



ENGLISH LITERATURE

Entry Requirements: Grade 5 in English Literature and Grade 4 in English Language

Exam board: AQA

Full Subject Specification website: <http://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/english/specifications/AQA-7711-7712-SP-2015.PDF>

Why study English Literature:

At Stratford upon Avon School, we recognise the potential for literature to enrich the lives of everyone. If you choose to study A level English Literature with us, we can offer you a rewarding experience which includes: a wealth of support from expert teaching staff with a range of specialisms; varied, stimulating resources; opportunities to pursue your own areas of expertise and interest; a supportive classroom environment in which the development of sophisticated, individual interpretations is encouraged and rewarded; and a varied programme of enrichment opportunities.

Subject Specification Outline:

This specification consists of three main units:

1. Love through the ages: a richly rewarding unit which involves the study of prose, poetry and a Shakespeare play. The range of texts allows you to explore representations of love by a variety of writers over time.

2. Texts in shared contexts: Texts in shared contexts: Currently, we offer Option B, the study of modern literature from 1945, which encourages you to reflect on the changes to Literature post-World War 2. The variety of texts on offer is exciting and includes the modern classic drama 'A Streetcar Named Desire'.

3. Independent critical study: this is a challenging and wide-ranging opportunity for university-style independent study. Under the guidance of your teachers, you will complete a comparative critical study of two texts on a theme of your choice.

Progress Assessment:

Regular, structured exam-style assessments in preparation for two terminal examinations.

Ongoing ½ termly assessment.

The independent critical study accounts for 20% of the overall grade and is internally assessed. You will receive written and oral feedback throughout the drafting process.

Final Exam Format:

Paper 1: Love Through the Ages

- Written exam: 3 hours
- Open book in Section C only
- 75 marks
- 40% of the A-Level.

Questions:

Section A: Shakespeare: one passage-based question with linked essay (25 marks)

Section B: Unseen poetry: compulsory essay question on two unseen poems (25 marks)

Section C: Comparing texts: one essay question linking two texts (25 marks)

Paper 2: Texts in Shared Contexts

- Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes
- Open book
- 75 marks
- 40% of A-level.

Questions:

Section A: Set texts. One essay question on set text (25 marks)

Section B: Contextual linking

- one compulsory question on an unseen extract (25 marks)
- one essay question linking two texts (25 marks).

Non-exam assessment: Independent critical study: texts across time

Comparative critical study of two texts, at least one of which must have been written pre-1900.

One extended essay (2500 words) and a bibliography.

Assessed:

- 50 marks
- 20% of A-level
- assessed by teachers
- moderated by AQA.

Self Study Requirements:

- Research particular authors and contexts
- Research different literary movements to create an in-depth understanding of how literature has changed over time
- Read a wide breadth of authors spanning different literary movements and different forms
- Complete regular plans for practise questions
- Complete regular practise questions
- Consolidate understanding of core skills by mentoring other students
- Prepare for the NEA by reading a range of literary texts and preparing mini-presentations on them.

Progression Pathways:

A level English Literature is a multidisciplinary course of study which affords you opportunities to develop and demonstrate a wide range of study and life skills. You will be encouraged to become perceptive, independent critical readers and thinkers with the skills to communicate complex ideas in both speech and writing.

Argumentative skills will be crucial, as will a high level of technical accuracy in written work. In short, this qualification is highly valued by universities and employers.