



A LEVEL English Literature Eduqas

WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW OR BE ABLE TO DO BEFORE TAKING THIS COURSE?

You need to be prepared to develop a disciplined, critical and personal response to Literature. You should enjoy reading a wide range of literary material: novels, poetry and drama across periods and genres. Having the ability to discuss confidently, read perceptively and write coherently is crucial.

Individuals should have a keen interest in quality literature and be prepared to take on a reasonable weight of reading during the course. Entrants are expected to have at least English Language GCSE at grade 6 and English Literature at grade 6 or above. We welcome a range of students, from those who are committed to taking the subject as far as possible, to those who are interested in other subject areas and who look to English Literature to broaden their horizons.

WHAT WILL I LEARN ON THIS ADVANCED GCE COURSE?

The A Level course provides an extremely broad range of literature. Students should be prepared to read widely independently, and support their study with their own reading. Students will study four components for the A level course:

Component 1: Poetry, covering both pre and post-1900 poetry, from a selected list prescribed by the exam board. This is assessed by an external exam, and makes up 30% of the qualification. Some of the poets usually studied include: Carol Ann Duffy, Philip Larkin and John Donne

Component 2: Drama, covering one Shakespeare play and two other plays, one pre-1900, and one post-1900, from a selected list prescribed by the exam board. This is assessed by an external exam, and makes up 30% of the qualification. Drama texts usually studied include: 'A Streetcar Named Desire' and 'The Duchess of Malfi.'

Component 3: Unseen texts, covering both poetry and prose, over the period 1880-1939. This is assessed by an external exam, and makes up 20% of the qualification.

Component 4: Prose Study. Students produce one essay based on the reading of two prose texts from different periods, one pre-2000 and one post-2000. Students have free choice but the texts are nominated for approval by the exam board. This is a non-examination assessment.

Learning will be varied: through small group and whole class discussion, presentations and seminars led by individual students and teachers, independent research, reading and note taking, and essay writing (some of it 'timed', to prepare for the exam papers). Outside lectures, theatre visits and reference to films, documentaries and radio will all support in-class and library-based learning.

HOW IS THIS COURSE ASSESSED?

Assessment is separate for each component, and the exam components will be taken in May or June of Year 13. The non-examination essay will be submitted to the board in Year 13; however, students may prepare for and write this in Year 12.

HOW CAN I DEVELOP MY FULL RANGE OF SKILLS BY DOING THIS COURSE?

The course will develop a sharp academic edge, a critical and reflective mind, and greater personal, social and emotional awareness. Particular skills of speaking and listening, reading and writing will be taken to a higher level. More able and especially motivated students will have specifically directed extension reading and suggestions for wider critical research of texts, to prepare them for possible university courses in the subject.

Contact: rkingston@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk