework task worth 20% of the total A-Level.



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