



Edexcel A Level English Literature

“A classic is a book that has never finished saying what it has to say.” - Italo Calvino

Subject Information

We will be studying and analysing some of the great works of English literature. A Level Literature moves beyond GCSE English Literature in several key ways. Firstly, movements of literary criticism are more important, and you will learn how to read literature from a feminist perspective, or a Marxist perspective, for example. Secondly, there is much more emphasis on wider reading and understanding how literature from different time periods looked at key ideas. Lastly, your own opinion about what we are reading becomes crucial and you will debate and make up your own mind about texts. The ambiguities found in works will be delved into, and these classics may well find something new to say through you.

Career Pathways

An A Level in English Literature provides an important foundation for any degree or career involving excellent written communication, research and analytical skills. It will open up many careers including Journalism, Teaching, Law, Academia, Media, Advertising, Marketing, Politics and the Performing Arts.

Course Content

Exam Papers	Exam Time	Total Marks
Paper 1: Drama A. Shakespeare – Othello B. Other Drama – A Streetcar Named Desire	2 hours 15 minutes	60
Paper 2: Prose A. Science and Society - The Handmaid’s Tale and Frankenstein	1 hour 15 minutes	40
Paper 3: Poetry A. Post-2000 Poetry B. The Romantics	2 hours 15 minutes	60
NEA (Coursework) Comparison between two texts of your choice	N/A	40

Entry Requirements: Grade 5 or above in English Literature or Language. Grade 6 or above in English Literature is preferred.

Complementary subjects: Ethics and Philosophy, History, Politics, Psychology, English Language and Media.

Excellence in thinking

How to Read Literature Like a Professor, Thomas C. Foster; The Connell Guides, various authors; How Fictions Works, James Wood; www.Massolit.io