

AS/A2 Level ENGLISH LITERATURE

Course Guide

Level 3 Two-year course



2010/11

This course will suit those who enjoy a wide range of reading, and who like to consider writers' techniques.

Subject introduction

English Literature is a course designed to encourage students to develop their interest in and enjoyment of literary study through reading widely and critically. It enables them to develop as autonomous critics of literary texts reading across centuries, styles of writing, genres and gender. They should, by the end, be able to appraise different views of the texts and appreciate the significance of historical and cultural influences upon readers and writers.

Year 1 study outline

This year consists of two modules, one of which includes coursework.

Module 1: Texts in Context

You will study texts from one of the following:

- Victorian Literature
- World War One Literature
- The Struggle for Identity in Modern Literature

You will answer 2 questions in a 2-hour examination. You may take your books into the exam.

Module 2: Creative Study – Prose and Drama

You will produce two pieces of coursework comprising 2,000-2,500 words in total.

1. An informed response to the prose text, which may be a recreative piece of writing
2. A critical response to the drama text

Year 2 study outline

This year consists of two further modules, one of which involves coursework.

Module 3: Reading for Meaning

You will study texts on the theme of "Love through the ages"

SEE WHAT'S NEXT

There will be a 2½ hour examination, in which you will answer a question involving unprepared extracts and wider reading on the theme.

You may not take your books into the exam.

Module 4: Extended Essay and Shakespeare Study

You will study three texts; two from a genre of your choice, plus a Shakespeare play. There is one piece of coursework of 3,000 words, comparing the three texts.

Methods of study

You will experience a range of different teaching and learning styles from small group to whole class discussion, presentations both in a group and as an individual.

You will be encouraged to make notes, improve your close reading skills and develop your essay writing style for both examinations and coursework. Above all you will be asked to read widely and closely and bring your reading to bear on the texts studied in class.

Special features

Theatre visits are arranged so that you can see the plays you are studying on the stage. This will help you develop a critical sense of different approaches to the text. Visiting speakers are also regularly invited to the College.

Subject combinations and careers

English Literature combines well with a range of subjects: History, Philosophy, Media Studies, Film Studies, Art, Psychology, Sociology, Theatre Studies and Performance Studies.

Studying Literature at University on its own or in combination with other subjects can lead to careers in publishing, the media, journalism, the creative arts, arts administration, teaching, advertising and marketing.

Methods of assessment

AS & A2 – 30% coursework, 70% exams.