

English Literature

The object of A Level English Literature is, in the exam board's own words, 'to develop students' interest in and enjoyment of literature and literary studies as they read widely and independently' and to 'engage creatively with a substantial body of texts'.

So, a student of English Literature will enjoy reading, discussing, thinking and writing about a wide range of texts. If you enjoy reading and discussing the novels, plays and poems you're studying for GCSE, then you must give serious thought to furthering that enjoyment in the Sixth Form. The successful student is likely to have a grade B/6 or above at GCSE English and English Literature.

The high-level study of English is essential to anyone planning a career in which confident written and spoken communication is required: for example, journalism, law, human resources, advertising and sales. However, the course will equip you with ideas and develop thinking and language skills which would be useful in any line of employment, or any part of your life.

English Literature combines well with closely-related subjects like Media Studies and History, or complementary ones such as Psychology, Government & Politics or Art.

Many students, however, successfully combine their enjoyment of English Literature with the study of subjects which demand a very different approach: the sciences or Mathematics, for example.

'I would like to thank you for two wonderful years of English; not just for teaching the subject, but also for the view of life and the world around us'.

ASSESSMENT and CONTENT

AS - two written examinations (totalling 3 hours) on poetry, drama and prose

A2 - three written examinations (totalling 5 hours) on drama (including Shakespeare), prose and poetry; one coursework literary study (totalling 2500 - 3000 words) on two texts chosen by teachers in consultation with students.

The course requirements...

Grade B/6 or higher in GCSE English & English Literature