

# English Literature

**Qualification Level: A Level**

**Qualification Duration: 2 years**

**Exam Board: AQA (7712B)**

## Intro:

A-level English Literature is a subject which emphasises creativity, disciplined thought and communication, plus an ability to synthesise and contextualise ideas. A level English Literature is a particularly suitable course for students who are keen readers and who enjoyed GCSE English Literature. It widens your understanding of the foundation topics of this discipline: drama, poetry and prose. At A – level, English Literature can complement many other subjects and can be a valuable contrast to scientific subjects, demonstrating a breadth of interests.

We study a broad variety of literature which includes Renaissance drama, thematic poetry and 20<sup>th</sup> century novels. Your study will involve: research based on social and historical contexts; classroom discussion; essay planning and writing and analysis of literary features. Students are taught in small groups and, when drafting coursework, in one to one tutorials.

## Course overview:

Course structure:

<b>Year 1 Content</b>  <b>Paper 1:</b> Love through the ages	<b>Year 2 Content</b>  <b>Paper 2:</b> Texts in shared contexts	<b>Non-exam assessment:</b> Independent critical study: texts across time.
<b>What's assessed:</b> Study of three texts: Poetry ( <b>pre 1900 anthology</b> ) Prose text ( <b>Gatsby</b> ) Shakespeare play ( <b>Othello</b> ) Exam will include two unseen Poems <b>Assessed</b> Written exam: 3 hours <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open book in Section C only</li> <li>• 75 marks</li> <li>• 40% of A-level</li> </ul>	<b>What's assessed:</b> Option 2B: <b>Modern times:</b> literature from 1945 to the present day: Prose: <b>The Handmaid's Tale</b> Play: <b>A Streetcar Named                      Desire</b> Poetry: <b>Owen Sheers,                      Skirrid Hill</b> Exam will include an unseen Extract <b>Assessed</b> Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• open book</li> <li>• 75 marks</li> <li>• 40% of A-level</li> </ul>	<b>What's assessed:</b> Comparative critical study of two texts, at least one of which must have been written pre-1900. One extended essay (2,500 words) and a bibliography <b>Assessed</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•50 marks</li> <li>• 20% of A-level</li> <li>• assessed by teachers</li> <li>• moderated by AQA</li> </ul>

## Trips and other costs:

Students will be required to purchase their own copies of the set texts so they can be annotated and used for revision.

We will be studying: *Othello* (William Shakespeare), *The Great Gatsby* (F. Scott Fitzgerald), *The Handmaid's Tale* (Margaret Atwood), *A Streetcar Named Desire* (Tennessee Williams), *Skirrid Hill* (Owen Sheers).

We are keen to organise trips to the theatre to watch productions of the texts studied.

**Career and further study:**

The analytical, discursive and creative skills which are developed are useful in many careers such as: journalism, broadcasting, advertising, law, social services, teaching and government.