

## **A LEVEL ENGLISH LITERATURE** **(Edexcel Pearson specification)**



Studying A Level English Literature offers students the opportunity to read, discuss and analyse literary texts from all genres and many of the major periods of writing in English. This is an academic and literate qualification that is highly valued by universities and would particularly suit students wishing to study all forms of English, humanities subjects or law at degree level.

Students are expected to have achieved at least a grade 5 in both GCSE English Literature and English Language.

### **YEAR ONE**

Students will study *four* literary texts (*please see overleaf*) which make up part of all 3 A Level components.

#### **Component 1: Drama**

For this unit students will study a non-Shakespeare tragedy, which will require an understanding of the genre and context, as well as the play itself. This is an open book exam.

#### **Component 2: Prose**

For this unit, students will study 2 novels from a connected genre (see overleaf). This is an open book examination. Students will practise writing comparative essays on a range of titles.

#### **Component 3: Poetry**

In this unit, students will study the named poems from the 21<sup>st</sup> Century anthology, and a range of modern unseen poetry for comparison. This is an open book examination. There will be one comparative essay question on a named poem from their studied collection, which will need to be compared to an unseen modern poem.

### **YEAR TWO**

There will be 20% coursework in the A Level. Students will study another *four* literary texts (*please see overleaf*). **Eight** in total across the 2 year course.

#### **Component 1: Drama – 30% of the A Level – 2 ¼ hour examination**

This is an open book examination. Students will study one Shakespeare tragedy and the tragedy covered in Component 1 of the lower 6th. They will write one essay on each text. They will also study an anthology of critical essays on Shakespearean tragedy.

#### **Component 2: Prose – 20% of the A Level – 1 hour examination**

This is an open book examination. Students will be examined on the two prose texts studied in the lower 6th. Students will be required to write one comparative essay.

#### **Component 3: Poetry – 30% of the A Level – 2 ¼ hour examination.**

In addition to the selection of post-2000 poems studied in the lower 6<sup>th</sup>, students will experience more unseen poetry and a range of poetry from either a literary period or a named poet from that period (*please see overleaf*). In Section A they will write one essay comparing an unseen poem with a named poem from the collection studied. In Section B they will write one essay on the poetry set text.

#### **Component 4: Coursework – 20%**

Students have a free choice of two texts to study. They are required to write one extended comparative essay (2500-3000 words).

GCSE requirements:-

**English Language – grade 5; English Literature – grade 5**

**An example of some of the literary set texts that can be covered:**

**Dramatic Tragedy:**

Shakespeare:

*Antony and Cleopatra, Hamlet, King Lear, Othello*

Other Writers:

Marlowe        *Doctor Faustus*

Williams       *A Streetcar Named Desire*

**Prose:**

Science and Society

*Frankenstein, The War of the Worlds, Never Let Me Go, The Handmaid's Tale*

The Supernatural

*The Picture of Dorian Gray, Dracula, The Little Stranger, Beloved*

Crime and Detection

*Lady Audley's Secret, The Moonstone, In Cold Blood (Truman Capote),  
The Murder Room (P D James)*

Women and Society

*Wuthering Heights, Tess of the D'Urbervilles, Mrs Dalloway,  
A Thousand Splendid Suns (Hosseini)*

**Poetry:**

**Either one of the following poets:**

Chaucer        *Wife of Bath*

Donne         *Selected Poems*

Keats          *Selected Poems*

Rossetti       *Selected Poems*

T S Eliot      *Selected Poems*

Larkin         *The Less Deceived*

**Or a selection of poems from that writer's era, chosen by the examination board.**