



Introduction to:
A-Level English Literature
2022-24



English Literature

A-Level

Exam Board: WJEC Eduqas

What is the course about?

The English Literature A-Level will expose you to a range of literary texts throughout history, stretching from Shakespeare and the Renaissance to Carol Ann Duffy and Post-Modernism. You'll learn about the ways that Literature reflects contemporary values and societies; how it has changed and developed as the world changes, and even how it can be an important catalyst for change itself.

What skills will I gain?

You will be encouraged to take part in discussions and debates which will expand your ability to evaluate information and ideas. In lessons, you will critique texts and evaluate how they reflect contextual factors, which will broaden your outlook on our society today. As part of this, you will learn about different literary theories and how they apply not only to literature, but to politics, history and philosophy. Your writing will develop to a more academic style, preparing you well for higher education and independent, extended writing.

Why study English Literature?

Literature has always been a highly regarded, academic subject largely due to its ability to develop critical thinkers. It is a very versatile subject and many people go on to higher education to study and have careers in English Literature and/or Language, History, Media, Law, Journalism, Politics, Philosophy, Marketing and many more.

How is this course assessed?

80% of this qualification is assessed through 3 exams at the end of your A2 year. The remaining 20% is a non-examination assessment, taking the form of an extended, independent essay comparing two literary texts.

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Content

Component 1: Poetry

Open book examination (2 hours)

Section A:

William Blake: *Poems Selected by Patti Smith* (Vintage)

Section B:

Philip Larkin: *The Whitsun Weddings* (Faber) & Carol Ann Duffy: *Mean Time* (Picador)

Component 2: Prose

Closed book examination (2 hours)

Section A:

William Shakespeare: *The Tempest*

Section B:

John Webster: *The Duchess of Malfi* (Methuen) & Tennessee Williams: *A Streetcar Named Desire* (Penguin Modern Classics)

Component 3: Unseen Texts

Unseen examination (2 hours)

Section A:

Unseen Prose: analyse an extract from an unseen novel and use the supporting extracts which follow the passage to help you consider contexts and different interpretations. Choice of two extracts from different historical periods.

Section B:

Unseen Poetry: close analyse an unseen poem. Choice of two poems.

Component 4: Prose Study

Non-examination component worth 20%

One pre-2000 literary text (*Jane Eyre*) and one post-2000 literary text.

Advisory word count: 2500-3500 words (including quotations).

Comparative essay on a question of your own devising.

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2022 Summer Tasks

It is expected that students complete the set tasks over the summer in preparation for beginning the course. These tasks will give students an invaluable head start to the year.

1. Read *Jane Eyre* (any edition)
2. Create a summary of each chapter of *Jane Eyre*. This can be in any format: PowerPoint, table/grid, notes, poster etc.
3. Research the following topics (linked to key themes in *Jane Eyre*) and prepare your findings in a format of your own choice (as above):
 - Women in Victorian society
 - Social class
 - Race and the 'other'

Helpful resources:

<https://www.bl.uk/romantics-and-victorians/videos/jane-eyre-the-role-of-women>

<https://www.bl.uk/romantics-and-victorians/articles/jane-eyre-and-the-19th-century-woman>

<https://www.bl.uk/romantics-and-victorians/articles/gender-roles-in-the-19th-century>

<https://www.bl.uk/romantics-and-victorians/articles/exoticism-in-19th-century-literature>

<https://www.bl.uk/romantics-and-victorians/articles/the-figure-of-bertha-mason>

'The Madwoman in the Attic' – Sandra Gilbert and Susan Gubar

<https://www.bl.uk/romantics-and-victorians/videos/the-governess>

https://www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/victorians/middle_classes_01.shtml

<https://www.bl.uk/victorian-britain/articles/the-working-classes-and-the-poor>

4. Students should also purchase their own copies of the set texts for annotations and note-taking in class: (*recommended editions*)

Charlotte Bronte: *Jane Eyre* (Penguin Classics)

William Shakespeare: *The Tempest* (any edition)

John Webster: *The Duchess of Malfi* (Methuen)

Tennessee Williams: *A Streetcar Named Desire* (Penguin Modern Classics)

William Blake: *Poems Selected by Patti Smith* (Vintage)

Carol Ann Duffy, *Mean Time* (Picador)

Philip Larkin: *The Whitsun Weddings* (Faber)

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Summer Tasks

Post-2000 reading suggestions

Small Island by Andrea Levy

Life After Life by Kate Atkinson

A Week in December by Sebastian Faulks

Atonement by Ian McEwan

No Country for Old Men by Cormac McCarthy

Never Let Me Go by Kazuo Ishiguro

Affinity by Sarah Waters

If Nobody Speaks of Remarkable Things by Jon McGregor

The Power by Naomi Alderman

A Thousand Splendid Suns by Khaled Hosseini

The Miniaturist by Jessie Burton

Pre-2000 reading suggestions

The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood

Tess of the D'Urbervilles by Thomas Hardy

Wuthering Heights by Emily Brontë

The Bell Jar by Sylvia Plath

Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen

Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man by James Joyce

The Mill on the Floss by George Eliot

To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee

One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest by Ken Kesey

Lady Chatterley's Lover by D.H. Lawrence

Wide Sargasso Sea by Jean Rhys

The Color Purple by Alice Walker

The Picture of Dorian Grey by Oscar Wilde