

English Literature



Exam board: EDUQAS

Specification no: B720 (AS) / A720 (A Level)

[A level specification template \(eduqas.co.uk\)](http://eduqas.co.uk)

Course Delivery:

English Literature is a two year linear A level course which is assessed at the end of Year 13 to give the final A level grade. The AS content broadly forms the first half of the A level course, but it is not directly transferable. Completion of an AS Level award would require some independent reading since there are some variations in content.

Why study Literature?

There is abundant value in learning English Literature. It offers lessons that cannot be simply learned from other traditional subjects such as Maths or Science. From the timeless works of William Shakespeare, to the *Great Expectations* of Charles Dickens, Literature has provided generations of budding intellectuals, like yourselves, with the wisdom of eras combined. It sets a solid foundation for academia and lifelong learning. Studying Literature will help explore and analyse some of life's greatest questions and encourages you to re-evaluate the world around you. This course is enjoyable, thought provoking and deeply intellectual. You will flourish as a learner and be encouraged and supported by a highly experienced and dedicated team of educators.

FAQs

Who will teach me? We have a strong and experienced team. You will be taught by 2 members of staff in year 12 and 2 members of staff in year 13. Staff may vary between years 12 and 13.

How many lessons do I have a fortnight? You will have 10 lessons a fortnight. Nine of these are taught directly in a classroom whilst your '10th' lesson is not directed by a member of staff. Instead a room is made available for you to complete independent study.

Is Literature a lot of work? As long as you love reading and can self-motivate, you won't consider it as 'work' but 'enrichment'.

When do I complete any independent study / homework? We strongly suggest you use free periods (including your 10th lesson) as well as time at home. People who are disciplined at school always do better. We recommend 5 hours of personal study and wider reading per week to mirror time spent in taught lessons.

A Level Summary of Assessment

Component 1: Poetry

Written examination: 2 hours

Section A: Pre-1900 Poetry (open-book, clean copy)

One two-part question based on the reading of one pre-1900 poetry text from a prescribed list.

Current text: **John Donne: *Selected Poems*** (Penguin Classics)

"No man is an island, entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent."



Section B: Post-1900 Poetry (open-book, clean copy)

One question from a choice of two based on the reading of two post-1900 poetry texts from a prescribed list.

Current texts: **Philip Larkin: *The Whitsun Weddings*** (Faber) &

Carol Ann Duffy: *Mean Time* (Picador)

"Poetry and prayer are very similar."

Component 2: Drama

Written examination: 2 hours

Section A: Shakespeare (closed-book)

One two-part question based on the reading of one Shakespeare play from a prescribed list.

Current text: **Hamlet**

"What a piece of work is man."



Section B: Drama (closed-book)

One question from a choice of two based on the reading of a pair of plays: one pre-1900 and one post-1900, from a prescribed list.

Current texts: **John Webster: *The Duchess of Malfi*** (Methuen) & **Tennessee Williams: *A Streetcar Named Desire*** (Penguin Modern Classics)

"I don't want realism. I want magic!"

Component 3: Unseen Texts

Written examination: 2 hours

Section A: Unseen prose

One question from a choice of two, analysing an unseen passage of prose, taken from one of two prescribed periods for study.

Section B: Unseen poetry

One question from a choice of two, analysing an unseen poem or poetry extract.

Component 4: Prose Study

Non-exam assessment: 2500-3500 words

One 2500-3500 word assignment based on the reading of two prose texts from different periods, one pre-2000 and one post-2000, nominated by the centre.



Entry requirements:

Grade 6 in English Literature and grade 5 in English Language.

Visits / resources:

Theatre trips will be arranged when appropriate, although students are also expected to visit the theatre independently. Students will be issued with texts and resources, but those who wish to write on their texts (a practice to be recommended at this level) will be expected to pay for their own.

Recommended reading / websites:

- John Sutherland, *A little history of literature* (or any text on the history of Literature, with particular reference to the periods/genres outlined above.)
- J.A. Cuddon, M.A.R. Habib, *The Penguin Dictionary of Literary Terms and Literary Theory* (or any text on literary devices)
- Emagazine offers a wide range of critical articles:
<https://www.englishandmedia.co.uk/e-magazine/emagazine-81>
- Username *redcliffe6* - password *english* (all lower case)
- The British Library website boasts archives of credible articles on the set texts and more: <https://www.bl.uk/>
- *BBC Radio 4 IN OUR TIME* includes a wide array of podcasts discussing interesting topics including the texts and contexts studied on the course.
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006qykl>
- Deryn Rees Jones, *The poetry of Carol Ann Duffy, 'Choosing Tough Words'*
- Andrew Motion, *Philip Larkin, A Writer's Life*
- Katherine Rundell, *Superinfinte, The Transformations of John Donne*
- Mathew Roudané, *The Cambridge Companion to Tennessee Williams*
- Christina Luckyj (edited). *The Duchess of Malfi: A Critical Guide*
- Arthur F. Kinney, *Hamlet: Critical Essays*

For further information:

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