

English Literature

"Literature is where I go to explore the highest and lowest places in human society and in the human spirit, where I hope to find not absolute truth but the truth of the tale, of the imagination and of the heart."

- Salman Rushdie

Content

Throughout this two year course, students will employ many of the skills already familiar to them from KS4 such as inference, analysis, evaluation and critical thinking. Students will read an extensive range of prose, poetry and drama texts from a variety of authors and time periods.

Paper 1, *Love Through the Ages*, looks at how writers and poets have explored powerful ideas of human relationships within the wider literary canon, covering prose and verse from the court of Henry VIII through to the modern day. It is a diachronic paper, with the singular theme explored across many time periods and forms, whereas Paper 2, *Texts in Shared Contexts*, is synchronic, exploring shared connections and themes amongst the literary tradition of the post wwII landscape.

Students will also be given an opportunity to prepare and present ideas to their peers in the form of discussions, debates and tutorial-style presentations.

Alongside this, students are encouraged to read both the wider literary canon and associated criticism to support their discussions in class and their development of their non-exam component. Students are expected to elevate the breadth and scope of their analysis and technical terminology from KS4 to meet the demands of the course. Our KS5 recommended reading list can be found here: [KS5 Literature Reading List](#)

Examinations

English Literature Paper 1: *Love Through the Ages*

Written exam: Three hours (Three independent essays)

75 marks

40% of the course

Section A - Shakespeare (Othello). An extract based question (25 marks)

Section B - Unseen poetry question (25 marks)

Section C - Comparing texts: you will need to link two poems from the year 12 anthology to either Atonement or The Great Gatsby. (25 marks)

Section C is an open book exam so you will have clean copies of the anthology, Atonement and The Great Gatsby.

English Literature Paper 2 (option B): *Texts in Shared Contexts, 1945 to the Present Day*

Written exam: Two hours and thirty minutes (Three independent essays)

75 marks

40% of the course

Students are given a choice of three routes through the exam with one section based on Atwood's 'The Handmaid's Tale' another Williams' 'A Streetcar Named Desire' and at least two poems from the Carol Ann Duffy collection: The Feminine Gospels'.

Section B of the exam begins with an unseen component which students must respond to in the light of a given thematic question, e.g. 'How are ideas of conflict presented in...'

Non Examination Assessment:

25 marks

The final **20%** of your final grade is made up of your **NEA**, a comparative critical study of two texts of your choice (there are some restrictions here, but your teacher will help you make an appropriate choice).

You will be able to decide on an area you would like to explore and create your own thesis statement to form the basis of your essay. You will have guidance with this and you will be able to submit a draft of your NEA for your teacher to comment on.

Who should study this course?

If you have a love of reading and enjoy discussing “big ideas” then this is definitely the course for you.

Awarding body: AQA

Higher Education Links/Trips:

- Associations with University of the West England and Bournemouth University
- Digital seminars hosted with specialist professors from UWE
- Visit to UWE campus and gather critical sources for NEA from the University Library
- Trips to relevant Performances (e.g. Othello)
- Thomas Hardy visit (year 12) to Max Gate and Cottage/Thorncombe Woods

Revision Websites:

- Cambridge Guides
- Hodder Guides
- York Notes A Level
- My Shakespeare
- Lit Charts

There are also lots of informative video lessons for both English Literature on YouTube – just google what it is you’re looking for.

Reliable Youtubers include:

- MissHannahlovesgrammar
- School of Life
- TEd-Ed
- Jen Chan

Course Leader: Mr Joe Hooper

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