

SUBJECT: GCE A Level English Literature

YEAR: 12 & 13

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT: Mrs Melville-Brown

GROUPING POLICY: Students are taught in mixed ability sets. However, all students have met the entry criteria for the course, achieving at least a Grade 5 at GCSE English Language and English Literature

CURRICULUM INTENT:

To develop independent learners, with a love and appreciation of Language and Literature. We want students to have a broad understanding of how Literature is a response to what was happening at the time and how language can be used to effectively communicate ideas in a variety of different forms.

IMPLEMENTATION:

Our curriculum is designed to return to key ideas, themes and skills and to embed this knowledge to develop students' extended pieces of writing. Links to what is also happening in our world presently are also discussed to make learning 'real'. Opportunities for extended writing are built into our schemes of work and whole class feedback is conducted regularly so that lessons can be adapted for the needs of the students.

COURSE CONTENT:

Examination Board: AQA

Specification:

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

What will my child learn?

Over the two years of the course, students will focus on:

- reading widely and independently both set texts and others that they have selected for themselves.
- engaging critically and creatively with a substantial body of texts and ways of responding to them.
- developing and effectively applying their knowledge of literary analysis and evaluation.
- exploring the contexts of the texts they are reading and others' interpretations of them.

Component 1: Love through the Ages

Students study:

- 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.

Texts we currently study:

- AQA Pre-1900 Poetry Anthology
- *A Room with a View*

- *Othello*

Component 2: Texts in Shared Contexts (Modern Times)

Students study:

- Three texts: one prose, one poetry, and one drama, of which one must be written post-2000
- Examination will include an unseen prose extract.

Texts we currently study:

- *The Handmaid's Tale*
- *A Streetcar Named Desire*
- *Feminine Gospels*

Component 3: Coursework

Students study:

- Comparative critical study of two texts, at least one of which must have been written pre-1900.

What will homework look like?

- Homework may often be note taking, preparing presentations, drafting coursework, writing essay responses;
- Students will be expected to read widely, outside of the texts set by the exam board.

What enrichment opportunities are available?

- Students will be encouraged to read widely and to discuss their increasing knowledge and love of literature;
- Students will also be encouraged to read widely about literature, exploring critics' opinions, for example reading the *The English Review*;
- There are various opportunities for students to support the department and to promote reading within the school.

ASSESSMENT

How will my child's work be assessed?

Details of the specific examinations are above.

When drafting coursework, students will have several opportunities to receive feedback on their work and to make improvements, before the final essays are submitted. There will be informal and formal assessment opportunities in the run up to the examination at the end of each stage of the course.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

How can I support my child in this subject?

Although the school is able to provide copies of core texts, students find it most useful to be able to annotate their own copies of texts in order to benefit most fully from class discussions.

Encourage your child's interest in literature by encouraging discussions about reading and literature at home and encouraging them to talk to you about the texts they are studying in school.

Students also often find visiting theatre productions inspiring and can aid understanding of texts in performance.

How can I support my child with exams?

Your son/daughter will need to be organised from the very beginning of the course, keeping records of their notes and their wider reading. Support with thorough preparation will help them to succeed in the course.

It is important students are able to write succinctly, but with full explanations, to achieve the best marks. Supporting them by proofreading their work for accuracy and timing them in their practice responses is always extremely useful.