English Literature A Level

Course Description:

You will follow the OCR English Literature course which is designed to develop your interest, enjoyment and critical appreciation of a wide range of literary texts from the major literary genres of prose, poetry and drama. You will explore the relationships between texts and the significance of cultural and contextual influences and gain a greater appreciation of the richness of language and literature and its changing traditions. The course supports the development of valuable transferable skills including sustained research, critical analysis, wider reading and extended analytical writing, all of which promote independence of thought and offer excellent preparation for study at undergraduate level.

Qualifications required:

Minimum entry requirements apply. Grade 5 or above in both English Language and English Literature.

Aims of the course:

- To develop an understanding of some of the ways in which literature is written and read;
- To read a substantial body of literary texts from different literary genres and periods, developing skills of independent reading and critical analysis;
- To produce detailed, well researched analytical essays which engage critically with different literary perspectives; there will also be an opportunity to produce some original writing.

Future Prospects:

English Literature is a very flexible and adaptable subject, so future career opportunities are extensive. The subject combines well with many other subjects in the arts and sciences but especially with textual based subjects like Drama and History as well as subjects like Psychology and Sociology. University Admissions Tutors and employers look favourably upon students who have studied A Level English Literature, knowing they will have good oral and written communication ability and have developed useful skills of analysis and interpretation.

Careers which can be entered with an English Literature A Level/English degree are many and varied and include management, research, consultancy, publishing, medicine, teaching, journalism, the Civil Service, media and advertising.

Student Feedback:

'What a great course! I've really discovered myself in the texts we've studied.'

'An exciting two years of fun and hard work.'

'The texts studied have been captivating and engaging.'

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Features of the course:

The study of English Literature requires a very high level of commitment and will enable you to:
increase your knowledge, appreciation and enjoyment of a wide range of literary texts from different genres and historical periods
help you develop important skills in critical thinking, discussion, written expression, independent research and critical analysis.
study of variety of prose, poetry and drama, and explore some new and interesting ways of reading and writing about texts.
develop your analytical skills.

A Level unit – two-year linear course

Linearity is a key feature of the course. All three components are designed to be examined at the end of the two-year course.

H472/01
Drama & poetry pre-1900
This unit involves the study of Shakespeare's 'Othello' and the comparative study of Ibsen's play, 'A Doll's House' and Chaucer's poetry, 'The Merchant's Prologue and Tale.'

H472/02
Comparative and contextual study
The topic studied for this unit is 'The Gothic'. In this Synoptic examination, Section A requires you to write a critical appreciation of a previously unseen passage of prose related to the topic area, and in Section B, an essay comparing at least two whole texts, Bram Stoker's 'Dracula' and Oscar Wilde's 'The Picture of Dorian Gray'.

H472/03: A Level coursework, representing 20% of your final grade
You will study 3 texts (one poetry, one prose and one drama text) and complete a portfolio of 3000 words consisting of two written assignments.

Methods of Assessment:

80% of the two-year linear A Level course is assessed through examination. The two pieces of coursework completed as part of the A level course are marked internally and moderated externally by the examination board.