



English

Course Overview

Following the OCR A level English Literature specification, pupils study a minimum of eight texts, at least two examples of each of the genres of prose, poetry and drama, to develop their ability to analyse and evaluate literary texts across a variety of genres and periods.

The course has three assessed elements:

Paper 1: Drama and Poetry Pre-1900 – exam is worth 40% of the A level

In Section 1: Shakespeare – pupils study *Hamlet*

In Section 2: Drama and poetry pre-1900, pupils study: John Webster: *The Duchess of Malfi* and John Milton's *Paradise Lost Books 9 & 10*.

Paper 2: Comparative and Contextual Study – exam is worth 40% of the A level

Depending on the teaching set, pupils will study:

The Gothic – Angela Carter: *The Bloody Chamber and Other Studies* and Bram Stoker: *Dracula* or
Women in Literature – Jane Austen: *Sense and Sensibility* and Virginia Woolf: *Mrs Dalloway*.

Coursework: Literature Post-1900 – worth 20% of the A level

This component encourages individual study, interest and enjoyment of modern literature. Pupils study three literary texts, chosen by their teacher. There are two tasks:

1. Close reading or re-creative writing with commentary – both must be based on one literary text
2. Comparative essay which must be based on two literary texts.

Entry Requirements

We would usually expect those choosing English Literature to gain A grades or better in both English Language and English Literature at GCSE.

Where can the course take you?

A level English Literature provides a foundation for any degree course or career involving written communication, research and analytical skills. It will open up many career options including teaching, journalism, media, advertising, marketing, law and academia.

Further information about the OCR specification can be found at www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-a-level-gce-english-literature-h072-h472-from-2015/

