



A-LEVEL ENGLISH LITERATURE

TOGETHER WE SUCCEED
ACHIEVEMENT ASPIRATION HIGH EXPECTATIONS COMMUNITY

A-LEVEL ENGLISH LITERATURE

EXAM BOARD: AQA SYLLABUS B

Aims of the Course:

This course will help you to understand how narrative works in a variety of novels, plays and poems. It will enable you to make connections between texts and also introduce you to ideas about the genre of tragedy through the study of drama texts. In the second year you will learn more about genre by focusing on Crime Writing, as well as extending your own independent reading and learning about different critical theories. This will enable you to offer different readings of a variety of texts.

Programme of Study:

Paper 1 – Literary Genres–Exam 40%

You will read three texts: one Shakespeare text (Othello), a second drama text and one further pre-1900 text. You will explore texts through the lens of tragedy and much of your study will be understanding conventions of genre, with a focus on applying your knowledge to the set texts.

- Exam: 2 hours 30 minutes
- Closed book
- 75 marks

Paper 2 – Texts and Genres - Exam 40%

This unit will require you to study three texts from the Crime Writing genre: a selection of poems by pre-1900 writers, The Murder of Roger Ackroyd by Agatha Christie and Atonement by Ian McEwan.

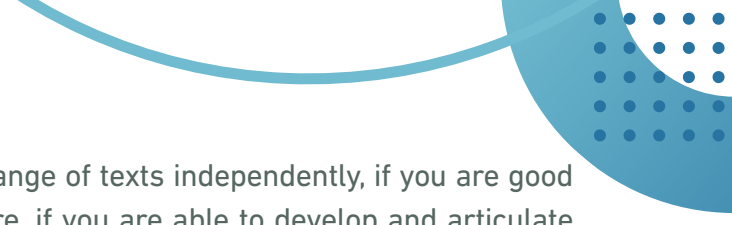
- Exam: 3 hours
- Open book
- 75 marks

Unit 3 – Theory and Independence – Coursework 20%

This is an opportunity to choose your own texts and devise your own coursework tasks. We will study four critical theories (Feminism, Marxism, Eco Theory and Narrative Theory) and then apply these to a poetry text and a prose text of your choice.

Approaches to Learning:

You will develop your independent learning skills through reading and research. You will be involved in presentations and essay writing. During lessons you will be expected to take part in class and group discussions, to offer analysis of texts and evaluate a range of critical theories. We also organise relevant theatre visits whenever possible.



This course is for you if you enjoy reading a wide range of texts independently, if you are good at thinking creatively and analytically about literature, if you are able to develop and articulate your opinions about texts and if you can produce extended writing which explores your ideas.

This course will prepare you for a wide range of degree courses, especially English, but also Humanities subjects and Law. Future careers include the media, teaching, Law, public relations, marketing, management and the Civil Service.

Minimum Entry Requirements:

Five grade 9-5 GCSE passes including English and Maths. A 9-5 in English Language and English Literature.



STEP-UP INDEPENDENT STUDY TASKS

These tasks help you to practise working through the content and implied meanings in a text by exploring an extract of a short story by George Orwell, "Nineteen Eighty-four". There is also a choice of creative writing tasks inspired by this extract.

These tasks will provide an insight into political writing, which is a key aspect of the AQA A Level English Literature specification, and introduce you to some challenging Dystopian fiction, as well as developing your critical reading skills.

Task 1

Read the extract of George Orwell's '1984' that you have been provided with. Annotate looking specifically at how the politics of this situation are used to manipulate and control. Then attempt to write a paragraph to answer each of the following:

- How does Orwell present the way people's emotions are controlled during the Two Minutes Hate?
- Why do you think fear and hatred are so important in the Party's methods of controlling the people?
- Choose two symbols and explain how they represent oppression or control in this society.
- How does Orwell show the destruction of personal identity and independent thought in this scene?
- How does the Party use language (for example, the slogans, Goldstein's 'bleating' voice, or the chants) to manipulate reality and thought? Why do you think this is effective in keeping people under control?

Task 1 Resource - ["1984" by George Orwell](#)

Task 2

An option for the N.E.A. is to produce a piece of writing in response to a text that demonstrates your understanding of the literature in a more creative way. Having read and studied the extract, you now need to choose one of the following creative tasks:

- Write a paragraph of the above extract in your own words. You don't need to change every single word, but it should employ different language and tone.
- Write at least a paragraph of your own story of submission and control, where you are either seeing through the system of control or are the one implementing it.
- Create a news-story based on the events of this story. Your news story can be for either a newspaper article or the text for the television news

TO DEEPEN YOUR UNDERSTANDING

Complete some of the activities in the "10 Things To Do To Prepare for A Level English Literature" document.

- Get a head start with Shakespeare by exploring the Royal Shakespeare's "Othello on the Shakespeare Learning Zone": <https://www.rsc.org.uk/shakespeare-learning-zone/othello>
- Prepare for Thomas Hardy by listening to one of his novels;
 - "Tess of the D'Urbervilles" is your set text audiobook here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5cRPCqnqgsk>
 - or perhaps another of his novels to get a greater appreciation of his style ("Far From the Madding Crowd" is here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4zfPWom3MPM>
 - or "Jude the Obscure": <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pQXICYxJy4U>)
- Read the e-magazine Resource Pack "Making the Leap: Moving from GCSE to A Level Literature Study".

COMPLETED TASK

Student Name			
Subject Teacher		Date:	
Form Tutor:		Date:	