



A-Level English Literature

EDEXCEL Course Code: 9ET0

Contact: Mrs R Goulding

Subject content

The A-level specification in English Literature will build on the knowledge, understanding and skills established at GCSE, introducing students to the discipline of advanced literary studies, and will require reading of the major literary genres of poetry, prose and drama. **This is an "open text" course and students will have copies of the texts provided for them in the examination.**

All texts required for study will be provided by St Martin's School, although students may wish to purchase their own copies if they wish.

Knowledge and understanding

Texts studied will include at least two examples of each of the genres of prose, poetry and drama across the course as a whole and cover a minimum of eight texts including:

- at least 3 texts published before 1900 (Othello, The Picture of Dorian Gray and The Wife of Bath's Prologue and Tale)
- at least one work first published or performed after 2000 (The Little Stranger, A Streetcar Named Desire, Decades Poetry Anthology)
- an "unseen text".

Students will be required to show knowledge and understanding of:

- ways in which writers shape meanings in texts
- ways in which individual texts are interpreted by different readers
- ways in which texts relate to one another and to the contexts in which they are written and read.

Skills

Students will need to:

- read texts in a variety of ways and respond critically and creatively
- vary strategies for reading
- explore connections across texts to identify and consider how attitudes and values are expressed in texts
- draw on their understanding of different interpretations
- communicate fluently, accurately and effectively their knowledge, understanding and judgement of texts
- use literary critical concepts and terminology make appropriate use of the conventions of writing in literary studies, including accurate referencing and use of quotations.

Assessment Framework

The Assessment Objectives evaluate the ability to: articulate responses to literary texts clearly and fluently employing appropriate terminology; analyse how meaning is shaped in literary texts; show understanding of the influence of context on literary texts; explore connections between, and different interpretations of literary texts.

Please note: ALL EXAMINATIONS ARE "OPEN TEXT" – this means pupils will have access to the studied texts in the examination hall.

Assessment components

Component One (30% Examination): Drama

One play by Shakespeare and one other dramatic text.

Component Two (20% Examination): Prose

Two novels on a chosen theme.

Component Three (30% Examination): Poetry

Unseen poetry and the work of one poet or poetry from a chosen literary period.

Component Four (20% Coursework 2500-3000 words)

Extended comparative essay on two texts.

Course Entry Requirements:

English Literature 6 or English Language 6

Why Study A-Level English Literature?

The course is highly appropriate for students wishing to take further qualifications in linguistics, foreign languages, literature, the media, arts or humanities and for those considering careers in, for example, the media, education, law, business, local and national government, the arts or social services.