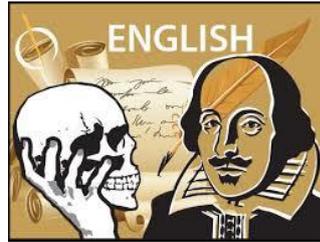


A Level English Literature B FAQs



What's the difference between A Level English Literature and A Level English Language and Literature?

Both subjects are essay-based. Unlike English Lit, A level English Language and Literature has a creative writing element that you will either find very attractive or potentially off-putting. In addition, you will only study fictional texts for the A Level Literature course while English Lang. and Lit. requires the analysis of fictional and non-fictional material. If you prefer not to study non-fiction text types, then you are probably more suited to the traditional Literature A Level course.

Is this a one or two-year course?

Students take the two-year A Level course – we don't offer the one year AS Level.

Will I enjoy the course?

You will enjoy it if...

- You have a genuine interest in reading and writing about a range of literary texts from different genres.
- You have an inquiring mind.
- You like discussing texts in small groups or as a class.
- You find writing analytical essays easy / rewarding.
- If you haven't got a grade 6 or higher in English / English Lit at GCSE you may find you struggle with the demands on your vocabulary and writing, at least at the start of the course.

What sort of work is involved in lessons?

Reading, discussing and writing are key. You will be expected not just to read, but to develop the skill of thinking critically about what you read and of analysing texts to work out how the author's use of situation and language create powerful impressions. You will need to explore your own emotional response to writing and be able to discuss it, in class and through your own writing, and to argue constructively for your point of view.

What sort of work is involved outside of lessons?

You will be expected to think independently and to develop your own voice, and you will be encouraged to expand your knowledge outside of the classroom through reading and through engaging with a wide range of Literature texts.

What kind of texts will I study?

You will study a Shakespeare play, and a modern play, novels, and poetry. Some example texts from this year are: Shakespeare's 'Othello', 'When Will There Be Good News?' by Kate Atkinson and 'The Murder of Roger Ackroyd' by Agatha Christie.

What is the coursework element of the course?

The coursework element is known as the NEA and it involves personal reading alongside the study of a Critical Anthology. Students study two texts and the Critical Anthology and produce two essays of 1250-1500 words each, each essay responding to a different text and linking to a different aspect of the Critical Anthology. NEA counts for 20% of your A Level grade.

What can you do with an English Literature A Level?

English Literature is a highly respected A level. As well as an English Literature degree itself, students of Literature might go on to study for University degrees in a range of subjects including: History, Sociology, Psychology, Drama and Theatre Studies and Law. Even Medical Schools value the subject highly. It is also very effective in developing transferrable skills such as interpretive abilities, communication, an understanding of how language works, close analysis, and the ability to construct a well-argued case. These are highly valued in a range of graduate careers such as Teaching, Business and Finance, Journalism, Publishing – even Politics.

Is there a textbook that can support the learning of this course?

Yes. The course is the Literature B specification and here is a link– <https://www.amazon.co.uk/Level-English-Literature-Student-Book/dp/1107468027>

What is the exam board for A level English Literature?

AQA and the link to their website is:

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/as-and-a-level/english-literature-b-7716-7717/subject-content-a-level>

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