

ADVANCED GCE ENGLISH LITERATURE

EXAMINING BOARD: AQA

Minimum Entry Requirements: GCSE English Language and English Literature Grade 5

KEY FEATURES OF THE COURSE:

Students will:

- study a range of Literature, linked by the theme of tragedy and social and political protest
- become confident, autonomous readers
- broaden their understanding of genre and categorisation
- learn to make connections between texts
- extend their skills of interpretation
- consider the ways in which texts can be subjected to different types of critical approach
- engage with a range of theoretical ideas

The course as a whole involves:

- an understanding of how meaning is created and how interpretations arise
- an exploration of the reading process
- a particular focus on genre
- a particular focus on meanings in texts and how they are made
- a particular focus on different interpretations of texts
- an opportunity for independent choices with coursework
- the study of Shakespeare, novels, poetry and drama
- the study of literature over time
- discussion and debate to help develop an independent voice

MODULES/UNITS COVERED

Literary Genres: Aspects of Tragedy (Paper 1A, worth 40% of final A Level grade)

Othello by William Shakespeare

Death of a Salesman by Arthur Miller

A selection of poetry by John Keats.

Written Examination - 2 hour 30 minutes. This is a closed book exam with no access to the set texts. There are three questions - one on a passage from Othello, one essay on Othello and one question linking the two remaining texts.

Texts and Genres: Social and Political Protest (Paper 2B, worth 40% of final A Level grade)

The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood
Songs of Innocence and of Experience by William Blake
The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini

Written Examination – 3 hours. This is an open book exam; students will have access to all the texts they are studying, but no additional notes or guidance are allowed. There are three questions – one unseen text from the social and political protest genre, one essay question on a set text and one question linking the two remaining texts.

Non-Exam Assessment (NEA): Theory and Independence (worth 20% of final A Level grade)

This final component of the course is NEA, where students will apply different literary theories from a Critical Anthology to one prose text and one poetry text. Literary theories studied in this unit are:

- Narrative theory
- Feminist theory
- Marxist theory
- Eco-critical theory
- Post-colonial theory

Students will produce two essays of 1250-1500 words; one response for their work on the prose text, the other response for their work on the poetry text. This work will largely be completed in the second year of the course.