

English Literature

Course Type: A Level

Exam Board: Edexcel

Course Entry Requirements: Standard (Five GCSE subjects at a minimum grade 4 or the equivalent including Maths and English) including Grade 6 in GCSE English.

Why Study English Literature?

The study of English Literature opens your mind to the experiences of people from around the world. This subject will introduce you to some of the greatest works of English and world literature as it touches on all aspects of humanity.

The skills that you learn in English will prepare you for many careers and degree courses, including the media, law and teaching. English will help you to draw together studies in other areas and challenge you to think in different and alternative ways. It will promote independent thought about the past and arouse your critical faculties for the future.

What Will I Study? Course Content

You will study a range of literary works from English Literature; plays, poetry and drama will introduce you to texts about society and the self, at the same time you will draw on history and politics, as well as considering issues of morality, religion and emotion.

Texts that you will be examined on include:

- Shakespeare's *Hamlet*
- Williams's *A Streetcar Named Desire*
- Prose texts linked to the theme of science and society - *Frankenstein* and *The Handmaid's Tale*
- A range of poetry taken from *Poems of the Decade: An Anthology of the Forward Books of Poetry 2002–2011*
- Rossetti's *Goblin Market*

In the 20% coursework component, you will study two texts linked by the theme of women and society, *Tess of the D'Urbervilles* and *A Thousand Splendid Suns*, and produce an extended comparative essay referring to both texts.

Throughout the A Level course, you will be encouraged to undertake independent and sustained studies, and further reading, to develop your skills as producers and interpreters of language.

How will I be assessed?

Assessment is by three exams (Drama, Prose and Poetry) and one coursework unit.