

English Literature

The study of English Literature is an exciting in-depth exploration and analysis of English literary texts. It is an academically challenging and highly rewarding subject, with a varied programme of study and lively discussion and debates about the pressing, often controversial, social issues of the time.

In the two-year course, students will engage with a wide range of literary fiction texts, covering the main forms of prose, poetry, and drama. They will develop and effectively apply their knowledge of literary analysis and evaluation while exploring the contexts of the texts they are reading and others' interpretations of them. They will be expected to write coherently and analytically, use correct literary terms, explore the connections between texts and contexts and evaluate language form and structure.



COURSE CONTENT

In total, eight whole texts will be covered, as well as preparation for unseen poetry. Students will read:

Drama:

- Othello, William Shakespeare
- Sweat, Lynn Nottage

Prose:

- Hard Times, Charles Dickens
- Atonement, Ian McEwan

Poetry:

- Selected modern poems from Poems of the Decade
- The works of English Romantic poet, John Keats

Students will be expected to undertake independent and sustained studies to deepen their appreciation and understanding of English literature, including its changing tradition, thereby engaging critically and creatively with a substantial body of texts and ways of responding to them.

SKILLS REQUIRED

GCSE Grade 7 or above in English Literature & Language, ideally, however an engaged reader with GCSE Grade 6 may be considered. The course will appeal to pupils who take pleasure in reading a wide variety of literature, who enjoy expressing their opinions in lively discussion and imaginative, articulate writing and who have a love of words and stories.

ASSESSMENT

Paper 1: Drama

Othello and Sweat. Examination 2 hours and 15 minutes. 30% of final marks.

Paper 2: Prose

Hard Times and Atonement. 1 hour 15 minutes. 20% of final marks.

Paper 3: Poetry

Poems of the Decade, Unseen Poetry and John Keats. 2 hours and 15 minutes. 30% of final marks.

Non-Examined Assessment: Coursework

20% of final marks. An extended comparative essay based on two literary works of the student's own choice. The focus here is on independent reading and the opportunity to extend the experience of literature beyond the confines of the specification.

ENRICHMENT

The department offers plenty of trips and co-curricular activities such as Shakespeare and Classical Literature Club, public Speaking and Debating and Creative Writing clubs.

FUTURE PATHWAYS

English Literature is a highly regarded and sought-after academic subject by universities and employers alike and it enables access to a wide range of skills and degree courses.

Students who opt for A Level Literature pursue varied careers in fields such as law, finance and management, engineering, social and medical sciences, arts, publishing, politics and the creative industries.

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