

English Literature

Pathway 1

Course description:

English Literature at GCE Advanced Level involves the study of a range of literary texts across time, genre and gender. The two year course develops and extends the skills of GCSE English in a challenging and rewarding way.

Qualifications required:

- In line with the entry requirements for a Pathway 1 subject.
- Grade 6 in GCSE English Language or Literature.
- Strong interest in Literature.

Aims of the course:

You will learn how to analyse and respond to a variety of written texts. This means that you will study prose, poetry and drama. The course will enable you to read texts both critically and analytically and help you to develop both your written and verbal communication skills. The ability to form original interpretations and shape logical, well-substantiated arguments will be a key focus.

Future prospects:

A Level English Literature is a Russell Group “Facilitating” Subject meaning that it is well received and valued by top U.K. universities and employers. The course develops important skills of communication, analysis, problem solving and independent thinking. It could lead to many degree subjects; however, if you are perhaps considering a career in journalism, media, publishing, marketing, business or even teaching then this could be an ideal subject to pursue.

Student feedback:

“I always enjoyed GCSE English and it’s great to have the opportunity to discuss literature in detail, and write about texts in much more depth.”

“The wealth of knowledge that my teachers have is amazing! I never knew that reading could have such an impact on me!”

“I like the fact that we are encouraged to read widely and independently – the reading lists are varied and I have read texts that I may never have attempted had I not been guided toward them.”

“I have thoroughly enjoyed my English Literature lessons and have found so much pleasure in reading and analysing great works of fiction. The course has set me up perfectly for University!”

Subject Teachers:

Mr Coleman, Mr Mackenzie-Wright and Miss Davis

English Literature

Features of the course:

- It allows students to develop as informed, independent readers of literary texts.
- The course encourages literary study within a coherent contextual framework.
- The course has a clear philosophy of reading for meaning.

Year 12 Units

Paper 1

Students explore aspects of a literary theme (Love through the Ages) as seen through time.
Students study two texts: one Shakespeare play and one AQA Anthology of Love Poetry through the Ages.
Closed book examination.
Choice of same four Shakespeare plays as in A-level.
Choice of same two AQA Anthologies (Pre-1900 or Post-1900) as in A-level.

Paper 2

Students explore aspects of a literary theme (Love through the Ages) as seen through time.
Students study two prose texts.
Open book examination.
Examination will include one unseen prose extract.
Choice of pre-1900 and post-1900 prose texts. All texts from A-level list plus 2 others.

Year 13 Units

Paper 1

Students explore aspects of a literary theme (Love through the Ages) as seen over time.
Unseen material and set texts.
Students study three texts: one poetry and one prose text (of which one must be pre-1900) and one Shakespeare play.

Paper 2

Students explore aspects of literature connected through a clearly-defined period of time: WW1 and its Aftermath
Unseen material and set texts.
Students study three texts including: one prose, one poetry and one drama text, at least one of which must be written post-2000.
Each option features an unseen extract of literary prose in the exam.

NEA: Texts Across Time

Students write a comparative critical study of two texts.
Word count: 2500 words.
In addition, an appropriate academic bibliography must be included.
One text must have been written before 1900, and two different authors must be studied.
Core set texts and comparative set texts listed for study in A-level Papers 1 and 2 cannot be used for NEA.
Equal attention should be paid to each text.

Methods of Assessment: A Level

Component 1: Love through the Ages Written Paper	40%	• 3 tasks • 75 marks – 25 marks per task • 3 hours • Open book in Section C only
Component 2: Texts in Shared Contexts Written Paper	40%	• 3 tasks • 75 marks – 25 marks per task • 2 hours and 30 minutes • Open book
Component 3: Independent Critical Study: Texts across Time NEA	20%	• One task • 50 marks • Word count: 2500 • Moderated by AQA