

OCR A Level English Literature

What is A level English Literature?

In studying English Literature you will develop interest in and enjoyment of the subject through reading widely, critically and independently across centuries, genre and gender. You will consider how writers – including you – succeed in shaping the responses and opinions of others. In essence, “The study of English Literature trains the brain and frees the imagination; it is about life and living and just where you fit into the world around you.”

The Course:

Component One: Shakespeare, Drama and Poetry pre-1900 40 %

You must study **one** play by Shakespeare. In addition, you are required to study **one** pre-1900 drama text and **one** pre-1900 poetry text.

Set Texts Shakespeare:

- Coriolanus
- **Hamlet**
- Measure for Measure
- Richard III
- The Tempest
- Twelfth Night

Set Texts Pre-1900 drama

- Christopher Marlowe: Edward II
- John Webster: The Duchess of Malfi
- Oliver Goldsmith: She Stoops to Conquer
- **Henrik Ibsen: A Doll's House**
- Oscar Wilde: An Ideal Husband.

Set Texts Pre- 1900 Poetry

- Geoffrey Chaucer: The Merchant's Prologue and Tale
- **John Milton: Paradise Lost Books 9 & 10**
- Samuel Taylor Coleridge: Selected Poems*
- Alfred, Lord Tennyson: Maud
- Christina Rossetti: Selected Poems*.

Component Two: Comparative and Contextual study 40%

You choose **one** topic from the set list below and study at least **two whole** texts in your chosen topic area, at least **one** of which must be from the core set text list.

Set Topics and Core texts

American Literature 1880–1940

- F Scott Fitzgerald: *The Great Gatsby*
- John Steinbeck: *The Grapes of Wrath*

The Gothic

- Angela Carter: *The Bloody Chamber and Other Stories*
- Bram Stoker: *Dracula*

Dystopia

- Margaret Atwood: *The Handmaid's Tale*
- George Orwell: *Nineteen Eighty-Four*

Women in Literature

- Jane Austen: *Sense and Sensibility*
- Virginia Woolf: *Mrs Dalloway*

The Immigrant Experience

- Mohsin Hamid: *The Reluctant Fundamentalist*
- Henry Roth: *Call It Sleep*

Component Three: Literature post-1900 20%

You choose and study one poetry text, one drama text and one prose text all written after 1900.

Close analysis- Poetry (Plath)

Comparative- *Atonement* by Ian McEwan and *Arcadia* by Tom Stoppard

Assessment: Components one and two are assessed through external examinations of 2 hours 30 minutes each. Both components are worth 40% each of the overall grade

Component three is assessed through coursework and is worth 20% of the overall grade.

Progression: A Level English Literature can help many career paths including journalism, writing, teaching, , politics and the law.