

English Literature A-Level

What are the aims of the course?

- To develop and apply knowledge of literary analysis and evaluation in speech and writing
- To explore the contexts of the texts being read and others' interpretations of them.
- To deepen your understanding of the changing traditions of literature in English.
- To read widely and independently, both set texts and others that you have selected for yourself.
- To engage with and respond creatively to texts.

What does it involve?

- Analysis of literary material (poetry, drama and prose)
- Wide reading (not just those texts given to you in class)
- Written essays and written creative responses
- Theatre visits, workshops, day courses

How is it assessed?

AS Examination – Two units

'The Struggle for Modern Identity'

Unit one: This takes the form of a 2 hour examination. You will study one poetry text and answer one question on it. The other section of the exam will require you to explore your wider reading in detail and write an essay response to some previously unseen texts.

Unit two: Coursework based. You will write two responses to two texts that you have studied with your teacher. One of these may be creative.

A2 Examinations – Two units

You will study a range of texts all based on the theme 'Love Through the Ages', making links and comparisons. Texts such as Jane Austen's 'Emma' and Shakespeare's 'Much Ado About Nothing' will be compared.

Unit three: This takes the form of a 2½ hour written examination. The paper will contain four unseen extracts and you will be required to write essay responses

Unit four: A 3000 word extended essay comparing texts (specifically a Shakespeare play and one other)

Are there any specific entry requirements?

The normal entry requirements apply for Advanced Courses, including a minimum Grade B in English GCSE; commitment to wider reading and research; sensitive and perceptive response to literature.

Why is it a useful qualification?

This course develops powers of analysis and the ability to write well-organised, well-argued essays. It aims to widen your view of the world through the history of literature and the way writer's have expressed their struggles. It works well in combination with other subjects and provides a sound background for careers in all fields.