

GCSE English Literature (AQA – Specification code: 8702)

What is GCSE English Literature?

The English Literature specification has been designed to inspire, challenge and motivate every student, regardless of ability level.

A range of texts is included to cater for the needs of students in all educational contexts. There are texts that will be familiar, as well as new ones that will inspire young readers.

This will be taught alongside GCSE English Language, so students will benefit from the transferable skills.

During this course students will learn and develop the following skills:

Reading comprehension and reading critically

- literal and inferential comprehension: understanding a word, phrase or sentence in context; exploring aspects of plot, characterisation, events and settings; distinguishing between what is stated explicitly and what is implied; explaining motivation, sequence of events, and the relationship between actions or events
- critical reading: identifying the theme and distinguishing between themes; supporting a point of view by referring to evidence in the text; recognising the possibility of and evaluating different responses to a text; using understanding of writers' social, historical and cultural contexts to inform evaluation; making an informed personal response that derives from analysis and evaluation of the text
- evaluation of a writer's choice of vocabulary, grammatical and structural features: analysing and evaluating how language, structure, form and presentation contribute to quality and impact; using linguistic and literary terminology for such evaluation
- comparing texts: comparing and contrasting texts studied, referring where relevant to theme, characterisation, context (where known), style and literary quality; comparing two texts critically with respect to the above

Writing

- producing clear and coherent text: writing effectively about literature for a range of purposes such as: to describe, explain, summarise, argue, analyse and evaluate; discussing and maintaining a point of view; selecting and emphasising key points; using relevant quotation and using detailed textual references
- accurate Standard English: accurate spelling, punctuation and grammar

How will I be assessed?

Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th-century novel: Macbeth & A Christmas Carol

- Shakespeare plays
- The 19th-century novel

How it's assessed

- written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes
- 64 marks
- 40% of GCSE

Questions

Section A Shakespeare: students will answer one question on their play of choice. They will be required to write in detail about an extract from the play and then to write about the play as a whole.

Section B The 19th-century novel: students will answer one question on their novel of choice. They will be required to write in detail about an extract from the novel and then to write about the novel as a whole.

Paper 2: Modern Texts and Poetry: An Inspector Calls & Conflict Poetry

- Modern prose or drama texts
- The poetry anthology
- Unseen poetry

How it's assessed

- written exam: 2 hour 15 minutes
- 96 marks
- 60% of GCSE

Questions

Section A Modern texts: students will answer one essay question from a choice of two on their studied modern prose or drama text.

Section B Poetry: students will answer one comparative question on one named poem printed on the paper and one other poem from their chosen anthology cluster.

Section C Unseen poetry: Students will answer one question on one unseen poem and one question comparing this poem with a second unseen poem

What type of careers can English Literature lead to?

Studying **English Literature** can also lead to varied careers like teaching, law and business, as well as professional writing roles such as a Digital Copywriter, Editorial Assistant or Journalist.

How can I support my studies at home?

The OSSMA English department utilises websites and educational apps such as GCSE Pod and Seneca which have content that compliments what is taught in lessons. GCSE revision packs are provided to all students, containing past papers, to ensure students are more prepared before their exams.