



A Level English Literature

Why study English Literature?

"While thought exists, words are alive and literature becomes an escape, not from, but into living."
Cyril Connolly (Literature critic)

English Literature has enabled mankind to express itself and in return, we are able to question and affirm our own values and beliefs through the power of literature. By exploring a range of texts, we are able to enhance our experiences of different cultures, philosophies and eras. A Level English Literature provides a deepening insight into the social and historical contexts which influence writers. The exploration of literature enhances critical thinking and analysis, developing excellent communication skills. By synthesising ideas and formulating interesting questions, classical and modern texts come alive and have relevance to our ever-changing world.

What is the course structure?

A Level (3 units of study)			
Unit details	<u>Drama and poetry pre-1900</u> Exam- 2 hours 30 minutes 80 marks (40% A Level)		
What you study	Shakespeare: <i>Hamlet</i> Pre-1900 Poetry: <i>Christina Rossetti Selected Poems</i> Pre-1900 Drama: <i>A Doll's House (Henrik Ibsen)</i>		
Unit details	<u>Comparative and contextual study</u> Exam- 2 hours 30 minutes 80 marks (40% A Level)		
What you study	<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top; width: 50%;"> Dystopia: <i>1984 (Orwell)</i> <i>The Road (McCarthy)</i> <i>Children of Men (P D James)</i> <i>A Clockwork Orange (Burgess)</i> <i>Memoirs of a Survivor (D Lessing)</i> </td> <td style="vertical-align: top; width: 50%;"> <i>The Handmaid's Tale (Atwood)</i> <i>Brave New World (Huxley)</i> <i>Fahrenheit 451 (Bradbury)</i> <i>The Drowned World (J G Ballard)</i> <i>The Time Machine (H G Wells)</i> </td> </tr> </table>	Dystopia: <i>1984 (Orwell)</i> <i>The Road (McCarthy)</i> <i>Children of Men (P D James)</i> <i>A Clockwork Orange (Burgess)</i> <i>Memoirs of a Survivor (D Lessing)</i>	<i>The Handmaid's Tale (Atwood)</i> <i>Brave New World (Huxley)</i> <i>Fahrenheit 451 (Bradbury)</i> <i>The Drowned World (J G Ballard)</i> <i>The Time Machine (H G Wells)</i>
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Unit details	<u>Non-examined assessment</u> (Coursework) 40 marks (20% A Level)		
What you study	<u>Literature post-1900</u> 2 texts of student's choosing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close reading OR Re-creative writing with commentary. • Comparative essay 		

Who is the examining body?

OCR English Literature

Specification and other information can be found at:

<http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-a-level-gce-english-literature-h072-h472-from-2015/>

Which activities will I be engaged in during the course?

The study of literature is, of course, a study of the world around us! By engaging with the wide range of literary texts, we not only read for pleasure, but also to deepen our emotional and philosophical understandings. By debating, empathising and analysing the issues faced by writers during their lives and times, we can begin to understand ourselves and our world a little better.

Activities might include:

- Debate and discussion
- Asking searching questions
- Presentations
- Researching wider social and historical contexts
- Pre-reading
- Ordering ideas
- Structuring arguments
- Making connections and comparisons
- Theatre visits

How can I prepare for the course?

It is essential that all necessary reading is carried out! Be prepared to engage beyond the examined texts and to carry out independent research linked to the contexts and the writers we study.

In order to be fully prepared for the start of you're A Level English Literature course in September, you should:

- Purchase and **read** the novel '1984' by George Orwell, **ISBN-10:** 014118776X)
- Purchase a copy of 'Hamlet' (*Heinemann Advanced Shakespeare*, **ISBN-10:** 0435193104)

Further information: Preeti Parkash (Head of English)

