

ENGLISH LITERATURE

Examination Board: WJEC

Syllabus Number: AS – 410 80

A2 – 068 90

Why study ENGLISH LITERATURE to AS Level and A2?

This is an opportunity to build upon the knowledge and skills acquired at GCSE. It's particularly suitable for those who have a passion for reading and wants to develop further appreciation and enjoyment, based on an informed personal response, to a wide range of texts. You will have the chance to become a confident, independent and thoughtful reader who expresses ideas and opinions effectively through speech and writing. These skills are an excellent foundation for the study of many subjects at higher education and/or preparation for future employment.

Entry Requirements

We want students who:

- have a real interest and enthusiasm for literature
- have enjoyed studying literature at GCSE
- are sufficiently motivated to do independent background reading
- are good at reading closely, to analyse authors' techniques and intentions
- are prepared to communicate their ideas as clearly and precisely as possible
- have lots of reading stamina

Students should have GCSE English Literature, and at least 5 other subjects, at Grade C or above.

Higher Education

Universities will look very favourably on the skills that you will learn while studying English Literature A Level: successful organisation, close analysis of a writer's intentions and independent, insightful comments on literary techniques. Degree courses in English Literature are very popular and entry requirements are high, so many students decide to continue their interest by combining it with a complementary subject This often provides even more opportunities in future careers.

Careers

Many people with degrees in English Literature take up careers in publishing, the media, law, journalism, accountancy, business management – and sometimes teaching!

Course Content - 4 UNITS

Year 12 – AS Level

Unit LT1 – Introduction to Poetry and Drama (Section A) and post-1990 Drama (Section B) Section A of this two and a half hour exam paper gives us the opportunity to compare 2 poets' treatment of similar themes. (An extension of the GCSE English Literature paper.) We could study Sylvia Plath's thoughts on life, compared with those of her estranged husband, Ted Hughes. Or we may read some of Carol Ann Duffy's often very entertaining "Selected Poems" and compare them with Sheenagh Pugh's.

Section B will allow us to study one very recent play script in depth. Our choices will range from a play by the British Tom Stoppard, David Hare or David Mamet, through to something by the American Arthur Miller or Ireland's Brian Friel. The works of all these playwrights feature periodically at the Theatre Royal, Bath, so we should be able to make use of this excellent local resource.

You will be allowed to take clean copies of the texts into the exam i.e. no notes.

Unit LT2 – Prose Study (Section A) and Creative Reading (Section B)

Section A: Ever heard of D.H. Lawrence? Emily Bronte? Or maybe George Eliot? F.Scott Fitzgerald? These are just some of the authors we are invited to read in order to produce a 2000 word piece of coursework. Having read a text by one of these very famous writers, we're allowed to make links with another text of our own choice. For example, "Jane Eyre" and "The Color Purple" are novels whose victimised central female characters develop into strong individuals – but how? Why are their environments important? We compare how the ideas are handled and how language is used to encourage a particular response in the reader.

Section B: At last – a chance to produce some creative writing in response to our reading!
A 1000 word piece of coursework based on a specific literary genre – short story, essay, drama script, travel writing, or even poetry. Possibly the most exciting unit at AS...

Year 13 – A Level

Unit LT3 – Period and Genre Study.

Another coursework task. This time, a 3000 word folder that requires us to compare three different texts and at least two different genres. We could be exploring how war is presented by Sheriff in "Journey's End" (drama), Keith Douglas in "Selected Poems" and Pat Barker in "Regeneration" (prose). Or maybe we'll compare the satire of Zadie Smith in "White Teeth" (prose), Evelyn Waugh in "A Handful of Dust" (prose) and Alexander Pope in "The Rape of the Lock" (poetry). We hope you love reading!

Unit LT4 – Shakespeare (Section A) and Poetry in Context (Section B)

Section A of this two and a half hour exam paper will give us the opportunity to read a Shakespeare text in depth (King Lear? Measure for Measure? The Tempest?) and pair it with a "partner" play by another writer. For example, "Hamlet" is paired with Tourneur's "The Revenger's Tragedy". We'll focus on the many influences of the times in which both plays were written, in order to compare their styles, themes e.t.c. Don't worry – you will be ready for this. You may even enjoy it.....

Section B will allow us to study in depth one pre-1800 poetry text. We generally translate one of Chaucer's tales and analyse his (often rude) humour. But we sometimes study the impressively intelligent poets Donne or Milton – the man who makes us really care about the motives and fate of Adam and Eve.

You may not take copies of these texts into the exam room.

Assessment

Unit	Duration	Weighting	
		AS	A2
LT1	2 hours 30 minutes	60%	30%
LT2	Coursework – 3000 words	40%	20%
LT3	Coursework – 3000 words		20%
LT4	2 hours 30 minutes		30%

