



ENGLISH LITERATURE

A-Level Course Information



Qualification: Advanced Level English Literature

Exam Board: AQA

Subject Leader: Mrs E. Norman

Entry Requirements:

Minimum Entry Requirements:

5 x 5s

4 in English and Maths

Subject Specific Entry Requirements:

6 in GCSE English Literature or Language

Why study English Literature?

Creativity, challenge, support and collaboration

"Our stories help us to better understand ourselves and our reality, because they create the potential for emotions and a scope of possibility that extends far beyond what our day to day lives will allow. In doing so, they create a web of relationships that allow us to see beyond the ordinary horizon. Our visions are the shoulders we stand upon to see over the land of possibility."

Thomas Hills

The fact that you are reading this handout suggests that you love reading books. Now imagine being part of a small group of peers who all love reading books, talking about books, discussing the themes and characters and craft of books, and doing that for several hours a week.

Along the way you'll learn how to marshal and express your ideas with new levels of coherence and sophistication, you'll constantly be exploring morality, history, spirituality, philosophy and psychology, and you'll question the assumptions our culture makes about race, class, gender and the environment.

What can I do with English Literature after A-Level?

You could work with books, as a publisher, editor, librarian or teacher. Or you could work with words as a journalist, lawyer, advertiser, writer, actor... the things you can do with an English Literature A-level are as diverse as the texts that we study.

English Literature Extras

We have always enjoyed taking our students to plays and workshops in London, Cambridge and Stratford Upon Avon. The English department runs a sixth form book group, to support students in their wider reading, and creative writing options in weekly enrichment time.

What will I study?



The subject content for English Literature is divided into three components:

1. Aspects of Comedy
2. Elements of Crime Writing
3. Theory and Independence (coursework)

Component 1 AQA Lit B Paper 1: Aspects of Comedy – 40% (2 ½ hour exam)

Section A: one essay question on a key scene from Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*.

Section B: one essay question based on an aspect of comedy within *Twelfth Night*

Section C: one essay question linking an aspect of comedy within two further texts.

During year 13 you will study *Twelfth Night*, by William Shakespeare, *The Importance of Being Earnest* by Oscar Wilde and *Small Island* by Andrea Levy for this paper.

Component 2 AQA Lit B Paper 2: Elements of Crime Writing – 40% (3 hour exam)

Section A: one passage-based essay question on a previously unseen text.

Section B: one essay question based on an element of crime writing within a set text.

Section C: one essay question based on an element of crime writing and linking between two set texts.

In Year 12, you will study *Brighton Rock* by Graham Greene, *Atonement* by Ian McEwan, *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* by Samuel Taylor Coleridge, and a selection of passages from crime novels to prepare you for this exam.

Component 3 AQA Lit B Non-Exam Assessment: Theory and Independence – 20%

Element 1: a critical essay of 1200-1500 words on one text.

Element 2: an essay of 1200-1500 words on a novel.

At the end of year 12 you will study poetry by Seamus Heaney and Sylvia Plath and learn about eco and feminist critical ideas. At the start of year 13 you'll add Marxism and post-colonialism to your repertoire of critical ideas and study a novel of your own choice. You will submit a coursework essay on one of these poets, and on your novel.