



ENGLISH LITERATURE A LEVEL

Course Information

English Literature is the study of texts from a broad context of literary tradition. Its core energies are independence of study, critical reflection and coherent expression. As an A Level Literature student, you will develop knowledge of comedy and crime texts from the sixteenth to the twenty-first century. Whilst studying these texts, you will also study the moral, social, ethical and cultural thinking of the times in which those texts were created. Your principal skills will be shaped by the focus on informed insight when reading and by the need for accurate explanation when writing.

You will develop talents you are already showing in your GCSE studies of English, but you will increase the breadth and bulk of the texts you can handle reliably, and you will learn to control the structure and purpose of your writing as you extend its scale to address five Assessment Objectives in the new syllabus. In addition to the above areas of learning, you will also choose to independently explore one prose and one poetry text. This area of learning also allows scope for creative writing as you can respond to one of your chosen texts creatively. The skillset developed is academically robust and valuable in a range of university disciplines post-19, as well as being relevant to employment wherever analysis and expression are required.

Year 12 & 13:

Component 1: Aspects of Comedy – 40% of A Level. Three texts are studied. Currently: Twelfth Night (Y12), The Importance of Being Earnest (Y12) and a collection of poems from an Anthology (Y13).

Component 2: Elements of Crime Writing – 40% of A Level. Three texts are studied. Currently: Oliver Twist (Y12), a collection of poems from an Anthology (Y12) and Atonement (Y13). In addition, students must submit every fortnight an online task which develops independent study skills, individual knowledge and prepares for the broader unseen work of A Level.

Component 3: Theory and Independence – 20% of A Level, studied across Y12 and Y13. Informed by a Critical Anthology, you will explore one prose and one poetry text in light of different areas from the Critical Anthology. Each response will be between 1250-1500 words. One of your responses can be recreate – a great opportunity for those who enjoy creative writing.

Entry Requirements

This is an interesting but challenging course and is highly regarded by all universities. Students will need to have a genuine interest in literature, a love of reading, and a desire to discuss their opinions and critical ideas. A grade 5 in GCSE English or English Literature is required.

Career Pathway

Jobs directly related to your degree include: Editorial assistant, English as a foreign language teacher, Lexicographer, Magazine journalist, Newspaper journalist, Primary school teacher, Secondary school teacher and Writer. Jobs where your degree would be useful include: Academic librarian, Advertising account executive, Advertising copywriter, Arts administrator, Information officer, Marketing executive, Public relations officer and Records manager.

Should you like to receive any additional information on this course, please contact Mrs Sian Kelley - Head of Department.