

# ENGLISH LITERATURE

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English Literature A-level is an ideal choice for anyone who loves reading and discussing and is interested in the big questions. You will develop your enjoyment of literary studies through reading and writing widely, independently and critically. We will also focus on the significance of cultural and historical influences upon readers and writers, and invite you to research connections and comparisons between different literary texts, informed by interpretations of other readers.

## ASSESSMENT

The course will be assessed through three open book examination units on drama, prose and poetry. These units are worth 80% and will be examined at the end of the course. There is also a coursework component (Unit 4), which takes the form of a comparative essay between 2500 and 3000 words. This coursework unit is worth 20%.

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

The standard entry requirement for A-level English Literature is GCSE Grade 6 or above in both English Language and English Literature. Enthusiasm and reading are also important, as is a willingness to take an active part in discussions.

## LINKS WITH OTHER SUBJECTS

As a subject choice, English Literature not only links with and supports the other Arts and essay-based subjects, but also acts as the perfect foil to the Sciences. Art and History students find that the critical skills used to examine works of art and historical sources overlap with our 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.

## HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

English Literature is a highly respected A-level that can be instrumental in helping students gain university places in a variety of subjects as well equipping them for vocational courses and real life. English students are taught to think analytically, consider different interpretations and listen and respond to one another sensitively. One of the most important skills they learn is how to write coherently and

critically – invaluable in higher education and the world of employment.

## COURSE CONTENT

### Exam Board: Edexcel

#### Unit 1

##### Drama

- Shakespeare play and a tragedy or comedy (30% of the total mark)

#### Unit 2

##### Prose

- Comparison of two prose texts (20% of the total mark)

#### Unit 3

##### Poetry

- Edexcel's anthology of post-2000 poems
- Victorian or Romantic poetry (30% of the total mark)

#### Unit 4

##### Coursework

- Extended comparative essay
- Two texts linked by a theme or movement (20% of the total mark)

The specification requires students to show knowledge and understanding of prose, poetry and drama; as such our study will include an exploration of two plays, two novels and a selection of poetry.

We are also pleased to organise a range of theatre visits throughout the year. Perhaps most notably, the four day residential trip to Stratford-Upon-Avon, during which we see several performances and enjoy excellent workshops which students always find highly stimulating.

