

Examination Board

Edexcel

Specific Course Requirements

The minimum course requirement for 'A' Level English Literature is a Level 5 for both English Language and Literature at GCSE. Students must also have a genuine interest in reading, or at least a real desire to develop such an interest.

Course Content

The course allows students to build on the understanding and appreciation of literary texts gained at GCSE Level. The students have the opportunity to respond to texts of different periods and genres and consequently to explore the connections between texts. There will be a focus on comparing two novels by theme, exploring how they have been shaped by historical and political contexts, as well as a focus on studying drama through exploration of genre. Students will also have the opportunity to look at a range of contemporary, post 2000 poetry.

One of the key elements that differentiate 'A' Level English Literature from GCSE work is that whilst some texts are studied in detail in class, students are expected to explore others independently. Additionally, students will also be introduced to a range of critical opinions and are encouraged to develop their own critical interpretations of texts.

Students are given opportunities to share their views with fellow students and are given guidance on how to produce structured and detailed written work.

How will I be assessed?

The 'A' Level English Literature course comprises of five components, two being taught in Year 12 and a further three being completed in Year 13. One of these components is coursework where students will have a relatively free range to explore texts of any genre from any period in a comparative essay. What do I need to know, or be able to do, to study this course?

'A' Level English Literature prepares students for further study in a wide range of subjects e.g. Languages, Media, and Law. It is, of course, a highly valued degree subject in its own right.

What could I do with a qualification in the subject?

The English Literature course will provide the skills necessary for a variety of occupations, e.g. Journalism, Law, Politics, Marketing, PR, Acting, Publishing, Editing, Copy Writing, Civil Service.

The two most commonly asked questions about this course are:

Is there any creative writing?

No, essays are academic based on literary text.

How much work is there?

We expect at least 5-6 hours spent a week on homework, planning, essays, etc.

PLEASE NOTE THAT ENGLISH LITERATURE 'A' LEVEL IS A FACILITATING SUBJECT.

Facilitating subjects are the subjects most commonly required or preferred by universities to get on to a range of degree courses. They help you keep your options open when choosing a degree, and many of the top universities will ask you to have at least one 'A' Level in a facilitating subject when you apply.

Sixth Form			
YG	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
Y12	<p>Prose: Comparison of Tess of the D'Urbevilles – Thomas Hardy and A Thousand Splendid Suns - Khaled Hosseini</p> <p>Poetry: Post 2000 Poetry – Forward Poems of the Decade Anthology – comparison with Unseen Poetry</p>	<p>Prose: Comparison of Tess of the D'Urbevilles and A Thousand Splendid Suns</p> <p>Drama: A Streetcar Named Desire - Tennessee Williams</p>	<p>Poetry: Metaphysical Poetry - John Donne</p> <p>NEA (Coursework): Examination and Comparison of two literary texts. Students to choose the texts</p> <p>Mock exams</p>
Y13	<p>Drama: Othello – William Shakespeare</p> <p>Poetry: Metaphysical Poetry – John Donne</p> <p>Completion of NEA (coursework)</p>	<p>Revision: Prose texts – Tess of the D'Urbevilles and A Thousand Splendid Suns</p> <p>Drama: Streetcar Named Desire</p> <p>Poetry: Post 2000 Poetry including Unseen poems</p>	<p>Revision: Drama – Othello</p> <p>Poetry – John Donne</p> <p>FINAL EXAMS – June 2019</p>