

English Literature

English Literature A-Level offers a vibrant journey into the world of novels, plays, poetry, and critical thinking. If you love reading, analysing, and discussing the rich themes and characters that shape the world around us, this course will ignite your passion for storytelling and the human condition.

The A' Level English Literature course will delve into a diverse range of literary works, spanning different periods and genres. From classic Shakespearean plays to contemporary novels, our curriculum is designed to engage students with the rich tapestry of English literature. Through in-depth discussions, critical analyses, and creative interpretations, you will develop a profound appreciation for the power of language and storytelling.

Content of Course

A rich and diverse range of literature is presented. Students are required to study a total of eight texts over the full A Level. The selection must include at least: two plays, two novels, two poetry anthologies, three texts published before 1900, one play by Shakespeare and one text published after 2000.

Students are encouraged and expected to read outside of the scope of these primary texts.

The first of two exams is entitled 'Love Through the Ages' and, as well as one unseen poetry element, includes assessment based on Shakespeare's tragedy *Othello*, Fitzgerald's novel *The Great Gatsby* and a selection of love poetry published before 1900.

The second exam – entitled 'Texts in Modern Times' – includes one unseen prose element and questions on: Williams' modern drama *A Streetcar Named Desire*, the recent poetry collection *Skirrid Hill* by Welsh poet Owen Sheers and the popular Margaret Atwood novel, *The Handmaid's Tale*.

The final 20% of the course is assessed through the completion of a piece of coursework that expects students to compare two texts of their own choice. This is an exciting opportunity for candidates to pursue personal literary interests and play to their own strengths.

Specific Requirements and Skills Required

To take English Literature at A-Level, you should have:

- A Grade 6 or above in GCSE English Literature and English Language. A love of reading and writing is essential!
- The ability to analyse texts in-depth, understanding complex themes and ideas.
- Strong written communication skills and the willingness to develop your own voice in essay writing and literary critique.

Progression

English Literature A-Level is a facilitating subject that opens doors to a wide range of careers and further study opportunities. Many students who study English Literature go on to pursue degrees in English, History, Journalism, Law, Creative Writing, Politics, STEM and more. Additionally, the analytical, communication, and critical thinking skills you develop in English Literature are transferable to almost any profession. These skills help you navigate complex ideas, express yourself effectively, and approach challenges with a creative and thoughtful mindset.