



Sixth Form Subject Guide

ENGLISH LITERATURE

★★★ CAREERS RELATED TO STUDYING THIS SUBJECT

If you choose to study English Literature, you will develop comprehensive written and spoken communication skills, becoming adept at arguing a point, framing a narrative and analysing various levels of meaning. Thus, English Literature students can be found in most industries, filling a variety of roles – from editor to academic, or legal advisor to manager.

You could consider careers in media, publishing, journalism, teaching, advertising, marketing, public relations, public sector, law or business.

★★★ A LEVEL COURSE CONTENT

Through studying this course, you will increase your power of analysis and further your knowledge of the wonderful world of literature. You will study seven literary texts from the three genres of drama, poetry and prose as well as an unseen text for Paper 2.

The texts are taken from a range of time periods and will include both modern and pre-1900 texts, including Shakespeare. You will also develop the ability to express yourself in written and oral forms and to formulate opinions based on the ideas of others.

★★★ A LEVEL METHODS OF ASSESSMENT

There are four equally weighted, externally assessed examinations. There are no coursework components.

Paper 1: Drama & Poetry (25% weighting)

- You will study one play and one other collection of poetry.

Paper 2: Prose & unseen text (25% weighting)

- You will study prose text and will also answer on an unseen text (prose, poetry or drama).

Paper 3: Shakespeare & Drama (25% weighting)

- You will study one Shakespeare play and one other drama text.

Paper 4: Pre and Post 1900 Poetry & Prose (25% weighting)

- You will study one prose text and one collection of poetry, one will be pre 1900, and the other post 1900.

★★★ METHODS OF STUDY FOR A LEVEL

Strategies include group discussion (whole group, small group and pairs), close reading and annotation of texts and the use of audio/visual stimuli. You will also prepare presentations (individual, paired or small group) and will report back on your findings.

You will produce a lot of work independently. However, there are frequent opportunities to share ideas either prior to, during or after written assignments. You should expect to complete approximately additional hours of independent study outside of your lessons each week. This could include reading, research, essay writing or other activities.

For you to take full advantage of the course it is also recommended that you immerse yourself in the wider reading of any texts that interest, inspire or intrigue you (see the Discovery List for more information).

★★★ ENTRY REQUIREMENTS FOR A LEVEL

You should have achieved at least a Grade B in both English Language and Literature at IGCSE.

