

ENGLISH LITERATURE

Specification: AQA

English Literature is a 'facilitating' subject — so called because choosing it at A Level allows a wide range of options for degree study. The study of Literature is a study into the human psyche, human experience and social influences over the years.

The focus of this course is to consider texts through a historicist critical lens. Any text is the product of its time: a study of it will teach a student to read in context and to understand the societal and historical context of the text in time. The ability to read any content with a deeper appreciation and investigation is an essential skill.

Many of the skills developed through studying this subject are related to independent thinking — the ability to analyse sophisticated ideas and the ways in which they are presented, to synthesise large and complex literary texts, and to know how to sculpt a compelling argument are just a few.

Bishop Stopford School

faith | justice | responsibility | truth | compassion

SUBJECT CONTENT

Theme 1: Love through the Ages

Shakespeare's: *Othello*

Ian McEwan's: *Atonement*

Anthology: *Love Through the Ages*

Unseen Poetry

Theme 2: Modern Times: Literature from 1945 to the present day.

Tennessee Williams': *Streetcar Named Desire*

Kathryn Stockett's: *The Help*

Sylvia Plath's: *Arial*

Poetry Anthology

Unseen Prose

NEA (Coursework): Independent critical study of two texts. One essay, 2500 words in length, comparing two texts, Oscar Wilde's: *The Picture of Dorian Gray* and one text of the student's choice.

EXAM ASSESSMENT

Paper 1:

Section A: One question, based on an extract, on *Othello*. (Closed book.)

Section B: Comparison between two poems. (Closed book.)

Section C: Comparison between the prose text, *Atonement*, and two poems from the anthology. (Open book.)

75 marks

Duration: 3 hours

Externally assessed written examination
40% of final A' level

Paper 2: OPTION 2

Section A: One question (choice of two) about *A Streetcar Named Desire*. (Open book.)

Section B: Extract from a novel – unseen.

Comparison between *The Help* and *Arial* (Open book.)

75 marks

Duration: 2 hours 30 minutes

Externally assessed written examination
Open Book

40% of final A' level

These papers will assess the ability to:

- analyse of the writers' methods; explore the contexts of the texts being written about; explore connections cross the texts you have studied; explore different interpretations of your texts.

NEA (Coursework): Independent critical study of two texts.

Internally assessed/externally moderated.

Enrichment

Theatre productions of the set texts, university lecture on *Othello*.

For further details please contact Mrs Pointer:

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