

Subject: English Literature (AQA)

Subject Leader: Mr J. Rootham

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CNS 6th Form



Recommended Textbooks:

A/AS Level English Literature A for AQA Student Book ISBN 9781107467927

If you love English Literature, we really recommend you read:

The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald.

Great Expectations by Charles Dickens.

Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte

This course covers the following key topics:

Love through the ages (40%)

This part of the course will focus on the theme of love as seen in literature over time.

During this part of the course, we'll be studying the following texts:

- A play by Shakespeare e.g. *Othello*.
- A novel: e.g. *Wuthering Heights* by Brontë.
- AQA Anthology of Love Poetry – featuring a range of post 1900 poets.

This part of the course culminates in a 3 hour exam where students will answer one question on Shakespeare, one question comparing two unseen poems and one question comparing the prose text with poems from the anthology.

Texts in shared contexts (40%)

The aim of this topic area is to explore connections between texts written within a particular time period. During this part of the course, we'll be studying the following:

- One prose text e.g. *Revolutionary Road* by Richard Yates
- One poetry text e.g. *Feminine Gospels* by Carol Ann Duffy
- One drama text e.g. *Cat on a hot tin roof* by Tennessee Williams.

This part of the course culminates in a 2 ½ hour exam where students will answer two questions on the set texts and a third question comparing a set text to an unseen text.

Independent critical study: Texts across time (20%)

For this part of the course, students will write a 2500 word critical study that focuses on two texts. The aim of this unit will be to get students working independently, so they will choose which texts to study. However, the texts must be by different authors, including one written before 1900 and must not be texts studied elsewhere in the course.

We love teaching this course because we get to explore a range of texts from different genres and time periods, but what unifies these texts is the way they allow us to explore what it means to be human. Some of these writers were living a long time ago, yet many of the experiences they explore in their writing are as relevant today as they were in the past. We enjoy discussing love, relationships, jealousy, envy, gender relations... The list is endless. We also enjoy guiding students as they pursue their own interests in their independent critical study.

Our students say:

- 'I enjoy English literature because it opens your minds to new ideas.' – Jade Y12
- 'English Literature gives us the opportunity to debate contentious issues.' – Ben Y12
- 'I appreciate the care and support that our teachers give us.' – Izzy Y13

What future pathways are open to me if I study English Literature?

English Literature will open up lots of opportunities for you in the future. It teaches communication and critical thinking – skills that are essential to many jobs. English Literature is also regarded as a highly academic subject; a good grade in the subject can tell prospective employers that you are an intelligent, deep thinker. These traits are valuable to a range of professions, but here are a few ideas of careers English Literature may prepare you for: teaching, journalism, politics, research, law, editing, publishing, lecturing, acting.

