

OCR Specification H472

English Literature

The A Level in **English Literature** fosters a love of reading and develops confident, independent thinkers.

The course builds valuable skills in communication, critical thinking, and written expression, and is highly respected by universities, leading to pathways such as law, journalism, publishing, and the wider humanities.



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This course offers flexibility through thematic choices and a substantial non-exam assessment, providing an excellent foundation for further study of Literature (or related subjects) in Higher Education.

The English Literature A Level course encourages students to:

- Read a wide variety of literary texts from a range of authors and historical periods.
- Study poetry, prose and drama and develop an analytical and interpretive approach to literature.
- Broaden their literary tastes and encourage the development of wider reading.
- Enjoy reading and discussion of literature both inside and outside the school environment.
- Acquire and develop an understanding of human relationships and social concerns as presented through literary texts.

Component 1:

- Drama and Poetry Pre-1900 (Shakespeare, Ibsen and Rossetti)

Component 2:

- Comparative and contextual studies (American Literature 1880–1940)
- Close Reading in chosen topic area (American Literature 1880–1940)

Assessment is by a closed book examination.

Component 3:

Literature Post 1900: Coursework Unit

- Candidates are required to cover three post-1900 texts (at least one published in 2000 or later). These texts will be linked by a common theme.
 - Task 1. Close reading or re-creative with commentary (approx. 1000 words).
 - Task 2. An essay focusing on contrasts and comparisons between linked texts (2000 words).

Course Delivery:

Although the course is teacher led, the teaching of English Literature in the VI Form emphasises the development of individual response to texts. Students should be prepared to contribute to discussions and presentations, as well as submitting the more traditional essay. They should also be prepared to read around their set texts in order to inform their understanding of an author's social and historical context.

Entry Requirements:

Students wishing to follow A Level English Literature should discuss their preference with their English teacher or the Head of Department. Grade 6 in both English and English Literature would usually be seen as a minimum requirement.

Universities and Careers:

Every year we have students who continue their English studies beyond A Level and onto degree programmes. Some of these progress onto specialist English Literature degrees; others choose to take a joint honours course involving English and another subject such as History, American Studies or creative writing. Some university courses (such as Medicine) consider English Literature at A Level to be an asset, as it demonstrates students' abilities in clear and effective communication, analysis and perception. In addition, it encourages an empathetic dimension that is useful in many careers. These transferable skills are also recognised and valued by employers in a wide cross-section of professions and industries.

English naturally lends itself to careers in journalism, advertising and other aspects of the media. Other career paths where English is particularly useful are: the law, politics, acting and associated theatre work; teaching, social services, the civil service, publishing and library services.