

English Literature

About the course

On this course you will study some fantastic plays, novels and poetry, ranging in period. You must be willing to undertake independent reading which should not really feel like a chore - more a pleasure. A qualification in English Literature proves that you are highly motivated, analytical and confident in your ability to construct and convey an argument in both spoken and written form.

Across the two years you will study a range of prose, poetry and drama (including Shakespeare) from a range of periods and develop close reading and analytical skills. Students are encouraged to explore the relationships that exist between texts and the contexts in which they are written, received and understood. Students are encouraged to use a variety of reading strategies and perspectives and to debate and challenge the perspectives of other readers as they develop their own informed personal response to texts.

The AS Level exam will assess the ability to explore central literary themes and to explore connections across literary texts.

The A Level exam assesses the ability to explore central literary themes and to respond to unseen material.

The non-exam assessment offers the opportunity to independently study and research two prose texts.

The skills that you will learn in this subject, such as independent research, close reading and analysis and evaluation of material are all highly desirable skills for universities.

English Literature is an ideal companion to History, French/German, Psychology, Philosophy and Ethics or any of the Science subjects.



***The answers you get
from literature
depend on the
questions you pose***
Margaret Atwood
Canadian writer

How it will be assessed

The AS Level is assessed by external examination.

The A Level assessment comprises an external examination (80%) and a non-exam assessment (20%).

What it prepares you for

English Literature is highly regarded and considered a "facilitating subject" for the top universities in the country regardless of the degree you wish to study. It provides an excellent grounding for those wishing to progress onto Law and other traditionally "humanities" subjects, but also for Medicine and Veterinary Science as well as Business or Management.

