

A-level English Literature

Below you will find some information regarding the A-level English Literature course.

What is covered?

As part of this course, you will look at a wide range of English Literature and explore both pre-20th and post-20th century poetry, prose and drama texts.

- Poetry - The first part of the exam relates to a pre-20th century poetry text which you will study and in the second part you will analyse post-twentieth century poetry. This accounts for 30% of the A-level. It is a two hour open text exam.
- Drama - One exam of two questions where you will answer one question on Shakespeare and one comparison of two plays from different periods. This is a closed text exam and accounts for 30% of the A-level.
- Unseen Texts - The first part of the exam requires a critical analysis of an unseen piece or prose from a specified time period. In the second part you will critically analyse an unseen poem. This accounts for 20% of the A-level.
- Prose - One piece of 3,000 word coursework comparing one pre-20th text with a post-20th century text. This can be an independent choice from a prescribed list. This accounts for 20% of the A-level.

What does the course involve?

This course is examined through a combination of exams and coursework as detailed above. During this course you will develop your written argument skills. It is important that you enjoy reading, as the main focus of the course is discussing and debating the issues brought forth by both present and past authors.

With debating skills as a central focus, many students who undertake this course go on to successfully complete degrees in Law, English and other Humanities subjects that require a high standard of academic essay writing.

Quick course facts

You should have a minimum of five GCSEs graded at level 4 or above, including Mathematics. Also a minimum of level 5 or above in English Literature.

Essay writing and debating are crucial skills which the course helps you to develop.

The course will involve regular trips and opportunities to attend academic lectures on core texts.

A passion for reading and a desire to expand your knowledge is crucial to succeeding in this course.

