

A Level English Literature

Examination Board: AQA
Specification Code: 7712 – A Level

Why English Literature?

English is among the most personally rewarding and enjoyable of sixth form subjects. The knowledge and skills it teaches can be of lasting value in any walk of life. We hope that you will join us.

Entry Requirements

QEHS standard entry requirements apply and in addition students are also required to achieve at least two grade 6 passes at GCSE English Language and English Literature.

A pleasure and interest in reading is essential. You must be happy reading independently. If you don't enjoy reading, don't choose English Literature. You need to have been generally happy with GCSE literature work and to be comfortable with writing essays.

Course Content

Modules:

- **Love Through the Ages**
Assessment of this module is by one three hour exam at the end of Year 13. This module is worth 40% of the assessment at A Level.
For this module, the study of a Shakespeare text is compulsory. You will also study an anthology of poems, including work by Donne, Blake, Rossetti and Keats and also poems by modern poets. The prose genre will be covered by studying 'Tess of the D'Urbervilles' by Thomas Hardy. The exam will include a question on unseen texts.
- **Texts in Shared Contexts**
This module will be assessed by one two-and-a-half hour examination at the end of Year 13. The module is worth 40% of the assessment at A Level.
We will study option 2A: WW1 and its Aftermath. Here, we will analyse a range of prose, poetry, drama and non-fiction texts related to the war and its long term impact. The range of texts will include an anthology of poetry, the play 'My Boy Jack' by David Haig and 'Regeneration' by Pat Barker. The English department also usually offers a four day trip to France and/or Belgium to study the First World War in situ. We visit a variety of sites, including cemeteries, memorials and battlefields, placing the poetry of the war into its environment.
- **Independent Critical Study: Texts Across Time**
This is a coursework module and is worth 20% of the final A Level assessment. It is submitted at the end of Year 13.
For this module, you are expected to write one 2,500 word essay comparing two texts of your own choice, one of which must have been written pre-1900. You will negotiate the title with your teacher depending on your interest in the texts you have chosen to study. Although this is largely independent work, one of your two teachers will be allocated to supervise and help you in producing the best possible work.

How does the learning differ from Pre-16 study?

You will be expected to read widely during the two years of your course. This will be independent reading and, whilst you will be given a suggested reading list, your commitment to reading should go beyond this. You will be expected to contribute to high order discussions on texts, research, prepare and deliver presentations, develop sophisticated essay writing techniques and analyse texts with insight and enthusiasm.

Prospects

English occupies a central position in our education system and is welcomed and valued by a wide range of higher education courses. Careers in media, journalism, advertising and publishing are obvious English-based opportunities but communication skills are valued in most walks of life.

Contacts

Please contact Mrs. C. Deighton, Assistant Head of English, if you wish to discuss this qualification further.