



ENGLISH LITERATURE



Couse teachers: Rebecca Brookes & Jayne Daley

This is a two year modular WJEC A Level course, with two units studied at AS Level and a further three units for the second year.

Prior Knowledge:

It is recommended that you have achieved at least a grade A or 6 in English Language GCSE / iGCSE and / or a level 7 in the writing component of IELTS (or equivalent), however all applicants will be viewed on an individual basis.

English Literature students are enquiring and open-minded individuals. You should enjoy reading a wide range of literary texts and forms, which will be developed into a comprehensive awareness of the English literary canon over your two years of study here.

English encourages the discussion and articulation of ideas, working in small seminar-style lessons you will develop excellent oral skills. Students enjoy debate and can justify their own readings of texts as well as being able to evaluate a wide range of critical responses.

The heart of your literary studies will involve the development of close analytical skills; attention to detail, evidencing your ideas and applying literary terms and concepts will become second nature to you.

English Literature also overlaps with many other curriculum subjects: our exploration of contextual influences invariably touches on aspects of History, Politics, Philosophy, Sociology, Psychology and Geography. We even find knowledge of mathematical patterns, chemical elements, planetary forces and ecology influencing writers and their texts. Studying literature will foster free-thinking and your ability to draw connections across diverse concepts.

Most importantly, the subject builds your competence as a writer. There is extensive teaching of essay style and form, ranging from short timed analytical pieces to extended coursework studies. Within lessons, there is also the opportunity to write creatively and our students participate in external essay, journalistic and creative writing competitions – often successfully!

We seek to enrich classroom studies through extra-curricular learning: our students have recently attended a lecture series with leading university personnel on Jane Eyre, watched Dr Faustus at the Wanamaker

Theatre, visited The Globe Theatre exhibition and participated in a National Theatre sixth-form conference on the highly acclaimed 2019 production of Antony and Cleopatra. Future enrichment plans include .



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creative writing retreats with the Arvon Foundation, Royal Shakespeare Theatre productions in Stratford-Upon-Avon and the Hay Literature Festival

How will English Literature benefit you?

English Literature is a highly regarded facilitating subject amongst the elite Russell Group universities, including Cambridge, which combines well with all subjects taught at Cardiff Sixth Form College. The skills you will develop through your Literature course are much sought after in a broad spectrum of careers from doctors to lawyers, consultants to academics, politicians to engineers.

Course Outline:

AS Level

Unit 1: Prose and Drama (closed-book) - Two hour examination

Section A: Prose fiction pre-1900

Extract and essay question based on the reading of

Charlotte Brontë: *Jane Eyre* (Penguin Classics) (9780141441146)

Section B: Drama

One question from a choice of two based on the reading of

Tennessee Williams: *A Streetcar Named Desire* (Penguin) (9780141190273) or Christopher Marlowe: *Doctor Faustus* (Longman) (9780582254091)

Unit 2: Poetry Post-1900 (open-book, clean copy) - Two hour examination

Analysis of a prescribed poem in close detail and comparison of poems from both poets

Ted Hughes: *Poems selected by Simon Armitage* (Faber) (9780571222957)

(prescribed section: all poems up to and including page 68) &

Sylvia Plath: *Poems selected by Ted Hughes* (Faber) (9780571222971)

A2 (second year)

Unit 3: Poetry pre-1900 and Unseen Poetry - Two hour examination

Section A: Poetry pre-1900 (open-book, clean copy)

Analysis of an extract from the text and a short essay

John Milton: *Paradise Lost Book IX* (Oxford) (9780198326007)

Section B: Unseen Poetry

Comparative essay in response to previously unseen poems

Unit 4: Shakespeare (closed-book) - Two hour examination

Close analysis of extract from the play, in addition to a literary essay

William Shakespeare: *Antony and Cleopatra*

Unit 5: Non Examination Assessment

You will produce an extended comparative essay (2,500-3,500 words) in response to two prose texts of your choice, one written before 2000 and one after 2000.