

English Literature

GCSE

Examination Board: AQA

What will I study?

Over the course of the two years, you will study an exciting and inspiring selection of literature texts – ranging from modern texts to Shakespeare – these will be: Romeo and Juliet, An Inspector Calls, Jekyll and Hyde, and a collection of Power and Conflict poetry.

How is the course assessed?

This course is assessed through two examined components.

Component 1: Shakespeare and the 19th century novel

1 hour 45 minutes

40% of your overall GCSE English Literature grade

Section A (20%) – Shakespeare

You will be given an extract from the play that you have studied and asked to write in detail about that extract focussing upon a character, theme or issue; you will explore how this is shown in the whole of the play.

Section B (20%) – The 19th century novel

This question is structured in exactly the same way but focuses on the novel you will have studied.

Component 2: Modern texts and poetry⁹

2 hours 15 minutes

60% of your overall GCSE English Literature grade

Section A (20%) – Modern text

You will be given a choice of two essay questions that ask you to consider the presentation of key themes, issues in the play or characters. It is important that you are able to relate the text to the social and historical context in which it was created.

Section B (20%) – Poetry

In this section, you will be presented with a copy of one of the poems that you will study in class. The question will be centred around a theme and will ask you to write about the poem you have and one of the others you have studied.

Section C (20%) – Unseen Poetry

You will be presented with a poem that you have not seen. The majority of marks in this section are awarded for discussing the way in which the poet presents ideas and themes through language, form and structure. In the final question on this paper, you will be asked to compare this poem to a second 'unseen' poem, considering writers' techniques.

How will the course help me in the future?

The breadth of texts studied in English offers students the chance to develop knowledge and understanding of the world around you. In addition, the subject allows you to develop empathy and emotional intelligence. These skills enable you to work well with others and build crucial skills that employers are seeking. English will also help you to develop confidence and skills in communication, presentation and discussion!

Which member of staff should I contact for more information?

Ms Lyons