



AS/A2 English Literature Course Outline

Overview

Students will undertake the AQA Syllabus B, which has qualities in common with the IB syllabus. Students will be expected to read and evaluate a range of texts chosen by theme and genre. They will develop knowledge and awareness of their own literary heritage and be introduced to other cultures and modes of thought through their study. They will also practise analysing unseen passages and poems in order to develop their skills in literary criticism. They will be asked to read carefully, in a considered and informed way. They will be expected to engage in spoken and written tasks designed to improve their ability to respond in a structured, logical and thoughtful manner. They will be encouraged to read beyond the confines of the course and to keep a Reading Journal in which they record their thoughts and responses.

Course Structure and Content

AS Level (First Year)

Students will study both classic and modern prose and poetry in preparation for final examinations. They will study two units for AS Level, and a further two Units for A2

Unit 1: Aspects of Narrative

Students will study four texts; two will be prose and two poetry. Prose will comprise texts written both pre and post 1990. Poets studied will be chosen from an Anthology, issued by the exam board, containing poets from 1800 to 1945.

Unit 2: Dramatic Genres

Students will study two plays within the genre of tragedy. At least one will be a Shakespeare play. They will produce a portfolio of two pieces of coursework.

- The first piece will be on an aspect of dramatic/tragic genre with regard to a Shakespeare play, and will be 1200 to 1500 words in length.
- The second piece will be on an aspect of dramatic /tragic genre with regard to another play, and will be 1200 to 1500 words in length.

Unit 1 will be assessed through a 2 hour open-book examination

Unit 2 will be assessed through the coursework, internally assessed and subject to external moderation.

A2 Level (Second Year)

Unit 3 will develop ideas on the significance of genre and Unit 4 will study a range of texts and examine different ways of reading them, applying critical ideas with discrimination.

Unit 3: Genre

Students will study either *Elements of the Gothic* OR *Elements of the Pastoral*. They will be required to study a minimum of three texts, one of which will be taken from 1300 to 1800.

Unit 4: Further and Independent reading

Students will study at least three texts, one of which will be a pre-released anthology of critical writing. They will be expected to produce a portfolio of two pieces of written coursework, one of which may be re-creative.

Assessment

Unit 3 will be assessed through a 2 hour closed book examination.

Unit 4 will be assessed through the portfolio, again subject to external moderation.

Assessment Objectives

Having followed the English Literature course students should be able to demonstrate:

- an ability to respond in a personal and considered way to a variety of texts
- an ability to express themselves with clarity, coherence, conciseness and precision
- a command of the language appropriate for the study of literature and an appreciation of effective register and style.
- a familiarity with aspects of the literary heritage
- knowledge of the individual works studied and the relationships between groups of works studied
- an ability to comment on the language , content, structure, meaning and significance of writing studied
- awareness of the effects of structure , technique and style employed by authors
- an ability to structure arguments in a sustained and logical way, and to support them with precise and relevant examples.

Entry Qualifications

A grade C or above in English/English Literature at GCSE is required.

Career Prospects

Students who complete the course will be well prepared for specialist Literature courses at university or for diverse courses or careers in a many fields, for example, drama, media, psychology, philosophy, politics, business and education.