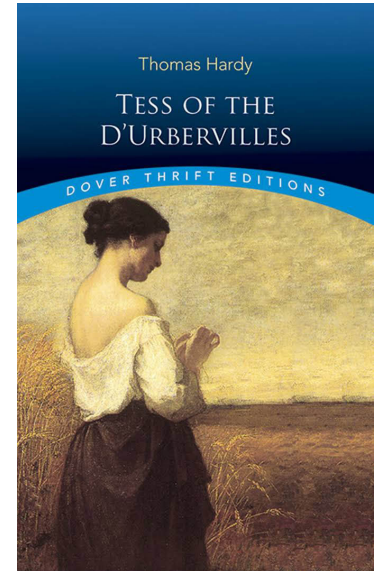


# English Literature A Level



## COURSE DESCRIPTION

If you study A Level English Literature you will read a range of texts from Shakespeare to the present day. The course will develop your understanding of all the major literary genres. You will sharpen your critical skills through wide-ranging discussion of texts as well as the historical and social contexts in which they were written. You will have many opportunities for discussion as well as developing your confidence as critical writers. A Level English Literature is a course which will equip you for a range of university courses and possible careers.



## SKILLS REQUIRED

- History and love of wide reading
- Ability to analyse and interpret unseen texts
- Ability to sensitively explore the connotations of language and imagery in detail
- Ability to read challenging texts independently
- Participation in critical discussions about texts
- Ability to support an interpretation with robust and wide-ranging evidence
- Ability to engage critically with other people's opinions about texts
- Interest in how the context in which a text is produced shapes the way it is written

## EXAMINATION RESULTS

The examination results are consistently excellent and are significantly above the National average. Every year many students go on to study English related courses at university in 2024 students enrolled onto the following courses:

English with Film - King's College, University of London

English - University of Bristol

Classics - University of Oxford

English and History - University of York

English Literature results in 2024: A\* - A 50%    A\* - B 95.5%    A\* - C 95.5%

## HEAD OF DEPARTMENT

Jane Anthony

## EXAM BOARD

EDUQUAS

## PROGRAMME OF STUDY

### Poetry

Comparison of Sylvia  
Plath and Ted Hughes  
John Milton:  
Paradise Lost Book 9

30% of total A Level

Exam paper  
2 hours

### Drama

Comparison of Webster's  
*The Duchess of Malfi*  
and William's *A Streetcar  
Named Desire*

30% of total A Level

Exam paper  
2 hours

### Unseen

Prose texts from  
1880-1910  
Poetry from across the  
ages

20% of total A Level

Exam paper  
2 hours

### Prose Study

Comparison of pre- and  
post-2000 novels

20% of total A Level

Coursework essay  
2500-3500 words

## ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

Enrichment activities take place in and outside school. Throughout the year we run a programme of theatre trips. In the past these have included trips to *Twelfth Night*, *King Lear*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Hamlet*, *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead* (Stoppard), while more recently we saw Brian Friel's *Translations*, Cush Jumbo's *Hamlet* and the recent National production of *Small Island*. In 2023 -2024 we visited

the Black Cultural Archives to support our study of Andrea Levy's *Small Island* as well as two trips to the Globe in February for performances of *The Duchess of Malfi* and *Othello*. In the summer, as part of our Shakespeare Summer School we took Year 12 to see *Richard III*. We like to keep our finger on the cultural pulse of London so that our students can benefit from the central location of our school. We also run a Sixth Form book club with a view to exploring different genres or styles of writing. In recent years this is a club which has been run by students for students. We also organise creative writing trips to venues such as the Queen's Gallery. We end the year with two-day Shakespeare Summer School which involves guest speakers and gives students opportunities to study texts outside the curriculum. Many of our Year 12 students also participate in a Paired Reading scheme with Year 7 students in which they support the development of less confident readers.



## FUTURE CAREERS

Studying English Literature opens up the possibility of a wide variety of career choices and will provide students with the skills and aptitude to work in almost any industry. English A Level will help you develop a range of transferable skills: for example, you will be able to summarise a huge amount of text, you will be able to draw out evidence to support broad arguments, you will be able to sustain a point of view in both extended writing and discussion. Such skills will enable you to consider careers in a wide variety of areas such as the legal profession, journalism and other areas of the media, education, advertising and marketing. Studying A Level Literature is counted as a 'facilitating' subject by the Russell Group of universities. With this A Level students go on to study Languages, Classics, History, Art, Law, Economics, Journalism, International relations and many other courses.

We offer a wide range of support for students studying A Level English Literature. We offer a trip to New College, Oxford where students experience a mock-tutorial and are advised on the admissions process. We also advertise other taster days and summer schools; in the Summer term students have an opportunity to attend a lecture at King's College, London. Students are given detailed support with university applications through recommended reading and one-to-one feedback on their personal statements. We run weekly Oxbridge preparation sessions which prepare students for the ELAT test and the interview.