

ENGLISH

LITERATURE

COURSE GUIDE

You develop the
INSIGHT of an artist,
the analytical
PRECISION of a
SCIENTIST and the
PERSUASIVENESS
of a lawyer.

Professor Morgan, Brunel University



English Literature

Linear A Level

Exam board: OCR

Full specification: www.ocr.org.uk

What will the course involve?

English Literature develops students' understanding of the world around them, past and present; opening eyes to different lives, cultures, and experiences like no other subject. Throughout the A Level course, students read and analyse some of the greatest works of literature crafted throughout the ages, developing a deep appreciation of a variety of writing forms and styles whilst learning about the political, social and historical contexts that influence each text.

A rigorous and highly academic subject that is sought after by all universities, especially Russell Group institutions, literature students will develop a critical and perceptive writing style and will be encouraged to think analytically and creatively at all times during the course. During classroom debates and discussions, they will also voice their own opinions and challenge others' ideas. Our department has an excellent record of achievement at A Level, with 89% of students in 2019 reaching or exceeding their expected progress.

English Literature is a subject that will be most suited to students with a passion for the arts, and the written word in particular: many go on to study Law, History, Politics, Advertising, PR, Journalism, Media or Education. It is a subject that will compliment many other A Level choices and above all, will develop skills that will remain invaluable to students throughout their lives.

How will the course be assessed?

This two-year, linear course will require students to sit two exams at the end of Year 13: each exam makes up 40% of their total A Level grade. Students are also required to submit two coursework essays which will be completed in the final year of the course, the results of which will account for 20% of their overall grade.



English Literature

YEAR 12

Students will prepare for Paper 1: Drama and Poetry Pre-1900 in their first year of the A Level course. They will be required to study Shakespeare's tragedy *Hamlet*, exploring not Shakespeare's use of literary form, structure and language but also engaging with critical perspectives on the text and applying literary theory to key scenes of the play. Students will be required to analyse a short extract of the play in the assessment, alongside responding to a critical question which will ask for discussion of the text in its entirety.

They will also study the poetry of Christina Rossetti, a prominent Victorian poet, and the Jacobean revenge tragedy *The Duchess of Malfi*, analysing in detail how far these works of literature have been influenced by the contexts that surround them. Students will be required to compare the two texts in their final assessment, comparing and contrasting their portrayal of characters, themes and situations.

YEAR 13

In the second of this two-year course, students will extensively plan and prepare for their two coursework assessments, which will centre around the theme of war literature. Their first task will ask students to create a close, critical analysis of a Wilfred Owen poem of their choice from a selection provided by their class teacher. The second is a comparative task, inviting students to explore areas of comparison and contrast between two chosen literary texts: our centre chooses to study Sebastian Barry's novel, *A Long Long Way* and the play *Journey's End*, created by R.C Sherriff.

Pupils will also complete a study of Women in Literature, which will require them to analyse unseen passages of texts from a variety of novels, linking them to other texts they have read independently as part of their wider reading. They will finally compare two classic novels, *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte and Jane Austen's *Sense and Sensibility*, placing focus on the contexts surrounding each of the texts.



English Literature

A Level English Exam Results 2020

A*	A	B	C	D	E
3	5	5	5	1	-

For more information please contact Miss A Hodgkinson (Head of English)
or Miss B Currall (Coordinator of A Level English and Media Studies)

