

# ENGLISH LITERATURE

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**“A small drop of ink...makes  
thousands, perhaps millions, think.”**

Byron

**Current Teaching Staff:**

Ms C Peake - Head of Department

Ms C Jenkins – Head of KS5

**Examination board and syllabus:** AQA (A)

A Level English Literature

**Entrance requirement:** Grade 5 or above in  
GCSE English Language and English Literature.

**A Level Course Outline:**

**Unit 1: Love Through The Ages (40%)**

- Shakespearean Tragedy: Othello
- Unseen Poetry Comparison
- Prose/Poetry Comparison – Rebecca and anthology of pre1900 poems

Assessment – a 3 hour examination. Open book for prose; closed book for Shakespeare.

**Unit 2: Texts In Shared Contexts (40%)**

- The study of two texts connected by the theme of Modern Times: Literature from 1945-Present Day.  
Texts studied: Streetcar Named Desire and Revolutionary Road.
- Modern poetry. Text: Feminine Gospels by Carol Ann Duffy.
- Unseen Prose

Assessment – a 2-hour 30 minute examination. Open book.

**Unit 3: Non-Examined Assessment (Coursework – 20%)**

This is a free choice of two texts, one of which must be pre-1900. No titles or topics are specified so students design their coursework based on their own areas of interest.

Assessment – one extended comparative essay referring to two texts. 2500 words.

**Teaching and Learning**

Classes are taught by two teachers, who are passionate subject-specialists and whose aim is to inspire your love of literature too.

Discussion is an important element of lessons, alongside creative approaches to texts such as: imaginative writing, art, drama improvisation and role play. Presentations on the themes, characters, settings and contexts of texts also play a vital role and give you the opportunity to direct your own learning. A Level English classrooms are dynamic places where you are encouraged to develop your own ‘voice’ and express your ideas confidently in debate as well as in essays.

| Students will need to:                                                   | Compulsory | Optional |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|----------|
| Read widely around the subject                                           | X          |          |
| Make independent notes                                                   | X          |          |
| Carry out detailed revision for regular tests beyond public examinations | X          |          |
| Be willing to engage in and lead class discussions                       | X          |          |

**CAREERS**

English Literature has been traditionally linked to arts and media based careers such as journalism, public relations, advertising, television and publishing.

However, it is held in high regard as an academic subject and is an excellent choice if you are considering a career in law, medicine, veterinary science, business and accountancy.

This is because studying English Literature enables you to develop skills of critical analysis, and to express yourself in a coherent, logical and fluent way. In dealing with the issues presented by texts, the subject also helps you to develop empathy for others and a better understanding of the world around you.