

English Literature A Level

OCR

English Literature is a traditional and highly-esteemed academic subject. Covering a wide range of texts from medieval poetry to more contemporary works, English Literature offers you the opportunity to ask questions and challenge assumptions, allowing you to broaden your understanding of genres, cultures, and the historical patterns of literature in English.

Course Structure

The course includes two core units of study:

1. 'Drama and Poetry Pre-1900' in which you will study a Shakespeare play, a 19th century play, and Middle English poetry. This is a lively and engaging unit that will deepen your appreciation of Shakespeare as a master craftsman of the English language, and encourage you to draw comparisons between experience in the past and today's modern world.
2. 'Comparative and Contextual study: The Immigrant Experience'. In this unit you will study 20th and 21st century texts written by authors from a range of cultures and ethnicities. Students are encouraged to 'see themselves' represented in the texts they study.

The course also includes a NEA unit (coursework) that offers you the opportunity to explore and analyse texts of your own choosing. There is also an option to engage in creative writing as a way of responding to texts.

Skills & Knowledge

In English Literature you will improve your skills in analysis, verbal and written communication, critical thinking, and creativity. Students of English literature will learn to probe language for deeper meanings while learning to appreciate the nuances of rhetoric and poetics at work in language.

Assessment

Both of the core units are assessed through two exam papers, each of which equates to 40% of your final grade. The remaining 20% is assessed through NEA.

Opportunities & Enrichment

As a student of English Literature you will be offered the opportunity to participate in a number of external events: academic conferences by leading scholars; theatre trips; museum trips; British Library visits; workshops with contemporary authors; writing competitions, and film-screenings of text adaptations.

Future Careers & Pathways

As a highly regarded academic subject, A Level English Literature opens several career and higher education avenues to students; students who have studied English Literature have gone on to pursue university courses and careers in English, journalism, creative writing, publishing, law, politics, and education.