



St Mary Redcliffe  
and Temple School

# English Literature



# English Literature

**Exam board:** EDUQAS

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

**This is a two year linear A level course** - The AS content forms the first half of the A level content but is not straightforward to take as an AS Level because this would require some independent reading since the AS contains a supporting text not required for the A Level. Otherwise the two years of content are assessed at the end of Year 13 to give the A level grade.

## Why study Literature?

English Literature has been a large part of our education system for centuries. From the many timeless works of William Shakespeare, to the *Great Expectations* of Charles Dickens, Literature has provided generations of budding intellects, like yourselves, with the wisdom of eras combined.

There is abundant value in learning English Literature, as it offers lessons that cannot be simply learned from other traditional subjects such as Maths or Science. It sets a solid foundation for academia and lifelong learning.

Literature helps explore and analyse some of life's greatest questions and assists you in gaining the skills required for a deeper thought process and approach to life.

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.

## Summary of Assessment (A Level)

### 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."*

### 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 in 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!"*

### **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.

### **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.

### **FAQ**

#### **Who will teach me?**

We have a strong and experienced team and you will be taught by 2 members of staff in year 12 and 2 members of staff in year 13. These staff members may vary between years.

#### **How many lessons do I have a fortnight?**

You will have 10 lessons a fortnight. Nine of these are taught to you directly in a classroom whilst your '10th' lesson is one not directed by a member of staff but where 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 as well as your 10<sup>th</sup> period as well as time at home. Those people who are disciplined at school always do better. We recommend 5 hours of personal study and wider reading per week.

**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 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:**

Any text on the history of English Literature, with particular reference to the periods/genres outlined above.

Any text on literary devices

The Art of Fiction – David Lodge

A Room with a View-E.M Forster

For further information:

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