

A Level English Literature

AQA English Literature A

**‘You can take a book anywhere and a
book can take you anywhere’**

Is A Level English Literature for me?

This course is a great choice for you if...

- You love books.
- You enjoy reading... and read independently for pleasure!
- You take pleasure in discussing texts and listening to other interpretations.
- You like exploring ideas through writing.
- You enjoy getting to grips with the big questions, concepts, psychology, philosophy, society, language, human nature.....

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What do the students say?

- ‘there is no specific right or wrong answer so you can interpret things the way you see them’
- ‘English Literature expands on your understanding of other subjects – you can learn about the historical background’
- ‘You can use theories from Psychology to analyse texts’
- ‘you read books that you never would have dreamed of reading yourself and then find you start reading everything that writer has written’
- ‘It’s exciting to see lots of different meanings in one piece of text’

A Level Literature Overview

- Specification: AQA A.
- Students study three units.
- There are two externally examined units
- The third unit is coursework (non-exam assessment)

Paper 1– Love Through the Ages

- Examination
- 3 hours– 40% of A level
- Study of three texts: one poetry, one prose and one Shakespeare.
- Three questions:

Section A: Shakespeare - Othello

Section B: Unseen poetry

Section C: Comparing texts (open book)

The Great Gatsby, Poetry anthology.



Paper 2 – Texts in shared contexts

- Focus of study: World War 1 and its aftermath.
- Examination.
- 2 hours 30 minutes.
- 40% of the AS level.
- Study of three texts: One prose, one poetry and one drama.
- Open book.
- Section A: Set text – ‘Regeneration’ by Pat Barker.
- Section B: Contextual linking – Unseen prose and one essay question linking ‘My Boy Jack’ and WW1 poetry.

Non-exam Assessment (NEA)

- 20% of A level
- Assessed by teachers and moderated by AQA.
- 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.

Sample NEA questions

- 'The better women are educated, the more they appear to transgress the conventions of the societies in which they live'. Using this statement as a starting point, explore how the central female characters in 'The Mill on the Floss' and 'Educating Rita' transgress social conventions
- It has been said that, "the journey from childhood to adulthood is often presented as a process of oppression and subsequent rebellion." In light of this statement, compare and contrast the presentation of Bildungsroman in "The Mill on the Floss" and "The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie".

Coursework

- The coursework will allow you to explore your own ideas, interpretations and understanding of texts in depth and detail.
- You will have access to a range of critical material which will help develop your own critical views and expression.
- You have a unique opportunity to independently choose texts for study and your own critical exploration.
- You will be constantly developing your own vocabulary, confidence in interpretation and ability to structure a coherent and interesting argument.