

English Literature

General Information

English Literature is an exciting and rigorous course that allows you to access a wide range of texts in their different forms. Your personal response to what you have read is constantly encouraged as you learn how to analyse writers' linguistic choices and understand how the contexts in which texts are written influence their production.

Lessons offer you a variety of ways in which to access texts from discussion to drama and the more traditional form of essay writing. The texts on offer range from the sixteenth century to the modern day. Coursework gives you the opportunity to produce a re-creative writing response.

Outside of lessons English Literature offers a variety of theatre trips and, where relevant, trips abroad that enhance your understanding of what you are reading. For example, we have had an audience with Margaret Atwood, RSC workshops and visits to The Globe in London.

Entry requirements

You should have at least a grade 4 at GCSE English.

You should also meet the general college entry requirements for Advanced Level study. Please refer to the current Prospectus - advanced programmes, entry requirements.

In this subject, particular skills and aptitudes will be required, many of which will be demonstrated by students' GCSE profiles.

Entry requirements might be changed in light of curriculum reform.



English Literature

Advanced Level

Content overview and how you can prepare

Students study a minimum of eight texts, including at least two examples of each of the genres of prose, poetry and drama, to develop their ability to analyse and evaluate literary texts across a variety of genres and periods.

Component 1: Drama and poetry pre-1900

One exam lasting 2.5 hrs

There are two sections.

In Section 1:

Shakespeare, students study one Shakespeare play and answer two questions:

- Twelfth Night (Arden edition).

We begin the year with this text so if you have read it in advance or watched a production that's a great start!

In Section 2:

Drama and poetry pre-1900, students study one pre-1900 drama text and one pre-1900 poetry text and answer one question comparing the texts.

- Henrik Ibsen: A Doll's House
- John Milton: Paradise Lost Books 9 & 10

We don't study these until year two but don't let that stop you reading ahead!

Useful / common subject combinations

English Literature combines well with any other subject from Philosophy to Law.

Careers / HE information

The skills you acquire in English Literature are suitable for a range of careers and university courses including law, journalism and teaching.

Component 2: Comparative and contextual study

One exam lasting 2.5 hrs.

There are two questions.

- Dystopia
- Margaret Atwood: The Handmaid's Tale
- George Orwell: Nineteen Eighty-Four

We study these in January of year one. You need to know these books like the back of your hand so if you can read ahead go for it.

Any wider reading of dystopian novels is also hugely beneficial.

Component 03: Literature post-1900 NEA (or coursework)

There are two tasks:

- Close reading with commentary 1000 words.

We study poetry of conflict and provide you with an anthology. Best prep here is to revise all of the poetic terminology you learned for GCSE.

- Comparative essay 2000 words.

Here we compare two texts, a play and a novel. We will start this NEA towards the end of the first year. Oranges are not the Only Fruit by Jeanette Winterson & After Mrs Rochester by Polly Teale

QE