

# English Literature

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## Course Aims

To provide a thorough grounding in English from the Renaissance to the 21st century, exploring how texts are constructed and how contextual factors contribute to their interpretation. English Literature enables students to develop their skills of questioning, philosophy, morality, history and culture. The course is of value to all students who enjoy exploring literature and expressing an opinion.



## Qualifications and Qualities Needed

The course is essentially seminar based and students are required to engage in class discussion. They are also required to undertake wider reading, annotation of texts and the making of preparatory notes outside of lessons. Examination confidence is developed through frequent writing of examination style essays. Students are required to undertake critical reading and research to support their understanding of the historical and social contexts of the texts studied. Students should have achieved a grade 6 in both GCSE English Language and English Literature.

## Course Structure

Exam Board: AQA

Exam texts: *Othello*; *Love poetry through the ages (pre-1900)*; *The Great Gatsby*; *A Streetcar Named Desire*; *Feminine Gospels (Carol Ann Duffy)*; *The Handmaid's Tale*;

Coursework texts: *A Doll's House*, or the poetry of Christina Rossetti, and a comparative text chosen by the student.

Assessment in Year 13 is by a combination of coursework (An independent critical study worth 20%) and two examinations, each worth 40%.

*There are no formal examinations in Year 12.*

## Trips and Textbooks

We require students to purchase their texts so that they can annotate them fully. We encourage students to read *The English Review* and *e-magazine*, which are available in the school library. The faculty encourages theatre trips and arranges attendance at conferences and expert seminars.

## Other Points to Note

English Literature is an academic, facilitating subject, respected by universities and employers. By reading and engaging with prose, drama and poetry, you gain insight into other lives, experiences and cultures. A diverse range of students enjoy and thrive in this subject; it is especially relevant for students who are not afraid to present and uphold an opinion which is textually based. Although expressive arts subjects are complementary disciplines, potential scientists can also find an alternative view of the world stimulating. In other words, there is no stereotypical A-level English student!