

A Level English Literature



Introduction

Students of English Literature are given the opportunity to become masters of the written argument, and to delve into intriguing social debates presented through the fertile imaginations of brilliant writers. They will perceive, question and challenge a writer's ideas through multiple lenses, exploring plays, novels and poems by applying ideas from renowned theorists and thinkers. Students will hone their critical skills by using Marxist, Feminist, Psychoanalytical, Post-Colonial and Queer theories to deconstruct imagined societies that are often reflections of our own

What will I learn?

Drama: The course we offer combines the rich study of historical tragedy with the complexity of modern, innovative drama that pushes the boundaries of its contemporary audience by studying Othello (Shakespeare), and A Streetcar Named Desire (Tennessee Williams), students will forge a deep level of knowledge about the Tragic genre.

Prose: Students will compare Frankenstein by Mary Shelley and The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood. The ethical debates at the forefront of both texts centre on scientific progression and the impact of modern society on the individual person. Both Atwood and Shelley explore how science and technology can be used for the greater good, and also a great evil. Through comparison of both texts, students are urged to ponder these philosophical debates for their own lives and futures.

Poetry: Students will be challenged, and at times shocked, by the poems we study. Poems of The Decade explores what it felt like to be a human living in the UK at the turn of the millennium; this modern collection captures the zeitgeist of the beginning of the 21st century – both the promise of change, as well as the fear of the future. This spirit of revolution is also found in the study of Romantic poetry: Blake, Wordsworth, Shelley, Keats and Byron offer their praise and critiques of the world in which they lived. Students will cultivate an appreciation for the radical ideas of these poets.

How will I be assessed?

Component	Type	Duration	Weight
Paper 1: Drama (9ET0/01)	Exam	2hrs 15mins	30%
Paper 2: Prose (9ET0/02)	Exam	1hr 15mins	20%
Paper 3: Poetry (9ET0/03)	Exam	2hrs 15mins	30%
Coursework	NEA	2500-3000 Words	20%

Key Information: Assessment Includes:

- 5 timed essays, 3 of which compare texts
- Two questions to choose from in each exam
- An unseen element in the Poetry paper
- 1 coursework essay (a comparison of The Great Gatsby with the text of your choice)

Opportunities

Watching theatrical performances of Othello and A Streetcar Named Desire is not only required for this course, but is a very enjoyable way to increase cultural capital.

Other subjects?

Humanities subjects: History, Philosophy, Classical Civilization, and History of Art. Creative subjects such as Fine Art and Drama complement the study of Literature very well. If you are more scientifically inclined, Sociology, Psychology, English Language and Linguistics are great choices that connect wonderfully to Literature.

Future Careers

English Literature is highly sought-after for University courses that require excellent reading, writing and verbal communication skills. Journalism, Law, PPE, History, Classics, Creative Writing, and English Literature and Language are courses that would value this A-Level above the vast majority of others.

Course Information

Course Code - 9ET0

Examination Board - Pearson Edexcel