

# ENGLISH LITERATURE

## A Level Course

### Description

“I know nothing in the world that has as much power as a word. Sometimes I write one, and I look at it, until it begins to shine.” *Emily Dickinson*

“It’s possible we will always learn more about human life and personality from novels than from scientific psychology.” *Noam Chomsky*

By studying English Literature, you too will see the power of words, and explore new worlds through the texts you read.

Literature feeds your imagination, allows you to travel back in time, to explore the experiences of others, and to stretch your mind through discussion and debate.

Responding to texts will hone your writing skills, develop your intellect and foster vital communication skills which will take you to the next educational level.

### Entry Requirements

GCSE Average: 4.8. GCSE Grade 6 in English

Grade 6 in both Literature and Language.



### Progression

English A-Level provides an excellent basis for a range of degree courses and career pathways, with its heavy emphasis on critical thinking, discursive skills, and your ability to communicate complex ideas. It can lead to degrees in a huge range of subjects such as Literature, Creative Writing, Journalism, Politics, Media, Law and Psychology. It is also classed as a ‘facilitating’ subject, and is highly regarded by Oxbridge and Russell Group universities.

A-Level English Literature works well alongside other Arts and Humanities subjects such as Film Studies, History, Politics and Sociology, for example. It is also a useful essay based subject to balance out a timetable weighted towards Science and Maths.

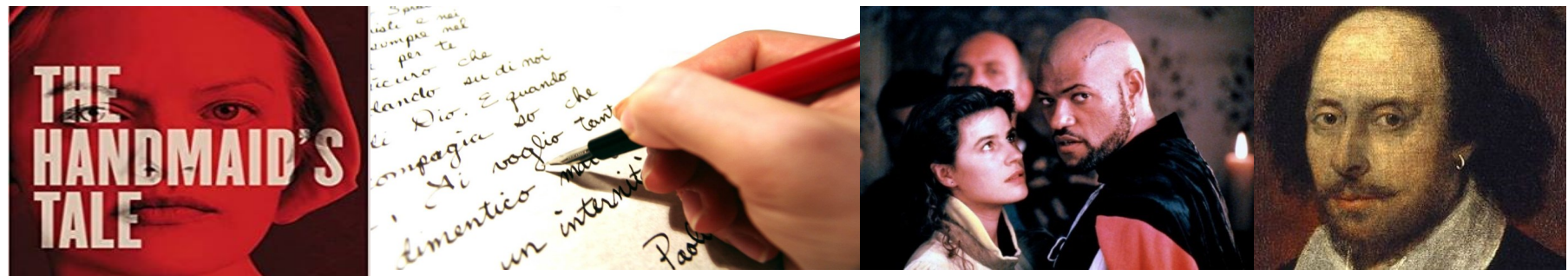


# Course Details

Content	Assessment
<p><b>Love through the Ages</b>                      This unit focuses on how aspects of one theme – love – change and develop over the course of the history of English literature. You will study the literary and historical context, from the Middle ages and Chaucer, through the Renaissance, Victorian literature, all the way to post-modernism. This unit will give you a grounding in literature of all time periods, and you will learn to apply this knowledge to unseen poetry. You will also read a range of texts, including <i>Othello</i> by William Shakespeare, <i>The Great Gatsby</i> by F Scott Fitzgerald and a selection of love poetry.</p>	<p><b>Exam (3 hours)</b>                      75 marks                      40% of A Level</p>
<p><b>Texts in Contexts: Modern Literature from 1945 to the present.</b>                      This unit, delivered in Year 13 takes the end of WW2 as its historical starting point and explores both modern and contemporary literature’s engagement with some of the social, political, personal and literary issues which have helped to shape the latter half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and the early decades of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Texts studied will include: <i>A Streetcar Named Desire</i> by Tennessee Williams (play), <i>The Handmaid’s Tale</i> by Margaret Atwood (novel) and <i>Feminine Gospels</i> by Carol Ann Duffy (poetry).</p>	<p><b>Exam (2 hours 30 mins)</b>                      75 marks                      40% of A level</p>
<p><b>Independent Critical Study: Texts across Time</b>                      This unit draws on the independent reading that you have completed over the course of Year 12. You will work with your tutor to complete a 2,500 word essay, comparing a theme or idea across two texts – at least one of which must be written pre-1900.</p>	<p><b>Coursework</b>                      25 marks                      20% of A Level</p>

“English A Level helped me develop very necessary transferable skills such as essay writing, analytical ability and higher level of communication. The learning experience has been rewarding and I had gained knowledge of much more than only English literature, including history and background behind literary periods. The staff that teach the course are enthusiastic and dedicated, and always eager to help. I’m glad to have taken the course, it has been worthwhile and fulfilling and further fuelled my ardour for literature.”

“Studying English Literature means that instead of asking the ‘what’ questions you delve into the ‘hows’ and the ‘whys’, which always keeps things interesting - what’s great is that the focus is more on what YOU think, feel, and see instead of what’s in the textbook (I’m not kidding, we literally don’t have one).”



## Further Information

Course Leader: Mr G Parry

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Examination board: AQA (Spec A)

[www.aqa.org.uk](http://www.aqa.org.uk)

