



English

A-Level English Literature

Subject English Literature

Exam Board AQA

Specification Numbers 7712

Teachers Responsible Miss Martin

Introduction We cannot avoid stories. Whether it's the historical narratives pushed by modern media, the cultural myths passed down through generations, or the tragic scripts played out in our everyday relationships, humanity is defined by the literature it creates. But there is a massive difference between just reading a text and actually holding a mirror up to the society that birthed it. To look back through time and decode how human desire, conflict, and identity are constructed is the ultimate intellectual superpower. This course gives you the keys to that power. You will approach reading through a fascinating historicist lens, showing you exactly how literature actively shapes—and is shaped by—the world around it. You will dissect the burning obsession of *Love Through the Ages*, trace the trauma of *World War I* and challenge established critical theories to forge your own autonomous arguments. If you have a fierce curiosity about the human condition, a passion for debate, and a drive to understand the hidden forces behind history's greatest writers, this is your subject.

Aims of the Course Students will learn how to:

- Develop and apply understanding of concepts and methods appropriate for the historicist analysis and critical study of literature.
- Use precise literary and critical terminology in the close reading, analysis, and interpretation of diverse texts.
- Understand how literature works in context, focusing on how texts were constructed within their specific historical eras and received by audiences over time.
- Reflect on the connections between the various elements of their study, enabling them to explore how authors shape meaning across genres, centuries, and shared themes.
- Engage creatively, critically, and argumentatively with a wide range of texts, spanning from pre-1900 classics to post-2000 contemporary works.
- Develop skills as autonomous critics and interpreters of text, cultivating a unique personal voice to debate, challenge, and evaluate different literary interpretations.
- Make accurate, sophisticated references to texts and academic sources, directly preparing for independent research and university-level essays.

How You Are Assessed Two exams will take place at the end of the two-year course: **both worth 40% of the overall A-Level grade**. Students will also complete an independent critical study, worth **20% of the overall grade**. The non-exam assessment element is an extended comparative essay exploring a theme across TWO texts—one of which must be written pre-1900—with a total advised word count of 2,500 words.

Links to Future Careers AQA English Literature A-Level turns you into a high-level strategic communicator and an expert cultural analyst. In a world flooded with data, the ability to dissect hidden meanings, build bulletproof arguments, and decode human psychology is an elite professional skill. The critical thinking and persuasive skills gained on this course make you highly employable in top-tier corporate fields, including: Law & Advocacy, Corporate Strategy & Marketing, Media, Journalism & PR, Politics & Public Policy.

Entry Requirement

Grade 5 in GCSE English Literature **and**
Grade 5 in GCSE English Language