

# AS Level and A-Level English Literature

**Entry Requirements:** GCSE 6 or above in English Literature and 5 in English Language.

**Exam Board:** AQA

**Subject Leader:** Mrs C Law [claw@taptonschoool.co.uk](mailto:claw@taptonschoool.co.uk)

## **Main Syllabus Area**

**At AS Level**, students will focus on Literary Genres, studying Aspects of Tragedy. Four texts must be studied: one Shakespeare play, one other drama text, one prose text and one selection of poetry. All texts will be selected from a prescribed list.

**At A-Level**, students will study Literary Genres; students at Tapton are studying Aspects of Tragedy. Students will write about *Othello*, *Death of a Salesman* and selected poems from Keats. The second paper is Text and Genres and students will be studying Political and Social Protest writing. Students will study *A Doll's House*, Blake's poetry and *The Kite Runner*. The NEA comprises of two essays linking to the Critical Anthology – one essay looking at a poetry text and one prose. These texts can be the student's own choice of texts.

## **Method of Assessment**

**AS-Level:** Students will be assessed by two written examinations, each worth 50% of the final AS grade. Each examination lasts for 1 hour and 30 minutes and comprises of two distinct tasks.

**A-Level:** Students will be assessed by two written examinations, each worth 40% of the final A-level grade and a Non-Examined Assessment component worth 20%. The first examination is 2 hours 30 minutes and comprises three distinct tasks. The second examination is 3 hours and again there are three distinct tasks.

## **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, the Performing Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences. It provides a refreshing contrast with maths and 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, Theatre visits.

## **English Literature reading list:**

### **Reading (contemporary):**

A Thousand Splendid Suns by Khalid Hosseini

The Mountains Echoed by Khalid Hosseini  
The Book Thief by Marcus Zusak  
Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine by Gail Honeyman  
Americanah by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie  
Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens  
Miss Benson's Beetle by Rachel Joyce  
The 100-Year-Old Man Who Climbed Out Of The Window And Was Never Seen Again by Jonas Jonasson  
Anxious People by Fredrik Backman  
The Time Traveller's Wife by Audrey Niffenegger  
The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry by Rachel Joyce  
The Rosie Project by Graeme Simsion  
Oryx and Crake (series) by Margaret Atwood  
Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus  
Circe by Madeline Miller  
I Am Pilgrim by Terry Hayes  
Captain Corelli's Mandolin by Louis de Bernieres  
The Satsuma Complex by Bob Mortimer  
A Fine Balance by Rohinton Mistry  
The Seven Deaths of Evelyn Hardcastle by Stuart Turton  
Small Things Like These by Claire Keegan  
Generosity by Richard Powers  
One Day by David Nicholls  
Sweet Sorrow by David Nicholls  
Starter for Ten by David Nicholls  
Clara and the Sun by Kazuo Ishiguru  
We're All Completely Beside Ourselves by Karen Joy Fowler  
All The Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr  
The Dictionary of Lost Words by Pip Williams  
Small Island by Andrea Levy  
Time's Arrow by M Amis  
The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood  
Regeneration by P Barker  
Double Indemnity by J. M Cain  
In Cold Blood by T Capote  
The True History of the Kelly Gang by P Carey  
What a Carve Up by J Coe  
Underworld by Don DeLillo

Birdsong by Sebastian Faulks

Fever Pitch by Nick Hornby

The Road by C McCarthy

White Teeth by Zadie Smith

### **Reading (Classics):**

Rebecca by Daphne Du Maurier

Dracula by Bram Stoker

Frankenstein by Mary Shelley

Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austin

Emma by Jane Austin

Northanger Abbey by Jane Austin

Wuthering Heights by Emily Bronte  
Saturday Night, Sunday Morning by Alan Sillitoe  
Katherine Mansfield short stories  
The Colour Purple by Alice Walker  
A Clockwork Orange by Anthony Burgess  
Things Fall Apart by Chinua Achebe  
Beloved by Toni Morrison  
The Bloody Chamber by Angela Carter  
The Heart of Darkness by J Conrad  
Invisible Man by R Ellison  
The Great Gatsby by F. S. Fitzgerald  
A Passage to India by E. M. Forster  
One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest by K Kessey  
Enduring Love by Ian McEwan  
Atonement by Ian McEwan  
The Bell Jar by Sylvia Plath  
Picture of Dorian Grey by Oscar Wilde  
Tess of the D'Urbervilles by Thomas Hardy  
The Beginning of Spring by Penelope Fitzgerald  
Room With A View by E. M. Forster  
A Single Man by Christopher Isherwood

**Non-fiction:**

The Penguin Lessons by Tom Michell  
A Short History of Nearly Everything by Bill Bryson  
The Long Walk to Freedom by Nelson Mandela  
Green Lights by Matthew McConaughey  
Straight Outta Crawley by Romesh Ranganathan  
How to be a Woman by Caitlin Moran  
What About Men? by Caitlin Moran  
I'm Glad My Mom Died by Jeanette McCurdy  
Oranges Are Not The Only Fruit by J Winterson  
The Billion Dollar Spy by David E. Hoffman  
The Escape Artist: The Man Who Broke Out of Auschwitz to Warn The World by Jonathan Freedland  
Why I'm No Longer Talking To White People About Race by Reni Eddo-Lodge

Stuart: A Life Backwards by Alexander Masters  
A Year Living Biblically by A. J. Jacobs  
[Are You Dave Gorman? By Dave Gorman](#)

**Y12**

'A Little History of English Literature ' John Sutherland

**Y13**

'Tragedy' and / or 'Sweet Violence: the Idea of the Tragic' both by Terry Eagleton

**Independent Study**

**Complete and mark past papers using resources from the exam board**

**websites:** <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/a-level/english-7717/assessment-resources?secondaryResourceType=Question+papers%3BMark+schemes>

**English and Media Magazine**

<https://www.englishandmedia.co.uk/e-magazine/emag-login>

Username: TaptonEnglish      Password: Darwin

**Listening: list of recommended regular podcasts, programmes**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/598SVYJ2smP8qJlpH29y7Vj/podcasts>