



Is English Literature for me?

English Literature is for you if you love reading. If you want to analyse and think critically about novels, plays and poems and will enjoy sharing and discussing ideas with others, whilst developing your essay writing and communication skills, then this A Level is for you.

What does it involve?

Unit 1: Aspects of Narrative

This examination unit studies the way that writers construct narratives. You will study a total of four texts – 2 poets and 2 novels – although you will only study one in detail. Possible text choices include *The Great Gatsby* or *The Kite Runner* in terms of novels and Browning, Keats or Coleridge in terms of poets. The unit is assessed by a 2 hour open book examination and makes up 30% of the A Level.

UNIT 2: DRAMATIC GENRES

This coursework unit involves studying two tragedies, one by Shakespeare, such as *Othello*, and one by another writer, which could even be a play in translation such as *The Cherry Orchard* by Chekhov. Both pieces will be about 1500 words long and this will constitute 20% of the overall A Level

UNIT 3: TEXTS AND GENRES

This unit will ask you to study either Gothic or Pastoral Literature and you will need to research this area independently and read widely within it. In addition you will study texts in class. The Gothic unit, for example, may see you study *Wuthering Heights*, *The Bloody Chamber* and *Dr. Faustus*, whilst the Pastoral unit may include texts such as William Blake's poetry, *She Stoops to Conquer* and the poetry of Philip Larkin. This will culminate in a closed book examination which is worth 30% of the subject.

UNIT 4: FURTHER AND INDEPENDENT READING

This coursework unit will require you to write a 2000 word piece comparing two texts, such as *Birdsong* and Owen's poetry. This will be accompanied by a 1500 word piece in which you use critical opinions to analyse another text you have studied. This unit will make up the final 20% of this subject.

Where can it lead?

As a highly regarded subject, English Literature is excellent preparation for degree level study of any kind. It leads naturally into communication based professions and complements the field of history, politics and law particularly well.

Minimum Entry Requirement: Grade B GCSE English