

Edexcel A Level English Literature

Course Overview

Because you will be exploring your responses to a variety of texts, English Literature is ideally suited to students who enjoy reading. Teaching involves a large amount of class discussion so you will need to be open-minded and willing to share your ideas as well as listen to those of other students. The study of literature at this level is based on the critical exploration of whole texts and teaching will focus on encouraging you to articulate your opinions and textual interpretations. Through this course you will develop the skills of critical thinking and textual analysis and broaden your enthusiasm for literature through an understanding of its cultural importance.

Course Content

Year 12

Drama: Tragedy

- Othello, William Shakespeare

Poetry

- A selection of specified poetry from a post-2000 text

Prose: Science & Society

- Frankenstein, Mary Shelley
- The Handmaid's Tale, Margaret Atwood.

Year 13

Drama: Tragedy

- A Streetcar Named Desire, Tennessee Williams

Poetry

- Selected Poems, John Keats

Coursework: Free choice of two linked texts

- must be different from set texts
- must be complete texts and may be linked by theme, movement, author or period
- may be selected from poetry, drama, prose or literary non-fiction

Assessment

- Drama (30%) - Written examination, 2 hours 15 minutes. Open book.
- Prose (20%) - Written examination, 1 hour. Open book.
- Poetry (30%) - Written examination, 2 hours 15 minutes. Open book.
- Coursework (20%) - One extended comparative essay referring to two texts. Advisory total word count is 2500 – 3000 words.

Entry Requirements

Five GCSEs at grade A*-C or (9-5 or above) including English Language. It is helpful to have studied English Literature at GCSE, but this is not a course requirement.

Progression

The course is unrelated to any specific vocation, however, it aims to develop critical, analytical and communication skills which are invaluable in any career. English Literature is essential for students hoping to study English at some universities.

Course Contact

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