

English Literature

Level: A Level

Body: Edexcel

Specification: <https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/A%20Level/English%20Literature/2015/Specification%20and%20sample%20assessments/A%20level%20Lit%20spec.pdf>

Entry Requirements:

Sixth Form entry requirements as well as a grade 5 or above in GCSE English Literature.

Course Content:

This course will encourage you to develop an interest in and enjoyment of English Literature, through reading widely, critically and independently, across centuries and genre, through the experience of an extensive range of views about texts and how to read them.

This specification offers the opportunity to experience Literature at its best through its clear philosophy of reading and meaning. It encourages independent reading of literary texts through a course of wide and close reading. You will be able to synthesise knowledge, understanding and skills of the course and to connect and compare a wide range of whole texts and extracts. The course has four components and all of these will lead to the A Level qualification at the end of the two years of study.

Component 1: Drama

You will analyse the form of drama through the study of *A Streetcar Named Desire* by Tennessee Williams and *Othello* by William Shakespeare. You will explore the use of literary and dramatic devices and the shaping of meanings in their chosen plays. Teaching and wider reading should address the significance and influence of contextual factors and engage with different interpretations of the chosen Shakespeare play. Students' study of Shakespeare should be enhanced by engagement with critical writing. Teaching of this is supported by the either Shakespeare: A Critical Anthology – Tragedy or Comedy, will be provided free of charge.

This component will be examined by an exam of 2 hours and 15 minutes and is worth 30% of the total A Level.

Component 2: Prose

You will study aspects of prose via two thematically linked texts, *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelly and *The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood. Literary study of both texts selected for this component should incorporate the links and connections between them, and the contexts in which they were written and received.

This component will be examined by an exam of 1 hour and is worth 20% of the total A Level

Component 3: Poetry

You will study a selection of poems from two published poetry texts. You will consider the concerns and choices of modern-day poets in a selection of contemporary poems *Poems of the Decade*. You will learn to apply your knowledge of poetic form, content and meaning, and develop your skills in comparing an unseen poem with an example of studied poetry. You will also develop depth of knowledge about poetic style by studying a selection from the work of a single named poet, or a selection from within a literary period or movement.

This component will be examined by an exam of 2 hours and 15 minutes and is worth 30% of the total A Level.

Component 4: NEA Coursework

Coursework will be assessed via two texts. There are no prescribed texts but you will be guided into selecting complete texts which may be drawn from poetry, drama, prose or literary non-fiction. You must select different texts from those studied in Components 1, 2 and 3. The selected texts may be linked by theme, movement, author or period. Literary study of both texts should be enhanced by study of the links and connections between them, different interpretations and the contexts in which they were written and received.

Your coursework folder will comprise one extended comparative essay referring to two texts. Total advisory word count: 2500–3000. This is worth 20% of the total A Level.

Teaching and Learning Methods

A wide variety of teaching and learning methods are used on the course. These include lots of whole class discussion and debate - it is expected that everyone contributes to debates; pair/small group activities, perhaps preceding class debate or leading to formal presentations or written work; student-led lessons where you teach an aspect of the text to the class and the teacher will guide discussion; group work annotating texts; note taking and mind mapping to support your study of the text.

Skills and Commitment

A Level English lessons will be based mainly around studying set texts for examination. Students will be expected to take part in group discussions and to put forward their ideas regarding these texts. They may also be asked to produce presentations on key sections, either individually or as a group. Students will be expected to undertake personal research and reading during their study time in order to prepare them for future lessons. As with English at GCSE, the form of assessment will be through written work.

Cost:

Students will also be expected to buy the texts and study guides needed for study throughout the course.

Progression:

A Level English is looked favourably upon by Colleges and Universities. It would be useful for students considering a career in teaching, journalism, editing, advertising, marketing or any other career requiring excellent communication skills. For those students considering going into business or commerce, A Level English shows good analytical skills which would be beneficial in this area.

Sixth Form Contact:

For more information please contact Mrs L Stewart or Miss Trickey.