



Course Overview

When you study A level English Literature you will be required to read widely and independently from both set texts and others that you have selected for yourself. You will be asked to engage critically and creatively with a substantial body of texts and ways of responding to them, whilst developing and effectively applying your knowledge of literary analysis and evaluation. Contexts of the texts you are reading will be explored and others' interpretations of them evaluated.

You will read a range of exciting and challenging literary texts, including novels, poetry and plays from across the last 500 years as well as 21st century texts, all of which have stood the test of time and proved themselves to be great writing. You will be encouraged to read widely, independently and in-depth.

TEACHERS SAY...

This specification provides a suitable progression to a range of higher education degree and vocational level courses or to employment. It is highly regarded and considered to be a facilitating subject by the Russell Group universities which means it will keep a wide range of university courses open to you.

YOUR NOTES

Topics Covered

Literature consists of three externally examined papers and one non-examination assessment component. The qualification requires the study of eight literary texts plus unseen poetry.

Four Areas of Study Over the two Years

Component 1:

Drama:

one Shakespeare play and one other drama from either tragedy or comedy – both texts may be selected from one or both of these categories

Component 2:

Prose:

two prose texts from a chosen theme. At least one of the prose texts must be pre-1900.

Component 3:

Poetry

Students study: poetic form, meaning and language a selection of post-2000 specified poetry a selection from a named poet or period

Non-examination assessment;

Students have a free choice of two texts to study. Students produce one extended comparative essay referring to two texts. Word count is 2500–3000 words.

A level English Literature

Examination board:

Edexcel

Teacher contact:

Ms L Elmes

lelmes@chichesterfreeschool.org.uk

Entry requirements:

Five 9 to 4 (A* to C) with a minimum 6 in English Literature.
Interest in reading fiction is essential.

Type of assessment:

This is a linear course that includes one non-examination assessment and leads to three terminal exams .

Possible Degree Options

English Studies
History
Politics
Psychology
Law
Drama
Sociology

What can I do now to help me prepare for my course?

English Literature requires you to undertake independent and sustained studies to deepen your appreciation and understanding of English literature, including its changing traditions. The key is to read fiction. Below are some texts that will help you prepare.

Read some prose. Choose from:

Childhood

- Pre-1900: What Maisie Knew, Henry James; Hard Times, Charles Dickens
- Post-1900: Atonement, Ian McEwan; The Color Purple, Alice Walker

Crime and Detection

- Pre-1900: Lady Audley's Secret, Mary Elizabeth Braddon; The Moonstone, Wilkie Collins
- Post-1900: In Cold Blood, Truman Capote; The Murder Room, P D James

Science and Society

- Pre-1900: Frankenstein, Mary Shelley; The War of the Worlds, H G Wells
- Post-1900: Never Let Me Go, Kazuo Ishiguro; The Handmaid's Tale, Margaret Atwood

The Supernatural

- Pre-1900: The Picture of Dorian Gray, Oscar Wilde; Dracula, Bram Stoker
- Post-1900: The Little Stranger, Sarah Waters; Beloved, Toni Morrison

Women and Society

- Pre-1900: Wuthering Heights, Emily Brontë; Tess of the D'Urbervilles, Thomas Hardy
- Post-1900: Mrs Dalloway, Virginia Woolf; A Thousand Splendid Suns, Khaled Hosseini

Read some Tragedy. Choose from William Shakespeare:

- Antony and Cleopatra
- Hamlet
- King Lear
- Othello

Read some Comedy. Choose from William Shakespeare:

- Midsummer Night's Dream
- Measure for Measure
- The Taming of the Shrew.

Read some Metaphysical Poetry. Choose from:

- John Donne
- George Herbert
- Thomas Carew
- Anne Bradstreet
- Richard Lovelace
- Andrew Marvell

Read fiction for pleasure. Choose texts that interest you.

Possible career and progression options

English Literature is considered a 'facilitating' A level by the Russell Group universities, because choosing it at advanced level leaves open a wide range of options for university study.

This highly regarded course makes you a sophisticated reader and writer with analytical skills which are sought after across a range of careers including jobs in the media such as:

Journalism
Publishing
Marketing
Advertising
Law
Teaching
Academia