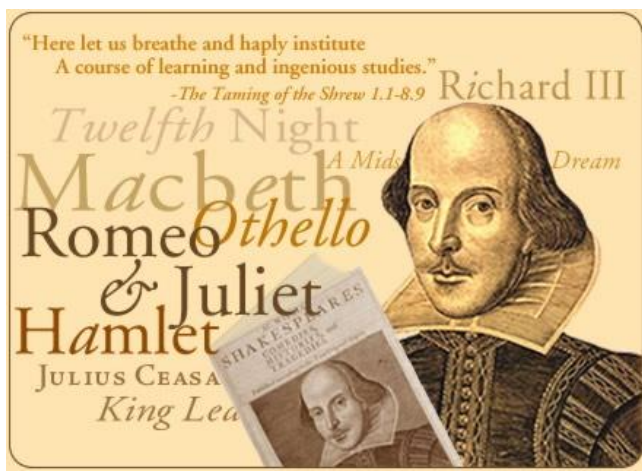


English Literature

Course Details

At A-level you will be introduced to a wide range of literary texts, from different genres and periods. You will be expected to engage with novels, poems and plays. You will also be exploring certain texts in their historical, social and literary context.

In addition, you will be encouraged to consider various interpretations of texts and to construct your own independent and informed responses.



A-Level Award

Literary Genres

The aim of this unit is to look at how a literary genre, either tragedy or comedy, share common features and offer some interesting variations.

Students will study three texts; one Shakespeare play, a second drama text and one further text. In addition to the compulsory Shakespeare play, one of the other two texts must be written pre-1900.

A-Level Award

Texts and Genres

The aim of this unit is to look at more modern genres; either crime writing or political and social protest writing. These genres, which are heavily influenced by culture, are continually evolving.

Students will study three texts; one post-2000 prose text, one poetry and one further text, one of which must be written pre-1900. You will also respond to an unseen passage in the exam.

Theory & Independence

Finally, this unit begins to move towards preparation for University.

You will produce two pieces of coursework for a folder of 3,000 words maximum. You will study two texts, one poetry and one prose, informed by study of the Critical Anthology.

One essay can be re-creative. The re-creative piece will be accompanied by a commentary. This independent study is an invaluable way of preparing you for university.

Assessment

A-Level – 2 exams & coursework

Paper 1: Literary Genres –

2hrs 30, closed book, 40%.

Paper 2: Texts and Genres –

3 hrs, open book, 40%.

Coursework –

2 essays of 1250-1500 words, 20%.

Background Requirements and Suitability

If you want to have a successful experience of A Level Literature then there are a number of questions you will need to ask yourself.

- *Are you a reader?* You should be an enthusiastic fan of reading a range of literature. Your experience of texts at GCSE and lower school should have been positive.
- *Can you express yourself well in speaking and writing?* Unlike GCSE Literature, A Level Literature is heavily marked for your ability to write clearly and coherently.
- Therefore you should have attained at least grade 5 in both GCSE English Language and Literature.
- *Do you enjoy the theatre?* A Level Literature will require you to show an understanding of plays as they appear on the stage, rather than simply as text.
- *Can you name a favourite novel, play and poem?* If not, seriously question whether this course is for you.

Prospects

A study of Literature prepares you for the future in many ways. Literature is a life enhancing experience, containing a vast range of human insight and thought.

Equally you may find your own creativity is inspired and you may be encouraged to write, for pleasure or for publication.

Practically, Literature and the skills explored, open up a number of career pathways for you, including: teaching, journalism, law, Public Relations, broadcasting, and of course published writing.

For More Information

Students interested in following the English Literature course should contact the Head of Department or subject staff.

Subject Staff

Mr M Parrin BA (Hons) PGCE

Mrs F Roberts BA (Hons) PGCE

Ms S McGlynn (Hons) PGCE

Head of Department

Mrs F Roberts BA (Hons) PGCE

Syllabus

English Literature B

Specification Code: 7716

Exam Board

AQA

Website

Further details of this course can be found on the exam boards' website.

www.aqa.org.uk

