



A Level English Literature - Course Information

Exam board - AQA LIT A SPEC 7712

What is A Level English Literature?

A level English Literature focuses students' study on a range of key works of fiction from the canon of English Literature. Students will study these texts within the frame of literary theory, exploring their significance via a historicist approach, moving through time to modern texts. The course encourages students to be evaluative and conceptual, immersing themselves in the conventions of literature through thematic approaches, and analysis via a critical lens.

What does the course involve?

- This course involves elements of history, sociology, psychology and philosophy and is wonderfully expansive.
- Content includes: a historicist approach to the wider canon, including exploration of authorial method, impact and intent, A range of forms, genres, including seminal texts, plays, novels and analysis of poetic, forms, and meters.
- Independent theoretical study - connections between two independently chosen texts.

Entry Requirements: GCSE English Language 5 and Literature grade 6 or above & Mathematics grade 4 or above.

What themes are studied and how is it assessed?

Love through the ages - Othello - William Shakespeare, Pre-1900 poetry anthology, The Great Gatsby - F Scott Fitzgerald and unseen poetry,

Texts in shared contexts: Modern times: 1945 - present day - The Handmaid's Tale - Margaret Atwood, A Streetcar Named Desire - Tennessee Williams, Skirrid Hill - Owen Sheers and unseen prose.

How is it assessed?

Assessment is through **two written exams** at the end of Year 13, AND an Independent theoretical study.

Paper 1: Love through the Ages - . 40%
Paper 2: Exploring conflict - written exam - 2 ½ hours. Includes: Writing about places and Dramatic Encounters 40%
NEA - Independent theoretical study and exploration. Formulating and constructing a personal argument. - 20%

What are lessons like?

Lessons include a mix of discussion, debate, annotations, sharing texts and key moments. Each text is studied in its entirety, with students asked to prepare individual moments, chapters or aspects of the text. There are always opportunities for exploring interpretations, linguistic analysis and building arguments based on analysis and contexts. Via the historicist approach students will explore the development of Literature, touching upon key Literary movements such as the Romantic and Metaphysical poets and the contexts in which they wrote, up to present time and the art of the modern novel.

Where can English Literature take you?

English Literature is a course not only for lovers of literature but for students interested in the way history, politics and changing patterns of language influence the texts we read. English Literature encourages students to read texts evaluatively and apply literary theory to the characters, events and concepts in the texts studied. Literature can lead to a number of employment options such as: Lecturing, Publishing, Teaching and Journalism. It is highly regarded as a supporting subject too, with Universities noting Literature due to the level of academic writing involved. University courses that can be accessed by studying A level English Literature include: Linguistics, Law, English Literature, Psychology, Politics, History, Sociology and Philosophy.

For more information about the course, please see Mrs Cliffe