

What is English Literature?

English Literature is the study and appreciation of all forms of literature including poetry, fictional novels and plays. Within the subject, students will develop awareness and understanding of authors' intentions and meanings by studying a wide range of texts and analysing the effects of their writing.

Literature is an engaging subject which allows students to develop their own knowledge of literature and use their own experiences and understanding to come up with focused and intellectual readings of the texts. Students will apply their knowledge of literary analysis and evaluation to engage critically and creatively with texts.

Why students choose this course

If you have a passion for reading and writing, then Literature will allow you to develop this further by showing you a range of differing techniques and texts to gain inspiration from and to analyse in detail.

A Level Literature takes on some of the skills you develop during your GCSEs and pushes them further so if you enjoyed the subject at GCSE then this is a good opportunity to further your enjoyment and engagement.

The skills you acquire and 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 but also the analytical challenges.

What the course covers

We study a wide range of texts over the course of the two years and look at some important and engaging writings including the study of Drama, which includes a Shakespeare play, the study of two pieces of prose looking at writing from two different time periods and assessment of poetry.

The course is wide-ranging and clear to follow; each paper has a specific focus of literature making your revision and studying accessible and straightforward. The texts are also very versatile and engaging as we appreciate writing from different forms and from different genres; you will leave the course with advanced knowledge, appreciation and understanding of literature

Students are also able to study two texts of their choice for their coursework which is a very creative and exciting area of the course; you select two texts which are linked thematically and create a comparative essay of analysis of the two; this is worth 20% of your final mark.

The course is incredibly interesting and looks at historical contexts as well as key critical theorists which students can apply to their own readings and analysis; students are asked to be as critical as possible in their analysis.

Further information can be found on the examination board's website:

www.qualifications.pearson.com

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, the ability to analyse critically and the capability to articulate ideas in a focused and detailed way.

Job sectors including Law, Media and Publishing would be possibilities in the future, amongst others, and you could pursue a degree in Literature or use the A Level to gain access to other valuable degrees; it is a very accessible and versatile subject.

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

1984 – George Orwell

The Handmaid's Tale – Margaret Atwood

Selected Poetry – Christina Rossetti

A Doll's House – Henrik Ibsen

Hamlet – William Shakespeare

Student Profile:



Before Sixth Form, Nadia was a student at Bingley Grammar School. At Dixons Sixth Form, she studies A levels in Sociology, Law and English Literature.

“ I chose English Literature mostly due to the fact I thoroughly enjoyed it at GCSE level. A level Literature is similar but it's much more interesting as you explore the deeper meanings of the author's intention through their writing. As a year 11, who enjoys taking a more analytical approach to English, this course would be amazing for you; it will definitely broaden your literature knowledge and enable you to achieve an advanced level of written and verbal skills. ”