

ENGLISH LITERATURE

A Level

COURSE CONTENT

English Literature is a vibrant and stimulating course, which immerses students in a wide range of text-types and literary periods, spanning from Shakespeare in the 17th Century to 20th and 21st century texts. With this comes the analytical and critical study of some of the most acclaimed texts in history. From Othello to Tess of the d'Urbervilles to Oliver Twist; there really is a genre and writing style to excite everyone.

The course content is split into two genre explorations: Aspects of Tragedy and Elements of Crime Writing. Both of which allow students to take an analytical and critical approach to the texts, drawing on literary theories and philosophy. The course affords students with the opportunity to delve beyond the texts and to appreciate the social/historical contexts and wider ideological implications. A-Level English Literature provides students with the opportunity to develop and voice their opinions, both in written essays and in class discussion.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Students are assessed in two external written exams of equal weightings, one open-book and the other closed. These are complimented by a piece of non-exam assessment: Theory and Independence. This involves two 1250-1500 essays responding to poetry and prose and linking these ideas with critical theory.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR OR ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Students are afforded the opportunity to develop their essay writing skills through academic writing masterclasses, alongside the opportunity to deepen their understanding of the texts through after-school screenings of core texts in film/television adaptations.

FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES

Literature A-Level is well respected and held in high regard by universities. The course enables students to develop their written and verbal communication skills; both invaluable when applying for university, jobs and attending interviews. The study of English Literature lends itself to the study of English, Education, Media, Film and History at degree level.

PRIOR KNOWLEDGE

Useful: Understanding of conventions of Tragedy.

Desirable: Understanding of the social/historical context of Shakespeare.

Essential: Understanding of conventions of poetry, prose and plays.

High command of the written word and emerging essay writing skills.

