



English Literature

Examination Board

- AQA Spec B

Course Content

The AQA A Level in English Literature will require students to develop their judgement and independence as they reflect upon their knowledge and understanding of a range of literary texts and ways of reading them. It will require learners to show knowledge of:

- the ways in which writers shape meanings in texts
- the ways in which texts can be interpreted
- the ways in which texts relate to one another and to literary genres
- the significance of cultural and contextual influences on readers and writers.

Over the course of A Level study, students will develop skills in analysis, evaluation and debate, engendering a love of literature and an appreciation of its cultural significance.

Component 1 (40% of A Level)

Elements of Tragedy

Key Texts: *King Lear* by William Shakespeare, *Death of a Salesman* by Arthur Miller and a collection of poetry by Keats

Component 2 (40% of A Level)

Elements of Crime

Key Texts: *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd* by Agatha Christie, *When Will There Be Good News?* by Kate Atkinson and *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* by Coleridge

Component 3 *non-examined assessment* (20% A Level)

Theory and Independence

Students are required to produce two tasks, both between 1250-1500 words, and both connected to the Critical Anthology provided by AQA. This material in the anthology covers: narrative theory, feminist criticism, Marxist criticism, post-colonial criticism, eco criticism, literary value and the canon.

Note: all set texts are subject to change

Useful websites / reading materials:

- AMVC Library – Literature Shelf
- Massolit
- The English Review magazine (kept in the library)
- The British Library - <https://www.bl.uk/>
- The Digital Theatre - <https://www.digitaltheatre.com/>
- The Bedford Companion to Shakespeare
- AQA website and supporting resources
- Various study guides and websites are available to assist with the understanding of the set texts, but students must be careful of plagiarism and make sure they correctly reference any work they are using as part of their own writing
- There is a recommended reading list for students going from Year 11 into Year 12 which can be provided upon request.



Recommended study

- Class teachers and the librarians can provide suggestions and recommendations for further reading of a wide range of literature texts which supports the A Level course. Crime fiction is a key element of the A Level; students can really support their study by ensuring they read a wide array of crime texts. This will help them to prepare for the unseen crime extract
- Watching performances and film/television versions of the texts is highly recommended and can be used to consider various interpretations of the texts
- Work will be set for completion, either at home or during study periods, and is likely to include reading, research tasks linked to context and essay writing practice. Students will be required to re-draft work in order to improve their written work.

Recommended study

- In terms of work done at home, students should expect to spend on average about five hours per week reading, researching and writing.