



ENGLISH LITERATURE

Qualification A Level

Examination Board AQA

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

Students should have at least a grade 5 in English Language and English Literature GCSE. In addition to these academic requirements, it is also recommended that students considering this A Level are keen writers and avid readers.

What will I learn on this A Level course?

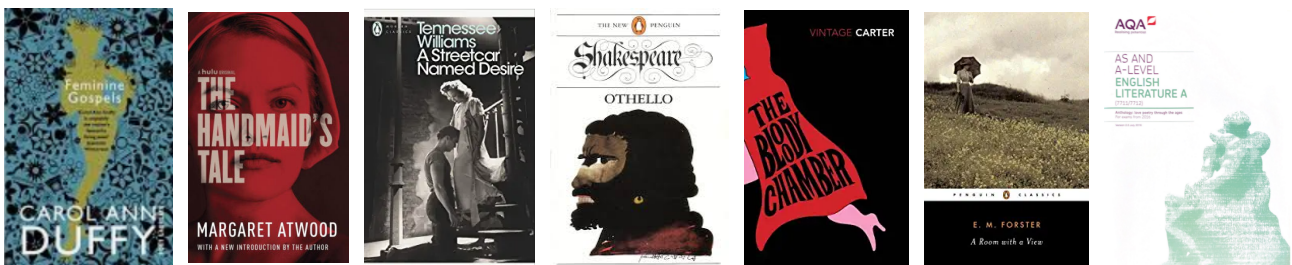
Students will learn to develop reading and analytical skills. Students will learn about different genres and text types whilst studying a number of different authors and playwrights. The texts are intended to be imaginative and engaging and can include prose fiction, poetry and drama.

What kind of student is this course suitable for?

This course will appeal to students who are enthusiastic readers and able writers. Students will need to have good time management and the ability to work independently, especially on coursework.

What is covered on the A level course?

A Level English Literature is a linear qualification; assessments will take place at the end of the course. Students will study a number of challenging and exciting text types:



What could I go on to do at the end of my course?

An English A Level can open the door to a number of different careers and university choices. Journalism, publishing, law and teaching are just a few of the many paths available with an English A Level.

Paper 1: Love through the ages

Study of three texts: one poetry and one prose text, of which one must be written pre-1900, and one Shakespeare play. Examination will include two unseen poems

Assessed

- written exam: 3 hours
- open book in Section C only
- 75 marks
- 40% of A-level

Questions

Section A: Shakespeare: one passage-based question with linked essay (25 marks)

Section B: Unseen poetry: compulsory essay question on two unseen poems (25 marks)

Section C: Comparing texts: one essay question linking two texts (25 marks)



Paper 2: Texts in shared contexts

Choice of two options:

Option 2A: WW1 and its aftermath

Option 2B: 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

Examination will include an unseen prose extract

Assessed

- written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes
- open book
- 75 marks
- 40% of A-level

Questions

Section A: Set texts. One essay question on set text (25 marks)

Section B: Contextual linking

- one compulsory question on an unseen extract (25 marks)
- one essay question linking two texts (25 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
One extended essay (2500 words) and a bibliography

Assessed

- 50 marks
- 20% of A-level
- assessed by teachers
- moderated by AQA

Full specification available at:

<https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/english/specifications/AQA-7711-7712-SP-2015.PDF>