

Course Title: GCSE English Literature

Awarding Body: AQA

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Why study English Literature?

The GCSE English Literature course is compulsory. Every student in the Upper School must follow the course. The study of English Literature inspires, challenges and motivates every student, regardless of ability level. It is every student's entitlement to study the rich literary heritage that exists today in plays, novels and poetry. In addition, students benefit from an integrated approach with the English Language course.

Course Outline

There is only one tier of entry for English Literature which covers the Grades 1 – 9 range.

The specification offers a skills and content-based approach to the study of English Literature in an untiered context. The course enables students to read and analyse different literary texts including a play by Shakespeare, a modern text, a novel written before 1900 and a range of poetry. Students not only develop a love of literature, but learn to analyse, discuss and evaluate the impact of these texts, including context in social, cultural, historical and literary terms.

There are two written papers for the English Literature GCSE, one worth 40% and one worth 60%

Assessment Format

Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th-century novel

What's assessed

Shakespeare plays

The 19th-century novel

How it's assessed

Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes

64 marks

40% of GCSE



Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th-century novel

Questions

Section A Shakespeare: students will answer one question on the play that they have studied. They will be required to write in detail about an extract from the play and then to write about the play as a whole.

Section B The 19th-century novel: students will answer one question on the novel that they have studied. They will be required to write in detail about an extract from the novel and then to write about the novel as a whole.

Paper 2: Modern texts and poetry

What's assessed

[Modern prose or drama texts](#)

[The poetry anthology](#)

[Unseen poetry](#)

How it's assessed

Written exam: 2 hour 15 minutes

96 marks

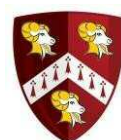
60% of GCSE

Questions

Section A Modern texts: students will answer one essay question from a choice of two on their studied modern prose or drama text.

Section B Poetry: students will answer one comparative question on one named poem printed on the paper and one other poem from their chosen anthology cluster.

Section C Unseen poetry: Students will answer one question on one unseen poem and one question comparing this poem with a second unseen poem.



More information and the full syllabus can be found at:

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-literature-8702/specification-at-a-glance>

What skills will I need to be successful in this subject?

A love of reading and an inquiring mind are both important to be successful in English Literature study. Resilience and persistence when dealing with more challenging language in some texts will enable students to excel in their work.

Possible Careers and Future Education

English Literature is an enriching and enabling life skill and is useful in all careers and courses. A GCSE English Literature grade of 4 or above is highly valued by employers.

Careers in Journalism; the Library Service; Business; Teaching; IT; Writing; Accounting; Finance; Law; HR; Publishing; Politics and the Civil Service are just some of the areas that can be accessed with an A level or degree in English Literature.

'Literature is one of the most interesting and significant expressions of humanity.' P.T. Barnum

