

# ENGLISH LITERATURE - A LEVEL (A Linear Course)

## Course introduction

A Level English Literature is a linear course which involves the academic study of poetry, prose and drama. Students will learn how to analyse texts by paying close attention to the details of form, structure and language to understand how writers shape meaning. Perspective English students need to enjoy reading and relish academic debate. The ability to conduct independent research is vital and students must be able to read set texts in their own time. Students will develop a working knowledge of various critical approaches to English Literature such as Feminist and Marxist Theory. The most important critical tool will be Historicism which seeks to place literary texts within the important cultural, religious and social contexts at the time the texts were written.



## Entrance requirements

Students must have acquired a minimum of 5 GCSEs or equivalent at grade 5 or above, including Maths and English.

## How the course is taught

The teaching on the English Literature A Level course aims to develop the skills of analysis, understanding, insight and critical thinking. Students need to read independently and critically and they are supported in class by discussions about texts, their contexts and possible meanings as well as being taught how to develop and structure cohesive responses to a wide variety of material.

## Areas covered by the course

### (AQA A Level English Literature – Specification A)

Paper 1:

#### Love through the ages

The study of three texts: one poetry anthology and one prose text, of which one must be written pre – 1900, and one Shakespeare play. The examination will include two unseen poems.

Paper 2:

#### Texts in Shared Contexts: World War 1 and its Aftermath

The study of three texts: one poetry anthology, one prose and one drama, of which one must be written post – 2000. The examination will include an unseen prose extract.

#### Independent critical study: texts across time

A comparative critical study of two texts, one of which will have been written pre-1900

## How the course is assessed

This is a two year course. Students will sit all external exams at the end of Year 13.

Paper 1:

External examination (40% of A Level qualification)

Paper 2:

External examination (40% of A Level qualification)

## Career opportunities

English Literature A Level is accepted as a valid qualification in a range of Higher Educational courses. It can lead to an open-ended range of options for both Higher Education and career prospects. This course is a facilitating subject for the Russell Group Universities. It naturally leads to a degree in English however some students have used it to provide access to careers in Arts, Law, Ethics, Journalism, Public Relations and Teaching. It is dynamic, challenging and creative course, during which students are encouraged to develop critical and independent thinking. This course is an excellent foundation on which to build the necessary skills for your future career.

