

AQA ENGLISH LITERATURE (Specification A)

Assessment Method

Year 13: Two examinations: 80% Non-examination assessment (coursework): 20%

Why Should I Follow This Course?

English literature students develop outstanding abilities in the analysis, interpretation and evaluation of texts and ideas across varied genres from a range of eras. By building on GCSE skills and knowledge, English literature students become adept at constructing profound, convincing written and verbal arguments, responses and interpretations.

You will read a range of wonderful, thought-provoking texts (both modern and classic) which you will explore in the lively, thoughtful atmosphere of the classroom, where you will have the opportunity to construct and debate your interpretation and those of your classmates and teachers. Furthermore, you will investigate the ways in which historical context shapes and influences the creation of literary texts as well as public reception of those texts.

Because of the unrivalled grounding in critical analysis, interpretation and evaluation, this course also has an excellent record of helping students move into (and flourish within) higher education and the workplace.

What Will I Learn?

English literature students will gain a range of powerful skills and knowledge. At A level we explore inspiring texts within their own contexts of time, place and the ideas they present. We examine how writers have portrayed certain ideas over time, and we discuss how and if attitudes have changed.

Year 12

* *War I and its Aftermath*: 'Birdsong', 'The Wipers Times', the poetry of Wilfred Owen, unseen prose

* *Non-examination assessment* (coursework):

Comparison of 'The Kite Runner' and your choice of pre-1900 text

Year 13

* *Love through the Ages*: 'The Great Gatsby', 'Othello', poetry anthology, unseen poetry

While these modules present the contrasting ideas of love and war, there is great freedom within the coursework unit, and students can choose their own text and construct an individual question to reflect their personal interests.

What Teaching and Learning Methods Will Be Used?

English literature hinges on individual critical interpretation and evaluation, so there will be numerous opportunities for students to give individual or group presentations where they will share their interpretations of texts.

There will also be teacher led activities, group discussions, research projects and the use of ICT.

The aim is to allow you to immerse yourselves in literature sometimes through visits to theatres and museums (when conditions allow) and interactive means. The World War I unit will, for example, take us to the superb Imperial War Museum and British Library websites to enrich and deepen our understanding of the unprecedented events, technologies and conditions that plunged human beings into experiences that had never been envisaged. These insights will both enhance our exploration and heighten our enjoyment of the wonderful texts we study together.

There will also be opportunities for educational visits and supplementary activities in school.

Where Will This Qualification Take Me?

This qualification is a prestigious one, which is highly valued by all universities because it is one of the 'classic' A levels and so can be a steppingstone to degrees in English, Journalism, Law, Education and Humanities. It can even complement STEM subjects by dint of the critical thinking and powerful writing skills it develops.

As the course will hone your reading skills, your writing skills, your ability to analyse quite complex concepts and – through presentations to the class – your communication skills, it is a qualification that is valued by all manner of professions, and a particularly useful subject to journalism, the media, the law, writing, publishing or teaching.

Equally, the course has a cultural value as it looks at attitudes to and in literature and its impact on society; this knowledge and breadth will prove useful in interviews.

Students leave this course not only with a broader range of knowledge, but also with a heightened ability to engage in a sophisticated way with profound concepts that will support your success in any future career.