

English Literature OCR

Why Study English Literature?

The study of English Literature at A Level involves:

- psychological exploration of characters;
- historical understanding of social and political contexts;
- the development of critical and analytical thinking and expression;
- the development of independence, interdependence and consideration of the human condition;
- imaginative and creative opportunities.

English is a popular and competitive university option. Despite it being a highly competitive degree-level subject, students in recent years have successfully gained places at top universities including Oxford.

An A Level in English Literature can take you on to a wealth of career paths, employers are increasingly looking for individuals with clear critical and analytical thinking skills.

Future opportunities may involve: digital copywriter, editor, Law, journalism, advertising, marketing, PR, HR, social media content manager, etc. Additionally, MI5, the Police force and GCHQ actively recruit English Literature students for their high level of analytical processing ability.

Entry Requirements

A Level English students should be interested readers, adventurous communicators and enthusiastic experimenters. Intellectual curiosity, strong literacy skills and top grades at GCSE will be advantageous.

What is Involved?

We will follow OCR's excellent specification. There are two examined components and one piece of non-examined assessment to complete. Students will explore pre-1900 drama and poetry texts, as well as undertaking a comparative and critical study of thematically-linked core texts and previously unseen extracts.

The non-examined assessment component requires candidates to study three texts from across the genres of poetry, drama and prose. One task offers a choice between a critical piece and a recreative piece with a commentary; the other is a 'linked texts' essay focusing on connections and comparisons between two texts.

As well as expert teaching and fascinating lessons, the department offers plentiful enrichment opportunities such as conferences, theatre trips, visiting authors and literary house parties.

