



## Aylesbury High School | #AHSWalksTall

Developing uniquely talented young adults, who are independent, strong and confident

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Dear Parent/Carer,

As students embark on their English Literature GCE, we thought it would be useful to share an overview of the course.

### In Key Stage 5 English Literature:

The examination board for GCE English Literature is Edexcel. You can find further information relating to the specification here: [Edexcel English Literature specification](#)

- Component 1: Drama 30%
- Component 2: Prose 20%
- Component 3: Poetry 30%
- Component 4: Non-examination assessment 20%

We start the course with a transition unit that helps link the skill learnt in GCSE to those required at A Level. The main difference here is the broader requirements in their essay responses, including drawing on critical material and theory. We also introduce their non-examination assessment early, where they are required to compare two texts of their own choice, taken from the long-listed novels from the Booker Prize. By the end of the first term, we expect students to have read at least 6 books so that they can make an informed choice for their NEA. Students have an opportunity to submit a draft version of their comparative NEA response by the end of the second term, with teacher feedback provided by the Summer term, so that the NEA component can be completed by the start of Year 13. The rest of the course is made up of studying the set texts, shared between the two classroom teachers that each student will have.

### Required resources:

- Folder
- Pens, pencil, highlighters
- Set texts:
  - Shakespeare, William, *Hamlet, Prince of Denmark* (*The New Cambridge Shakespeare*) ISBN: 978-0521532525
  - Williams, Tennessee, *A Streetcar Named Desire* (Methuen Drama Student Editions) ISBN: 978-1408106044
  - *Poems of the Decade: An Anthology of the Forward Books of Poetry* ISBN: 978-0571325405
  - Shelley, Mary, *Frankenstein* (Penguin Classics) ISBN 978-0141439471
  - Ishiguro, Kazuo, *Never Let Me Go* (Bloomsbury) ISBN: 978-0571258093
  - Chaucer, Geoffrey, *The Wife of Bath's Prologue and Tale* (Cambridge, ed James Winney) ISBN: 978-1-316-61560-7

### Useful websites

- [English Media Centre](#)
- [Jstor](#)
- [British Library - Discovering Literature](#)
- [University of Oxford English Literature podcasts](#)

### Career Links

- [What Jobs Do People With an English Degree End Up Doing?](#)

### Homework and assessment:

Homework of 5 hours per week will be set in English Literature to give the students time to consolidate their understanding of work covered at school and further develop their ideas. This may be a mixture of wider reading and essay responses to help develop their skills and understanding of the texts studied in class. Students will frequently have in class practice tasks, which are then evaluated by the teacher and discussed as a class as part of an ongoing feedback process. Assessment marks are subject to change and are based on the last exam season grade boundaries.

More information can be found on the English subject content page of the school's website.

If you have any queries, please contact Mr Elgin Head of English at [melgin@ahs.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:melgin@ahs.bucks.sch.uk)