

English Literature A Level

Why choose English Literature at A Level?

You love to read.

You enjoy analysing texts and looking beyond the surface meaning.

You like voicing your opinion and being involved in discussions.

It develops your analytical and evaluative skills.

It helps you become an independent thinker and a literary critic.

Employers love these skills!



Which exam board do we use?

AQA A Level English Literature A

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/as-and-a-level/english-literature-a-7711-7712/changes-for-2022>

What do we study?

Year 12

- Love Through the Ages
 - Othello
 - Prose (The Great Gatsby or The Awakening) which is compared with:
 - Poetry Anthology (Either pre 1900 or post 1900 poetry)
 - Unseen poetry comparison

Year 13

- Coursework
- Modern Texts and Poetry
 - Prose and Poetry Comparison (The Help compared with 'Ariel' an anthology of poems by Sylvia Plath)
 - A Streetcar Named Desire
 - Unseen Prose

With the exception of the Shakespeare play and unseen questions, all questions are open book – this means you have the texts with you in the exams, including the poetry anthologies.

Coursework

- We begin studying this at the end of year 12.
- It is worth 20% of your overall A level.
- It is the comparison of two novels.
- One of the novels (pre 1900) is studied in class and this is compared to a post 1900 novel chosen by you.
- You create your own question (with support)
- The coursework is 2500 words long (plus footnotes and bibliography)

What will we require of you?

- Good participation in class discussion.
- The resilience to work on developing a more sophisticated and independent essay style.
- Independent wider reading – both critical and wider fictional reading.
- To complete all homework to the deadlines set.
- Good lines of communication with your teachers.
- A commitment to the whole course.
- Honesty

What can we give you?

- Excellent teaching!
- Support throughout the course.
- Access to a wealth of critical information.
- Extra curricular enrichment opportunities.



Where can an English Literature A Level take you?

- ‘Employers love English literature students because a degree in English Literature trains you to become an independent critical thinker, someone who can process and communicate diverse data in creative ways.’
- ‘Harvard Business Review recently profiled the increasing trend for top corporate companies targeting English graduates.’
- Take a moment to look at the careers wall in the English Department – this shows you some of the many jobs that English can lead to.

Comments by Past Students

- ‘Lessons have always been engaging, interesting and useful – they have genuinely given me an interest in texts I would not normally choose to read.’
- ‘The skills you have taught us I will use every day at uni.’
- ‘I took English literature because I love words and the power of them.’
- ‘Studying ‘The Awakening’ and completing my coursework under your guidance has been the highlight of the sixth form for me.’
- ‘I never even planned to study English beyond GCSE, let alone A level, but you have sparked a passion in me that I simply cannot ignore. I am thoroughly excited to be continuing studying English in September at university!’

