

English Literature

Examination Board: AQA (Literature B)

Staff Lead

R Cohen, BA (Hons), PGCE

Why Study English Language?

Do you like stories with interesting plots or characters, including Shakespeare's plays? Do you enjoy reading a variety of literary texts from different time periods and contexts? Are you interested in the ways writers create meanings in texts through a range of techniques? If you have answered 'yes' to these questions, then English Literature could be the A level for you.

Clearly to study English at A level, you can expect to undertake a fair amount of reading so an enjoyment of this is essential. An interest in analysing the way writers craft / shape narratives is also important. You will build on skills from GCSE – both analytical and essay writing – and study the way language and structural methods function in texts. In addition, you will develop an understanding of how and why writers conform to (or subvert) genre conventions, with a particular focus on the genres of crime and tragedy. You

will read, discuss, evaluate, analyse a range of Literature from novels to poetry to drama and the NEA component is a great opportunity to extend your knowledge and understanding in an area of your choice as well as gain a knowledge of critical literary theory.

Career Paths & Degree Courses

English Literature A level provides a useful foundation for degree courses in a wide variety of subjects. Various careers are available to students of this subject, including journalism, law and publishing.

Requirements

At least five 9-4 grades at GCSE, with a minimum average grade score of 4.5. At least one grade 5 and one grade 6 (or higher) in either English Language and English Literature GCSE.

Recommended: Grade 6 or higher in both GCSE English Language and English Literature.

Year 12 Study	Year 13 Study
<p>Written Paper: Aspects of tragedy OR Aspects of Comedy (2 hour 30 minutes closed book exam - 40% of A level) Study of three texts: one Shakespeare text; a second drama text and one further text, of which one must be written pre-1900.</p> <p>NEA (Coursework - 20% of A Level) Study of two texts: one poetry and one prose text, informed by study of the Critical Anthology.</p> <p>Two essays of 1250–1500 words, each responding to a different text and linking to a different aspect of the Critical anthology.</p> <p>One essay can be re-creative. The re-creative piece will be accompanied by a commentary.</p>	<p>Continue with NEA</p> <p>Written Paper: Elements of crime writing OR Elements of political and social protest writing (3 hour exam - 40% of A Level)</p> <p>Study of three texts: one post-2000 prose text; one poetry and one further text, one of which must be written pre-1900.</p>