

ENGLISH LITERATURE (AQA)



INTRODUCTION

The English Department prepares you for Literature examinations at Advanced Level. This particular specification provides you with the opportunity to extend your experience of the variety and richness of English Literature and to practise attentive, sensitive reading and analysis. As the course is entirely literature based, a love of reading is an essential requirement. Please be aware that there is no English Language element in the specification, although it is essential that you are able to write well in order to achieve a grade C or above. Your teacher will give you advice about planning and structuring your essays but it is crucial that you acquire and use the appropriate language and critical terms for writing about literature.

SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

The Department adopts the school's expectations that students come to English with a minimum of a grade 7 at both Language and Literature GCSE. Moreover, we expect students to be natural, independent readers, with demonstrable ability and passion for the subject.

EXAM BOARD – AQA; Specification - English Literature: A (Specification code: 7711 & 7712)

MAIN TOPICS

- Love through the Ages: Shakespeare, Poetry and Prose.
- Texts in Shared Contexts: First World War and its Aftermath- Prose, Drama, Poetry.
- N.E.A. (Non-Examination Assessment)- 2 texts; 1 of which must be pre 1900.
- Note that N.E.A. is through coursework.

KEY SKILLS

The variety of assessment styles used, such as passaged-based questions, unseen material, single text questions, multiple text questions, open and closed book approaches, allows you to develop a wide range of skills, such as to read critically, analyse, evaluate and undertake independent research.

ASSESSMENT

You will be expected to write essays under timed conditions for examination practice. In September and November of Year 12, there are departmental tests which are used to measure your progress and indicate your suitability for the course. In addition, mock examinations will be held across all subjects in January of years 1 and 2 of the A Level course. You can expect one essay every two weeks.

N.B. N.E.A features only at A Level.

CAREER POSSIBILITIES

English A-Level is required for entry to read English at university but it is also of great benefit in communication and media courses as well as future employment. It is recognised as a suitable qualification to show competence to study at a higher level, so that it can be used like most A Levels, to meet the entrance requirements for a range of subjects, including Law, Accountancy, History, Philosophy and so forth. You should not think of it as limiting to one kind of work. English graduates enter a range of careers, for example, journalism, law, teaching, the universities, theatre, publishing, photography, the trade unions and even medicine.

