

ENGLISH LITERATURE

English Literature encourages you to develop your enjoyment of literary studies through reading widely, independently and critically. You will be given opportunities to express your responses effectively through discussion and writing. We will also focus on the significance of cultural and historical influences upon readers and writers, and invite you to explore connections and comparisons between different literary texts, informed by interpretations of other readers.

ASSESSMENT

Both the AS and A2 assessments will each require one written examination (Units 1 and 3) which are open text, as well as coursework submissions (Units 2 and 4).

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

We assume that students wishing to study English Literature will have completed a GCSE course but this is not obligatory. Enthusiasm, commitment and an interest in literature are more important. A grade B or above.

LINKS WITH OTHER SUBJECTS

English Literature can be combined with a range of other subjects. Scientists find it makes an interesting contrast to their studies yet requires similar analytical skills. Art students find that the critical skills used to examine works of art overlap with the approach to literature. Medical schools realise the importance of sophisticated communication skills and understanding of human emotions, both of which are an integral part of our studies. Many students have found themselves fascinated by the psychological insight afforded by the study of writers and their work.

HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Past students have found this course very rewarding and many go on to read English Literature at university. It also provides an excellent basis for a wide range of degree subjects and careers.

COURSE CONTENT



The AS units are:

Unit 1

Explorations in Prose and Poetry.

Unit 2

Explorations in Drama.

The A2 units are:

Unit 3

Interpretations of Prose and Poetry.

Unit 4

Reflections in Literary Studies.

You will study six texts in each year. The AS and A2 specifications require students to show knowledge and understanding of prose, poetry and drama; these will include at least one play by Shakespeare, a further play written between 1300 and 1800, and two further texts, one from the period 1800-1945 and another published after 1990.