

English Literature

Examination Board: Eduqas
Qualification: A level
Teacher Contact: Mr Roberts

Entry Requirements: Grade 6 or above in GCSE English Language and English Literature.

What will I study?

The A level course is comprised of four units over two years, with texts selected according to the group.

Component 1: Poetry

Written examination: 2 hours, 30% of qualification.

Section A: Pre-1900 Poetry (open-book, clean copy)

One two-part question based on the reading of one pre-1900 poetry text from a prescribed list.

Section B: Post-1900 Poetry (open-book, clean copy)

One question from a choice of two based on the reading of two post-1900 poetry texts from a prescribed list.

Component 2: Drama

Written examination: 2 hours, 30% of qualification.

Section A: Shakespeare (closed-book)

One two-part question based on the reading of one Shakespeare play from a prescribed list.

Section B: Drama (closed-book)

One question from a choice of two based on the reading of a pair of plays: one pre-1900 and one post-1900, from a prescribed list.

Component 3: Unseen Texts

Written examination: 2 hours, 20% of qualification.

Section A: Unseen prose

One question from a choice of two, analysing an unseen passage of prose, taken from one of two prescribed periods for study.

Section B: Unseen poetry

One question from a choice of two, analysing an unseen poem or poetry extract.

Component 4: Prose Study

Non-exam assessment: 2,500–3,500 words, 20% of qualification. One 2,500–3,500 word assignment based on the reading of two prose texts from different periods, one pre-2000 and one post-2000, nominated by the centre.

Am I suited to this course?

You would be well suited to studying English Literature at A level if you:

- are willing to discuss ideas and contribute to teamwork
- would like to develop your research skills
- enjoy investigating the social, cultural and historical context of a text
- enjoy reading and analysing novels, plays and poetry.

What other subjects does it complement?

English Literature complements almost all other subjects due to the core skills of reading, discussing, analysing and formal essay writing. There are clear overlaps with English Language, History, Psychology and Drama but it can also be taken in combination with Art, Sciences and Geography. It is a useful choice for many combinations.

Where can it lead?

As well as leading directly to degree courses in English Literature, this course enables a student to keep their options open without narrowing the choice later on. Many universities regard it as a desirable A level for courses as diverse as Law and Medicine. English Literature graduates are highly employable because they have spent several years thinking about communication and have developed skills in presentation, critical thinking and innovation.