



English Literature

Why chose English Literature?

English Literature offers an opportunity like no other A Level: the chance to explore the lives, narratives and worlds of others. Through reading some of the greatest works of the literary imagination, you will dive into strange and unique worlds, vicariously live lives that you never dreamed possible and experience the joys and struggles of your fellow man. Through analysing the literary canon, you will develop close analysis skills and your own unique interpretations of texts. You will cultivate a love of language and the writer's craft. In classroom debates and critical discussion, you will be challenged to voice your own opinions.

English Literature is both stimulating and interesting as it allows you a chance to actively engage with texts from different periods and cultures as well as giving you a foundation into the major ideas underpinning the way we live today.

This course is for any student with an interest in literature and enjoyed reading a range of texts across the ages, exploring them analytically and contextually at GCSE. Skills taught in English Literature set students up for success in the 'real' world, not just in the arts based industries, but all areas and disciplines.

What do I need to start the course?

- You must like reading!
- You should have a genuine interest in a range of literacy texts and genres, for example, poetry, prose and drama. You should enjoy discussion and writing at length about your own ideas and the ideas of others.
- To study this course you will need to have achieved five GCSEs at Grade 6 or above, which need to include English, Maths and Science. You will need to have a grade 6 or above in either English Literature or English Language - preferably both.
- There is a need to read a wide range of texts, so a willingness and interest in reading beyond your comfort zone of genres is necessary, as is the need to do wider reading to explore critical thought and interpretations.
- You must also be self-disciplined as some of the course requires individual study and work with strict deadlines.

AQA Specification A (7712)
Qualification: A Level

COURSE OUTLINE AND ASSESSMENT

80% Examination 20% Coursework

Paper 1: Love through the ages

Study of three texts: one poetry and one prose text and one Shakespeare play. Exam will include two unseen poems.

Poetry:

AQA ed. *Anthology of love poetry through the ages: pre-1900* Pre-1900

Shakespeare:

- *The Taming of the Shrew*

Options for prose text (one of):

- Jane Austen: *Persuasion*
- Charlotte Brontë: *Jane Eyre*
- Emily Brontë: *Wuthering Heights*
- Thomas Hardy: *Tess of the D'Urbervilles*
- F. Scott Fitzgerald: *The Great Gatsby*
- Daphne Du Maurier: *Rebecca*
- Ian McEwan: *Atonement*

Written exam: 3 hours

- Open book in Section C only (Comparing Texts)
- 75 marks
- 40% of A Level

Paper 2: Texts in shared contexts

Modern times: Literature from 1945 to the present day

Study of three texts: one prose, one poetry, and one drama. Exam will include an unseen extract.

Section A: ONE Core set texts

Drama

- Tennessee Williams: *A Streetcar Named Desire*

Section B: Contextual linking

Students study two texts.

Poetry

- Carol Ann Duffy: *Feminine Gospels*

Continued over >

What will I learn on this course?

The specification encourages the exploration of texts in a number of different ways:

- the study of a literary theme over time
- the study of literature through engaging with two of the main historic perspectives: diachronic (reading texts written across widely different time periods that explore the same theme) and synchronic (reading texts written within a narrower and clearly defined time period)
- the study of various texts, both singly and comparatively, chosen from a list of core set texts and a list of chosen comparative set texts
- writing about texts in a number of different ways.

What can you do when you have your qualification?

You will learn a wide range of transferable skills: you can extend your analytical skills by continuing to study towards an English/English Literature degree.

English Literature is a rigorous and highly academic A Level that is sought after by all Russell Group universities.

Students of English Literature can go on to study, and have careers in: teaching, law, media (especially publishing, journalism, advertising, marketing), librarianship, archives, events management...even banking and accountancy!

The critical thinking, creative skills and development of a formal, professional writing style offered by the subject make it a perfect compliment to arts or science subjects. It will also encourage the critical imagination to flourish.

A Level English Literature is a subject that will open many doors for you.

For further information or advice please contact

english@williamhoward.cumbria.sch.uk or
esim@williamhoward.cumbria.sch.uk

Prose (*one of*)

- Margaret Attwood: *The Handmaid's Tale*
- Jeanette Winterson: *Oranges Are Not The Only Fruit*

Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes

- open book
- 75 marks
- 40% of A Level

Unit 3 Coursework: Independent critical study

Comparative critical study of two texts, at least one of which must have been written pre-1900.

One extended essay (2,500 words) and a bibliography.

- 50 marks
- 20% of A Level
- assessed by teachers, moderated by AQA

In 2018 we studied *Frankenstein* as a class, with students selecting their own choice of novel for the comparison.

