

ENGLISH LITERATURE

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT

Mrs K Forsyth
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TYPE OF QUALIFICATION

A-level

EXAM BOARD

Edexcel

SPECIFICATION

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ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Preferred: GCSE English
Literature grade 6

Essential: GCSE English Literature
grade 5



AIMS OF THE COURSE

The aims of the course are to encourage students to read widely and engage critically and creatively with a substantial body of texts. Students will develop and effectively apply their knowledge of literary analysis and evaluation and explore the contexts of the texts they are reading and others' interpretations of them.

They will undertake independent and sustained studies to deepen their appreciation and understanding of English Literature, including its changing traditions.

COURSE OUTLINE & ASSESSMENT

Paper 1: Drama. One open-book exam, 2 hours 15 minutes. Section A: Shakespeare, Section B: Other drama.

Paper 2: Prose. One open-book exam, comparing two books. 1 hour. Two prose texts from a chosen theme. At least one of the prose texts must be pre-1900.

Paper 3: Poetry. One open-book exam, 2 hours 15 minutes. Section A: Post-2000 Specified Poetry: one comparative essay question on an unseen modern poem written post-2000 and one named poem from the studied contemporary text. Section B: Specified Poetry Pre- or Post-1900: one essay question.

Non-exam: Comparative essay of 2500-3000 words. Students have a free choice of two texts to study. Must be complete texts and may be linked by theme, movement, author or period. These may be selected from poetry, drama, prose or literary non-fiction.

CAREER PROSPECTS

The A Level qualification is accepted as a qualification for university courses in all subjects. An English Literature degree can lead onto careers in journalism, the law, the media, the armed services, the Police Force, management, the Civil Service, advertising, business and teaching. Past students are making successful careers in all of these areas.

SUBJECT ENRICHMENT



Something to think about...

Why do different writers use different forms, such as poetry, novels and drama? How might our reaction to a text differ from that of the audience at the time when it was written? (context of production vs reception).



Something to listen to...

The BBC's 'The Verb' is a podcast hosted by poet Ian McMillan, with guests including poets, authors, dramatists, comedians, journalists and artists. Secondly, Radio 4 have 'In Our Time' with the famous (Cumbrian!) Melvyn Bragg where he covers many topics with a group of expert guests each week.



Something to read...

'Poems of the Decade: An Anthology of the Forward Books of Poetry' is a set exam text and is full of very good contemporary poets - it would be a good idea to get a copy of this ahead of time and start enjoying it now. For a full recommended reading list, please email

