

English Literature A-Level



Exam board: [AQA English Literature](#)

English Literature is an A-level qualification which both broadens and deepens your understanding of canonical and contemporary Literature. It is designed to give you the opportunity to interpret how Literature is used as both a mirror and a looking glass to reflect the world around us. You will discuss and explore how literature is used as protest: to shine a light on the injustices faced in the world. You will study a range of set texts, alongside work on unseen extracts, from the Ancient world up until the present day. The Non-exam Assessment gives you an opportunity to apply your understanding of key theoretical frameworks to a text of your choice – giving you the opportunity for your own independent research to form your own critical opinion. Students who are especially keen on debate, discussion and exploration will excel at this course. It is a challenging qualification, which will broaden your horizons and guide you to express your ideas in a coherent and academic manner.

English Literature is a facilitating subject for applications to university because the course provides you with the invaluable study skills including the ability to articulate your ideas, debate and present and write extended essays. This prepares you excellently for university study or your future career.

Entry requirements:

PH6 standard entry requirements of five + GCSEs (or equivalent) grades 9-5.
A grade 6 or above in GCSE English Literature and GCSE English Language.

Who is this course for?

- Students who have a passion for literature and enjoy lively debate and discussion as an integral part of learning.
- Students who need a good basis for any of a wide range of courses and careers in the arts, social sciences and teaching
- Students who wish to become confident communicators and hone a precisely crafted writing style.

'English Literature provides a fascinating examination of the human condition and presentation of humanity throughout history, and explores the monumental impact of the written word upon society.'

PH6 pupil

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Course Content & Assessment:

Paper 1: Aspects of Tragedy

Othello, Death of a Salesman and Selected Poems by John Keats
(75 Marks, 40% of A Level)

Paper 2: Elements of Political, Social, Protest Writing

The Handmaid's Tale, The Kite Runner, Songs of Innocence and Experience
(75 Marks, 40% of A Level)

Non-Exam Assessment

Two pieces of coursework on two texts (one poetry, one prose) of your choice applying critical theories such as Marxism, Feminism or Eco-criticism
(50 Marks, 20% of A Level)

Future Destinations:

A Level English Literature provides an important foundation for any degree or career involving excellent written communication, research and analytical skills. It will open up many careers including Journalism, Teaching, Law, Academia, Media, Advertising, Marketing, Politics and the Performing Arts. English Literature is a facilitating subject as it facilitates the learning and better understanding of all other subjects.