

ENGLISH LITERATURE

What does this qualification cover?

By studying **A-Level English Literature B**, you will approach the reading and study of canonical texts through the lens of genre and theory. Studying prose, poetry and drama you will be encouraged to develop analytical skills across the full range of texts and deepen your understanding of the contexts in which they were created. You will build a wide range of skills by developing a sense of opinion and the ability to thoroughly discuss and argue your point of view. By taking part in seminar-style lessons, you will develop the ability to read critically, analyse, evaluate and undertake independent research, whilst fostering a love for the subject.

Throughout A-Level, you will explore – and be assessed on – three elements:

- Paper 1 - Aspects of Tragedy
- Paper 2 - Elements of Political and Social Protest Writing
- Non-exam Assessment - Theory and Independence

Both exams explore texts within the genre selected and will require you to demonstrate a full knowledge of the text and context surrounding it.

Course breakdown and weightings

Aspects of Tragedy

Written exam: 2 hours
30 minutes
Closed book
75 marks
40% of A Level

+

Elements of Political and Social Protest Writing

Written exam: 3 hours
Open book
75 marks
40% of A Level

+

Non-exam Assessment - Theory and Independence

Two essays of 1250–1500 words, each responding to a different text and linking to a different aspect of the Critical anthology.
50 marks
20% of A-level
Assessed by teachers moderated by AQA

What's included

William Shakespeare: *Othello*

Thomas Hardy: *Tess of the d'Urbervilles*

Arthur Miller: *Death of a Salesman*

Margaret Atwood: *The Handmaid's Tale*

William Blake: 'Songs of Innocence and Experience'

Khaled Hosseini: *The Kite Runner*

Aspects of Tragedy

Within this module, you will explore the downfalls of both traditional and modern tragic heroes/heroines: characters who are flawed in some way, who suffer and cause suffering to others. Blighted by disaster, you will develop an understanding of Othello, Tess of the d'Urbervilles and others: debating whether they truly deserved their final justice, or whether they were just victims of their contemporary societies. You will answer the fundamental questions: what did the writer's wish to say? How could the characters' fates have been different?

Political and Social Protest Writing

Within this module, you will explore a range of texts with issues of power and powerlessness at their core. All set texts foreground oppression and domination and they all look at the cultures we live in, and have lived in, over time. They open your eyes to the oppression within the world to this very day.



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Tragedy ['trædʒɪdɪ]
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Key Features

You will develop and enhance skills such as:

- Critical analysis,
- Analytical thinking,
- Perceptive understanding,
- Independent working,
- Verbal and written communication,
- Sophisticated expression when articulating knowledge,
- Negotiation and teamwork,
- Imagination and creativity,
- Time management and organisation.

Links to workplace

It helps provide numerous opportunities in the creative industry and public sector alike.

Teaching you to develop an opinion, communicate this clearly and argue succinctly is a defining skill for many courses at university and future roles. Some of which include:

- Barrister,
- Public relations officer,
- Journalist,
- Proof-reader,
- Teacher,
- Broadcaster,
- Author,
- Technical writer,
- TV Director,
- Medical secretary,
- Publisher.