

# A Level English Literature



**Exam Board:** AQA

**Entry Requirements:** grade 6 or above in English Literature.

## Why study English Literature?

English Literature at A Level builds upon themes begun at GCSE. In many ways it is the creative outlet of the social sciences. Students study time, place, gender, race, politics and culture through the artistic works of social commentators, academics and artists from across time. Students develop their critical and rhetorical writing and speaking skills and learn to synthesise context, text and reader interpretation into articulate and well-crafted academic argument. Students will gain a subtle and in-depth appreciation of how events in the real world emotively affect people from different times, places and cultures.

## What does the course involve?

The AS qualification will cover the 'Love through the Ages' unit, with the addition of a second prose text. This will be assessed at the end of Year 12. The A2 qualification will consist of 'Love through the Ages', 'Texts in Shared Contexts' and the 'Independent Critical Study'. All units are assessed via examination, except the Critical Study which is a coursework assessment. The range of authors and works studied will be broad, varied, exciting and engaging.

Love through the Ages	Exam
Prose	One pre-1900 text Comparative Essay
Poetry Anthology	
Drama (Shakespeare)	Extract to whole essay
Unseen Poetry	Essay on unseen poem

Texts in Shared Contexts	Exam
Prose	One post 2000 text
Poetry Anthology	One 'single text' response
Drama	One 'comparative' response
Unseen Prose	Essay on unseen prose

Independent Critical Study Across Time	Non-Exam Assessment
Study two texts (any genre)	2500 word comparative essay
At least one pre-1900	Bibliography
Engaging theme of comparison	Student led, teacher supervised

## Where will English literature lead me post Sixth Form?

English Literature is a highly regarded 'facilitating subject'. As such it is considered to be a very strong foundation for study at university, particularly for Social Science, Humanities and Arts degree courses. Common career pathways leading from the study of English Literature include work in journalism, publishing, law, the civil service, public office, psychology and counselling, however a strong understanding of the written and spoken word across time is a skill base that enriches a plethora of career paths across a wide range of industries and disciplines.

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