

A Level English Literature Awarding Body: Edexcel

Course content

This course will encourage you to develop your enjoyment of English Literature through reading widely, critically and independently across centuries and genre, developing your critical thinking and analytical skills.

This specification offers the opportunity to experience Literature at its best through its clear philosophy of reading and meaning. It encourages independent reading of literary texts through a course of wide and close reading. You will be able to synthesise knowledge, understanding and skills to connect and compare a wide range of whole texts and extracts.

Component 1: Drama (2 hours, 15 minutes – 30%)

- Section A: Hamlet by William Shakespeare
- Section B: The Duchess of Malfi by John Webster

You will explore the use of literary and dramatic devices and the shaping of meanings in their chosen plays. We will also explore the significance and influence of contextual factors and engage with different interpretations and opinions.

Component 2: Prose (1 hour, 15 minutes – 20%)

- Frankenstein by Mary Shelly
- The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood

Through comparison of these texts you will establish links and connections, also exploring the contexts in which they were written and received.

Component 3: Poetry (2 hours, 15 minutes – 30%)

- Section A: Selection of modern poetry from Poems of the Decade: An Anthology of the Forward Books of Poetry 2002-2011 (provided)
- Section B: Selection of poems by John Donne (provided)

You will learn to apply your knowledge of poetic form, content and meaning, and develop your comparison skills.

Component 4: NEA Coursework (20%)

Coursework will be assessed via two texts of your choice, which may be drawn from poetry, drama, prose or literary non-fiction. The selected texts may be linked by theme, movement, author or period. You will produce an extended comparative essay of 2500-3000 words. Literary study of both texts should be enhanced by study of the links and connections between them, different interpretations and the contexts in which they were written and received.

Progression:

A Level English is looked upon favourably by Colleges and Universities. It would be useful for students considering a career in teaching, journalism, editing, advertising, marketing or any other career requiring excellent communication skills. For those students considering going into business or commerce, A Level English shows good analytical skills which would be beneficial in this area.

Entry Requirements:

Grade 5 or above in GCSE English Literature.