

English Literature

AS/A Level

AQA (Spec A)

Structure & Specification

Year 1: AS 1741 (2 units, can be taken as an AS Level only)

Year 2: A2 2741 (2 units, making up the full A Level)

What does the course include?

AS:

Unit 1 (LITA1C) Texts in Context – The Struggle for Identity in Modern Literature.

This unit involves reading a range of prose, poetry and drama that deals with the topic of identity. You will also learn how to analyse non-fiction prose, and study a poetry text in depth.

60% of AS, 15% of A level.

Unit 2 (LITA2) Creative Study

Coursework – 2000-2500 words.

This coursework unit requires you to study one prose and one drama text, on the same theme as Unit 1. You then produce two pieces of coursework: a creative response to the prose text and an essay on the drama text. **40% of AS, 20% of A Level.**

A2:

Unit 3 (LITA3) Reading for Meaning – Love Through the Ages

This unit synthesises the skills of the whole course. You will read a wide range of texts on the theme of Love, and develop your skills in analysing and comparing unseen texts. **30% of A Level.**

Unit 4 (LITA4) Extended Essay and Shakespeare Study

Coursework – 3000 words.

For this unit you will write an extended comparative essay linking a Shakespeare text with two other texts that share its theme. **20% of A Level.**

What are the entry requirements?

Five GCSEs including a grade B in English.

As effective written communication is essential, a grade B in English Language is preferred, but you will be considered if you have a grade C as long as you possess the skills outlined above.

How will I learn?

You will have 2 teachers using a range of methods to suit different learning styles. There will be a focus on close textual analysis, in small group work and whole class discussion. You will be required to write essays, give presentations on key aspects of the texts studied and undertake guided background research; explicit direction about the positive use of proper critical works will be given. Our aim is to help you develop as independent readers able to discuss literary texts and topics with critical judgement, always aware that texts may be read in different ways by different people at different times. You will learn to construct cogent arguments which draw on textual evidence and develop analytical and

How will my work be assessed?

Unit 1 (LITA1C) 2 hour written examination

Unit 2 (LITA2) Coursework

Unit 3 (LITA3) 2 ½ hour written examination

Unit 4 (LITA4) Coursework

What skills will I need to be successful in this subject?

You must love reading and investigating texts as you will be expected to study further primary and secondary sources independently. You also need to be open-minded, be tolerant of differing views, be prepared to discuss and define your own moral and ethical viewpoints, and be aware of cultural and spiritual issues as they affect others.

What are the opportunities after this course for further/higher education and employment?

An A level in English is a useful qualification for a wide range of careers and university courses.