Integrity
Curiosity
Respect



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A LEVEL

English Literature

WHAT IS ENGLISH LITERATURE?

English Literature is the study and appreciation of the creative use of the written word over time - including poetry, novels, novellas, and plays. Students develop an imaginative understanding of an authors' intentions and meanings by studying a wide range of texts across the Romantic era, the Renaissance, the Movement era, and our current Postmodern era.

Literature is an engaging subject which allows students to use their own experiences to come up with focused and intellectual readings of many classic texts. An author's implied intention with the execution of their chosen narratives, themes, and ideas is carefully considered alongside a study of relevant context. Students apply their analysis and evaluation to engage critically and creatively, often increasing their own sense of historical place and empathy within the process.

WHY STUDENTS CHOOSE THIS COURSE

Those that enjoy reading and writing can gain inspiration – and the development of evaluative skills - from studying English Literature at the comprehensive and advanced A Level stage. A level Literature takes on some of the skills that are developed during GCSE – analysing quotes, in-depth reading, structuring an argument, thinking creatively - and pushes them further so that a student can gain confidence and enjoyment from the challenge of reading classic texts at A Level. The skills that develop over the course of the qualification also apply with other subjects including History, Sociology, Law and Psychology. Students tend to enjoy the creative freedom of the subject, the study of the human condition as unchanging, the scandalous lives of the poets and writers we look at.

WHAT STUDENTS CAN DO WITH THIS COURSE

English Literature is appreciated by a wide range of occupations and job sectors as it displays independent thought, empathy, the ability to analyse critically, and the capability to articulate ideas in a focused and detailed manners.

Job sectors including Law, Media and Publishing would be possibilities in the future, amongst others, and one could pursue a degree in Literature or use the A level to gain access to other valuable degrees; such as law conversion, medicine, teaching, and journalism.

HOW THIS COURSE IS ASSESSED

The course has three examinations and one piece of non-examined assessment; students can display their ability to analyse and interpret writing through the three examinations and then display their own passion and interests in reading and writing through the coursework.

The course is structured as follows:
Paper One - Drama, 2 hour 15 mins, 30% of qualification, open text exam
Paper Two - Prose, 1 hour 15 mins, 20% of qualification, open text exam
Paper Three - Poetry, 2 hour 15 mins, 30% of qualification, open text exam
Coursework (NEA) – Comparison of two texts, 20% of qualification

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

All our course entry requirements are detailed in the Entry Requirements document located in the admissions section of our website.

FURTHER READING

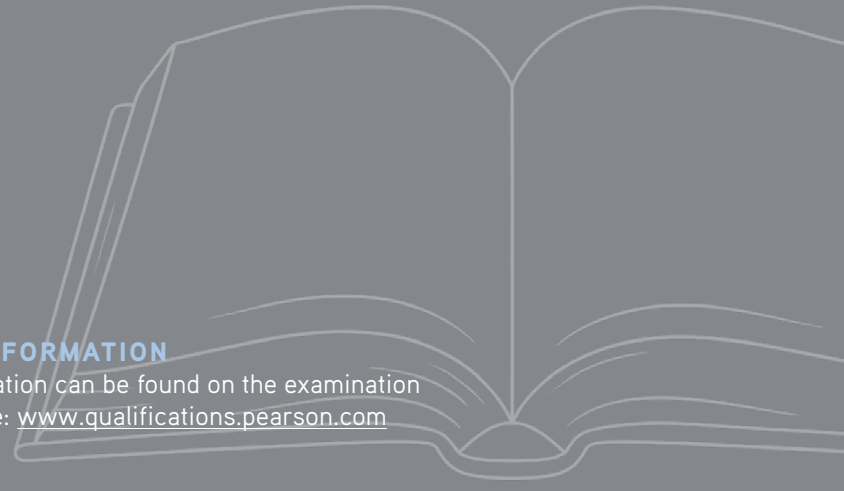
- Frankenstein, Mary Shelley
- Never Let Me Go, Kazuo Ishiguro
- The Less Deceived Poetry Collection, Philip Larkin

What the course covers

We study a wide range of texts over the course of the two years which culminate in three exams: the study of Drama includes the Shakespearean tragedy, 'Hamlet', alongside a contemporary of Shakespeare's work, Marlowe's 'Doctor Faustus.' We also study two pieces of Prose – Mary Shelley's 'Frankenstein' and Kazuo Ishiguro's 'Never Let Me Go' - and we look at poetry with Philip Larkin and the contemporary collection Poems of the Decade by a range of poets. Our focus on American literature as a coursework option also includes the study of F Scott Fitzgerald's 'The Great Gatsby.'

The course is wide-ranging and clear to follow. Each paper has a specific chronological focus, making revision and studying accessible and straightforward. The texts are also very versatile, as we appreciate writing from different forms and from different genres. Students leave the course with both advanced knowledge and an appreciation and understanding of the chronology of English Literature. Students are also able to study comparative texts which align with Fitzgerald's 'The Great Gatsby' for their coursework unit. This allows them to push their own creativity in considering any American texts which focus on similar themes of gender, class, the American Dream, and illusion versus reality. This is a very exciting area of the course: the comparative thematic focus results in a longform essay which is worth 20% of your final mark.

Studying English Literature at A Level is a rigorous yet exciting journey which enables young people to engage with authors from the past whose works still ring true and resonate today. The texts we read act as portals of growth and transformation: not simply for our comparison of the past and the present but also for the state of the human condition – in fictional characters and what we recognise of these fictional characters in ourselves.



FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information can be found on the examination board's website: www.qualifications.pearson.com