

English Literature

We offer a traditional two-year English Literature A Level course.



This is a course that demands a love of how words work and a desire to explore how Literature has evolved through the ages. The emphasis is very much on the enjoyment of a range of texts.

The majority of the course is examination-assessed apart from a personal investigation (non-exam assessment) that the students undertake in year 13 which is worth 20% of their A Level course.

A Level Examination

Paper 1: Love through the Ages

3 hours examination

Section A – Section A: Shakespeare:

One passage-based question with linked essay Closed book examination (Compulsory Purchase: Othello by William Shakespeare, Cambridge School Shakespeare. Approx. Cost: £7.50)

Section B – Section B: Unseen Poetry:

Compulsory essay question on two unseen poems Closed book examination

Section C - Section C: Comparing Texts:

One essay question linking two texts Open book examination (Compulsory Purchase: Wuthering Heights by Emily Bronte, Penguin Classics. Approx. Cost: £7.00)

40% of total A Level marks

Paper 2: Texts in Shared Contexts

Modern Times: Literature from 1945 to the Present Day
Study of three texts: one prose, one poetry, and one drama, of which one must be written post-2000

2 hours 30 minutes examination

Section A: Set Texts:

One essay question on set text Open book examination (Compulsory Purchase: The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood, Vintage Books. Approx. Cost: £8.50)

Section B: Contextual Linking:

One compulsory question on an unseen extract Open book examination
One essay question linking two texts Open book examination (Compulsory Purchases: Feminine Gospels by Carol Ann Duffy, Picador. Approx. Cost: £9.99; All My Sons by Arthur Miller, Penguin Modern Classics. Approx. Cost: £8.99)

40% of total A Level marks

Non-exam assessment: Independent Critical Study - Texts across Time

Comparative critical study of two texts, at least one of which must have been written pre-1900. (Compulsory Purchase: Much Ado About Nothing by William Shakespeare, Cambridge School Shakespeare. Approx. Cost: £7.50)