
ENGLISH LITERATURE

The English Department offers the AQA Specification A course in English Literature. Studying for this specification encourages students to develop interest in, and enjoyment of, English Literature, through reading widely, critically and independently across centuries, genre and gender, and through experience of an extensive range of views about texts and how to read them.

Examining Board

AQA

Specification

A Level English Literature A

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS TO THE A LEVEL COURSE

Please see the Sixth Form Admissions Policy for the entry requirements to this course.

A LEVEL COURSE

Paper 1: Love through the Ages

Study of three texts: one poetry and one prose text, of which one must be written pre-1900, and one Shakespeare play. This examination paper will include two unseen poems.

Assessed:

- Written exam: 3 hours
- Open book in Section C only
- 75 marks
- 40% of A Level

Questions Section A: Shakespeare 'The Winter's Tale': one passage-based question with linked essay (25 marks). Section B: Unseen poetry: compulsory essay question on two unseen poems (25 marks). Section C: Comparing texts: one essay question linking two texts: one prose and one poetry. (25 marks).

Paper 2: Texts in Shared Contexts

Option 2A: World War I and its aftermath.

Assessed:

- Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes
- Open book
- 75 marks
- 40% of A Level

Questions Section A: 'Birdsong' one essay question on set text (25 marks), Section B: 'The Wiper's Times', WWI Poetry. One essay question linking the

two texts (25 marks) and one compulsory question on an unseen prose extract (25 marks)

Coursework: Non-exam assessment: Independent Critical Study: Texts across Time.

Comparative critical study of two texts, at least one of which must have been written pre-1900. One extended essay (2500 words) and full academic bibliography.

Assessed:

- 50 marks
- 20% of A Level
- Assessed by teachers
- Moderated by AQA

STUDENT VIEWPOINT

To embark on this English Literature course at A Level candidates should enjoy reading a range of texts and debating various interpretations. The A Level course lays appropriate foundation for further study of English Literature and related subjects in Higher Education and is invaluable in terms of general education and life-long learning.

COMPLEMENTARY SUBJECTS

English Literature complements many subjects, the most obvious being Media Studies, Philosophy and Ethics, and History, although it is often a choice of those who go on to study Medicine.

CAREER AND UNIVERSITY OPPORTUNITIES

Students of English Literature have a wide range of occupations open to them. It is a highly respected academic subject that involves skills necessary for broadcasting, publishing, teaching and law to name but a few.