

# GCE Advanced Level English Literature





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## Description:

The aims and objectives of the AQA GCE Advanced Level English Literature are to enable students to:

- Articulate informed, personal and creative responses to literary texts, using associated concepts and terminology and coherent, accurate written expression
- Analyse ways in which meanings are shaped in literary texts
- Demonstrate understanding of the significance and influence of the contexts in which literary texts are written and received
- Explore connections across literary texts
- Explore literary texts informed by different interpretations

Above all else, you *must* have a love of reading. The A level course will encourage you to develop your interest in and enjoyment of literary study as you:

- Read widely and independently both set texts and those which you select engage critically and creatively with a substantial range of texts and explore new ways of responding to them
- Develop and effectively apply your knowledge of literary analysis and evaluation
- Explore the contexts of the texts you are reading and others' interpretations of them

## Career paths:

A Level Literature courses can lead to further study in Higher Education in a variety of English Language, Literature, Communication and Media courses.

A qualification in English Literature provides students with a wide range of transferable skills, which are important in many career fields. Understanding and analysis of writing is of key importance to students of English and can be applied in many other fields of work.

Careers associated with the study of English Literature include:

- Media (journalism, publishing, TV and radio, events management)
- Influencing (advertising, public relations, marketing)
- Teaching
- Library Services

## Entry Requirements:

5 or more 9-4 grades (GCSE or BTEC equivalent) including a grade 4 in Maths and a grade 6 or higher in English.

## Course details & Assessment:

**During the course, students will be internally assessed in year 12 and 13 in the form of mock exams and will sit their full A Level exams in year 13**

### Paper 1: Love Through the Ages

Study of a Shakespeare play, a pre-1900 poetry anthology and a post-1900 prose text.

#### Texts Studied:

- *Othello* by William Shakespeare
- AQA pre-1900 love through the ages poetry anthology
- *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald

#### Exam Structure – 3 hours:

- Shakespeare question on extract and whole text - 25 marks
- Unseen poetry comparison question (2 poems) – 25 marks
- Prose and poetry anthology question comparison – 25 marks

Total for Paper 1: 75 marks

### Paper 2A: WW1 and its Aftermath

Study of three texts: prose (P), drama (D) and a poetry anthology

#### Texts Studied:

- *The First Casualty* by Ben Elton (P)
- *Journey's End* by R.C. Sherriff (D)
- The Penguin Anthology of First World War Poetry

#### Exam Structure – 2 hours 30 minutes

##### Option 2:

- Drama set text question (choice between 2 questions) – 25 marks
- Unseen prose extract question – 25 marks
- Prose and poetry comparison question – 25 marks

Total for Paper 2A: 75 marks

## A Level Non-Exam Assessment: Independent Critical Study: Texts Across Time

Comparative critical study of two texts, at least one of which must be written pre-1900. This will take the form of an extended essay of 2,500 words and a bibliography.

- Internally assessed
- Moderated by the AQA exam board



For more information about English see Mr Smyth or Miss Raven  
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