
English Literature

Course Introduction

Over the course students will study texts related to the First World War (WWI and its Aftermath) and also literature associated with relationships, families and friendship (Love Through the Ages). The English Literature A Level encourages students to explore the relationships that exist between texts and the contexts within which they are written, received and understood

Assessment

The new AS qualification is 100% exam. There are two exams as specified below. Each are worth 50% of the qualification.

Paper 1: Love through the Ages: Shakespeare and Poetry
Study of two texts: one Shakespeare play and one AQA Anthology of Love Poetry through the Ages (Pre-1900 or Post-1900).

Assessed:

- Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes (closed book).
- 50 marks
- 50% of AS level

Paper 2: Love through the Ages:

Prose

Study of two prose texts

Examination will include an unseen prose extract

Assessed:

- Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes
- open book
- 50 marks
- 50% of AS level

If you decide to take the full A Level then you will sit two exams at the end of your course, with each worth 40% (80%). The remaining 20% is based on coursework.

Paper 1: Love through the ages.
Study of three texts: one poetry and one prose text, of which one must be written pre-1900, and one Shakespeare play. The exam will include two unseen poems.

Assessed:

- 3 hours exam
- 40% of A-level

Paper 2: Texts in Shared Contexts

Option 2A: WW1 and its aftermath.

Study of three texts: one prose, one poetry, and one drama, of

which one must be written post-2000. The exam will include an unseen extract

Assessed:

- 2 hours 30 minutes exam
- 40% of A-level

Non-exam assessment:

Independent Critical Study: Texts across Time

Comparative critical study of two texts, at least one of which must

have been written pre-1900 (an extended essay of 2500 words including a bibliography)

Assessed

- 2,500 word coursework
- 20% of A-level
- assessed by teachers
- moderated by AQA

Minimum Entry Requirement

Grade 6 in both GCSE English Language and English Literature.

English Literature

AS Level Specification

Whilst the course invites a variety of written response types, these will all encourage critical debate. In each task, students will be required to argue and to show personal responses and critical preferences, supported by the terminology relevant to the topics and contexts with which they are engaging. In doing so, they will be able to show 'creativity'. AQA's English Literature A not only equips students with the knowledge and skills needed for exams, but also opens up a rich, challenging and coherent approach to English Literature that provides an excellent basis for further study in the subject. This specification promotes as wide a choice of texts for students as possible within a clear and helpful framework. The requirement in the subject criteria for students to study a minimum of four texts from particular genres and periods has been organised as follows:

Love through the Ages
One drama text A Shakespeare play from set list (pre-1900)
Love through the Ages
One poetry text From set list
Two prose texts From set list.

This specification has been designed to be co-teachable with the AQA English Literature A A-level specification.

A Level Specification

AQA's English Literature A's historicist approach to the study of literature rests upon reading texts within a shared context. Working from the belief that no text exists in isolation but is the product of the time in which it was produced, English Literature A encourages students to explore the relationships that exist between texts and the contexts within which they are written, received and understood. Studying texts within a shared context enables students to investigate and connect them, drawing out

patterns of similarity and difference using a variety of reading strategies and perspectives. English Literature A encourages students to debate and challenge the interpretations of other readers as they develop their own informed personal responses.

The specification encourages the exploration of texts in a number of different ways:

- the study of a literary theme over time
- the study of literature through engaging with two of the main historicist perspectives, the diachronic (reading texts written across widely different time periods that explore the same theme) and synchronic (reading texts written within a narrower and clearly defined time period)
- the study of various texts, both singly and comparatively, chosen from a list of core set texts and a list of chosen comparative set texts
- writing about texts in a number of different ways.