

ENGLISH LITERATURE

AQA 7717

What will I study?

An A-Level English Literature student learns to develop a wide range of transferable skills, which are important in many career fields. They learn to:

- express themselves clearly and fluently both orally and in writing;
- put forward ideas and arguments in a concise manner; synthesise ideas;
- read and use texts and other source materials critically and empathetically;
- be self-disciplined and independent intellectually;
- work collaboratively with others and have respect for others' reasoned views;
- show empathy and imaginative insight.



What do I need?

The main requirement is that you need to enjoy reading, writing and sharing ideas. Because there are so often no clear conclusions in discussions about literature, you need to approach the subject with an inquiring mind!

AQA English Literature B specification:

In class we discuss, debate and dissect texts, exploring how writers shape our views about their writing and the issues they raise.

In Year 12 we study the content for Paper 1: 'Literary Genres', looking at 3 texts (*Othello*, *The Great Gatsby* and *Richard II*) through the lens of tragedy, building on your study of *Macbeth*. Assessment is through a 'closed book' written exam: 2 hours and 30 minutes at the end of Year 13.

Towards the end of Year 12 we complete NEA component; this involves personal reading alongside the study of a Critical Anthology. You compare two novels of your choice, as well as a section of 20th century poetry, using a Critical Anthology to inform your analysis and interpretation. This is assessed through two essays of 1250-1500 words each, each essay responding to a different text and linking to a different aspect of the Critical Anthology. Coursework counts for 20% of your final mark.

In Year 13 we extend the skills developed in Year 12 through studying the content for Paper 2: 'Texts and Genres'. We study Elements of Crime writing and read 3 texts: *Atonement* by Ian McEwan, *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd* by Agatha Christie and *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* by Samuel Coleridge. Assessment is through a 3 hour 'open book' written examination.

Where could English Literature take me?

Our students have gone on to study not just English Literature at degree level, but also:

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| • Architecture | • Psychology |
| • History | • Drama and Theatre |
| • Creative Writing | • Law |
| • Film Studies | • Medicine |
| • Civil Engineering | • Pharmacy |
| • Classics | • Costume Design |
| • Sociology | |

We also have an excellent record of successful candidates who go on to study at Oxbridge as well as joining many great apprenticeships!

What our students say about the course:

I like how these texts we do allow us to touch on interesting topics like feminism and current, serious, controversial issues. If you're interested in viewing the world from all kinds of angles, English is a subject that will allow you to do this.

I love English literature because you learn to see a character beyond their speech and actions; you consider the history, politics and psychology that went into making that character important to the story and why the author crafted them in such a way.

I feel English links very well with my other subjects, particularly with learning how to construct a clear argument and strong debate. We do our coursework on novels of our choice so can tailor our studies to our interests.