

# A Level English Literature

## What the course covers

This course will build on the foundation of studies students have undertaken at GCSE. It aims to encourage students to develop an interest in, and enjoyment of, English literature through reading widely, critically and independently, across time and genre, and through experiencing an extensive range of views about literature. Across the course, students will study texts both diachronically (produced across a very broad time period) and synchronically (produced within a clearly defined time period). The ultimate aim of the course is to encourage students to read texts from an analytical perspective; making links and developing ideas with originality in order to offer independent, informed personal responses.

The course is split into a 2 year delivery, with all external examinations at the end of year 2.

### Core content:

Love through the ages

Texts in shared contexts – WW1 and its aftermath

Independent critical study – texts across time

### Year 1 Outline:

Core content: Love through the ages – paper 2

Texts are reviewed each academic year, particularly the Shakespeare text in order to capitalise on any performances we can gain access to. The current provision has been:

Othello – Shakespeare

Pre 1900 Poetry collection – Poetry text

The Great Gatsby – Prose text

Non-exam assessment – Independent critical study

Students will begin to consider their options for the non-exam assessment in the summer term of their first year. The aim of this coursework element is to allow students to read widely and independently. There will be no 'set text' teaching, but students will experience a tutorial system of delivery, similar to University study.

### Year 2 Outline:

World War 1 and its aftermath – Paper 2

Independent critical study

Current text options:

Strange meeting – Susan Hill – Prose text

Scars upon my heart – WW1 Women's poetry anthology

My Boy Jack – David Haig – Drama text

The complete specification can be viewed at [www.aqa.org.uk](http://www.aqa.org.uk)

## What students can do with this course

This A Level course is considered a 'facilitating subject', which means it is seen as highly desirable by all Universities for any application for any course. English literature goes well with most subjects, but is particularly useful for any subject with a significant amount of extended writing, such as history, English language, politics, law, or RE. English literature is also often a useful counterpoint for students with two science based A Levels, as it demonstrates that they are well rounded. English literature is a subject which prioritises attention to detail, effective and complex communication and the ability to build sophisticated critical arguments, all of these skills are highly desirable for the workplace. English literature students often go onto careers in law, politics, media and education.

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## How this course is assessed

Paper 1: Love through the ages - 3 hours, 40% of A Level

Paper 2: Texts in shared contexts – Option 2A WW1 and its aftermath- 2 hours 30 minutes, 40% of A Level

Non-exam assessment: Independent critical study: Texts across time- 20% of A Level

## Entry requirements

All our course entry requirements are detailed in the Entry Requirements document located in the admissions section of our website.