

AS/A2 ENGLISH LITERATURE

Entry requirements:

Grade C or above in English and English Literature GCSEs

Examination board:

AQA Specification B

Teachers:

J. Everitt, L. Boulter, P. Henderson, R. Kapadia, C. Mackie

Timetable organisation

All English AS / A2 Specifications are taught by pairs of teachers who cover the syllabus between them in five lessons per week. Teaching in English is of the highest quality with every effort made to support, engage and challenge all students. It is possible to study English Language AS/A2 and English Literature AS/A2 as discrete subjects. It is not possible to study the Joint English Language and Literature specification with either of the other two courses. Students are expected to complete the AS course before moving into A2. Students take all AS/A2 modules in the June session.

Main Syllabus areas

At AS, Unit 1 will introduce candidates to the concept of narrative in the ways in which literary texts work, involving many different aspects of literary representation. Four texts must be studied: two post 1990 novels together with two narrative poems written between 1800-1945. All texts will be selected from a prescribed list.

Unit 2 will introduce candidates to aspects of drama, at least two plays within the dramatic genre of tragedy. One of the plays must be by Shakespeare. This is the coursework module with students producing two pieces, each 1,200 – 1500 words in length.

At A2, Unit 3 teaches candidates to develop ideas on the significance of genre. Texts will be grouped within the categories: Elements of the Gothic and Elements of the Pastoral. Candidates will study a minimum of three texts from one category. At least one of these texts must be taken from the groups labelled 1300-1800

Main Syllabus area (cont..)

In Unit 4, as coursework, candidates will study at least three texts, one of which will be a pre-released anthology of critical writing. They will identify different ways of reading texts and apply critical ideas with discrimination to literary texts, producing two separate pieces.

Method of assessment

Students will be assessed in each year of the course through a written examination comprising 60% of the mark, and coursework comprising 40%.

Qualities required

You must enjoy reading and have a genuine interest in literature of all styles and periods, with a willingness to extend and develop your range. You will need well established writing skills, an open mind and a willingness to enter into debate and discussion. You will need to be able to manage a demanding workload.

Links with other subjects

English Literature provides an excellent complement to Arts, Performing Arts and Social Sciences. It is frequently studied together with Mathematics. It provides a refreshing contrast with science-based subjects. As a discipline which demands rigorous analytical and fluent communicative skills, it enhances all Post 16 study.

Career prospects

This course is particularly suitable for those students who wish to study English, Linguistics or English Studies in Higher Education. It offers a wide range of options with or without a degree: Law, Accountancy, Media, Banking, Local Government, Civil Service, Personnel / Human Resources, Journalism – and Teaching.

Extension and enrichment opportunities

Conferences, Lectures, University Master Classes, Visiting Speakers, Workshops.