

A Level English Literature

Why Study English Literature?

A level English Literature builds on the skills and curriculum delivered in GCSE English Literature. You are encouraged to read widely, taking in critical ideas and viewpoints and using multimodal versions of the same text. There will be opportunities to study canonical texts from early English writers alongside the most current novels and even texts of your own choice. In A2 English Literature, you will have the time and space to study literature in real depth. Alternative and innovative interpretations are encouraged and rewarded.

A level English Literature is an excellent link subject to further study at university as many of the skills you will gain will be directly transferrable to university study. In addition, A level English Literature is recognised by all top universities, including the Russell group, as an academically rigorous qualification that will help you gain entry to the majority of courses.

Entry Criteria

Five 9 to 5 grades at GCSE, plus a minimum of a grade 6 in English Literature GCSE.

What Will I Be Studying?

Paper 1: Love through the ages

This unit involves the study of poetry, prose and drama. You will study the Shakespeare play 'Othello', will have an opportunity to explore the poems through the ages (Elizabethan, Metaphysical, Romantic, Victorian and modern poetry) and study the novel 'The Great Gatsby'. At your final exam, you will be required to show your skills in being able to analyse, compare, evaluate and interpret literary texts. The exam will last for 3 hours: Section A – 'Othello'; Section B – Unseen Poetry; Section C – comparative essay on Poetry Anthology and 'The Great Gatsby'. You will be awarded marks out of 75 which is 40 % of the A-level course.

Paper 2: Texts in shared contexts: WW1 and its aftermath

This unit explores literature arising out of WW1, but extends this period to allow reflection on the full impact of the war that reverberates up to the present day. There is a focus on context in this unit as you will be asked to evaluate how historical and social contexts impact on the meaning of texts. You will study one prose, one poetry and one drama text, including one text written post 2000. There is also an unseen extract element to this exam.

The exam will last for 2 hours and 30 minutes: Section A – 'Journey's End' by RC Sherriff; Section B – unseen prose; Section C – one essay question linking two texts – 'Life Class' by Pat Barker and the Poetry Anthology 'Scars upon my Heart'. You will be awarded marks out of 75 which is 40 % of the A-level course.

Non-exam assessment: Independent critical study: Texts across time

This coursework unit consists of a comparative critical study of two texts, at least one of which must have been written pre-1900. You are given an element of choice regarding the texts you write about, so this unit can be tailored to your particular interests. This coursework forms 20% of your A Level.

How will I be assessed?

This course is a mixture of exams and coursework. At A Level, Paper 1 and Paper 2 are sat at the end of the year and the coursework essay counts for 20% of your final grade.

Who should I see for more information about this course?

- Visit aqa.org.uk/7712 for the most up-to-date specification, resources and support.
- Please approach Ms Theodotou and Ms Durham for further guidance about this syllabus.