

# GCSE : English Literature

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## Course Description

English Literature will enable learners to:

- read in depth, critically and evaluatively, so that they are able to discuss and explain their understanding and ideas
- develop the habit of reading widely and often
- appreciate the depth and power of English Literary Heritage
- write accurately, effectively and analytically about their reading, using Standard English
- acquire and use a wide vocabulary, including the grammatical terminology and other literary and linguistic terms they need to criticise and analyse what they read.

## Examination Information

- Exam board: AQA
- 100% assessment by linear exam
- Non-tiered exam papers

Paper 1: Shakespeare and the  
nineteenth century novel

Paper 2: Modern texts and poetry

This course must be studied in conjunction with GCSE English Language leading to a dual award in:

## GCSE in English Language and GCSE English Literature

### Assessment Objectives:

AO1: Read, understand and respond to texts. Students should be able to:

- maintain a critical style and develop an informed personal response.
- use textual references, including quotations, to support and illustrate interpretations.

AO2: Analyse the language, form and structure used by a writer to create meanings and effects, using relevant subject terminology where appropriate.

AO3: Show understanding of the relationships between texts and the contexts in which they were written.

AO4: Use a range of vocabulary and sentence structures for clarity, purpose and effect, with accurate spelling and punctuation.

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## Teaching & Learning: students will study for two external examinations

### Paper 1: Shakespeare and the nineteenth century novel

- 40% of the total GCSE marks
- Closed book (students are *not* permitted to take copies of their texts into the exam)
- Candidates are required to read and understand a prescribed play by William Shakespeare and a prescribed novel written before 1914.

Section A: Shakespeare: Students answer a two-part question on the play they have been studying. Students must answer on an extract provided in the exam and then on the play as a whole.

Section B: Nineteenth-century novel: Students answer a two-part question on the novel they have been studying. Students must answer on an extract provided in the exam and then on the novel as a whole.

### Paper 2: Modern texts and poetry

- 60% of the total GCSE marks
- Closed book (students are *not* permitted to take copies of their texts into the exam)
- Candidates are required to read and understand a prescribed British novel or play and study a cluster of 15 poems from a prescribed anthology as well as preparing to answer on unseen poetry.

Section A: Modern text: students are given a choice of two questions on the text they are studying and must answer one.

Section B: Anthology poetry: students must complete a comparison of two of the poems they have studied.

Section C: Students must answer a question on an unseen poem and then a comparative question on that poem and a second unseen poem.

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## Progression to Further Education

Students who achieve a grade 9-4 may progress onto A-Level English courses in the Sixth Form.



For further information please see:

**Mr J Brettell**

**(Subject Leader of English)**

### Careers

- Journalism and writing
- Publishing
- Teaching
- Work in TV, Radio, Film, Drama and Music
- Marketing, Advertising, PR.
- Management