

# A-LEVEL ENGLISH LITERATURE



## WHY STUDY ENGLISH LITERATURE AT A-LEVEL?

A-Level English Literature is the gateway to culture both past and present. It brings history to life and enriches us with an insight into experiences; it helps you understand the evolution of both language and society.

You will gain an appreciation of what motivated some of the most influential writers in the English speaking world to write with such artistic merit. The works of Shakespeare, Blake and others, remain relevant and challenge our understanding of society to this day.

A-Level English Literature teaches you to analyse different types of writing and to write clearly in a range of styles. It also pushes you to read outside your comfort zone, while expanding your language skills and range of vocabulary.

English Literature allows you to develop an understanding through a knowledge of literary context, theory and criticism. Scholars of English Literature will critically evaluate the world around them.

## TOPICS STUDIED

A broad range of literature, including:

- Death of a Salesman
- Othello
- The Kite Runner
- A Doll's House
- The Poetry of Blake and Keats

## ASSESSMENT STRUCTURE

The course is assessed by a combination of two exams and a non-exam assessment

### PAPER 1

- Written exam: 3 hours
- Open book in Section C only
- 75 marks
- 40% of A-Level

### PAPER 2

- Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes
- Open book
- 75 marks
- 40% of A-Level

### NON-EXAM ASSESSMENT

Independent critical study: texts across time

- Comparative critical study of two texts, at least one of which must have been written pre-1900
- One extended essay (2500 words) and a bibliography
- 20% of A-Level

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## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade 6 in GCSE English Language

Grade 6 in GCSE English Literature

## CAREER PATHWAYS

English Literature has many career routes, including journalism, teaching, TV and radio, academia, management, copy writing, lexicographer and public relations.

## IS THIS COURSE FOR ME?

If you have a curiosity about the human condition, the way society functions and the complexities of human nature, English Literature is for you.

English Literature opens up your mind to other worlds, people and cultures in a way no other art form can. Creativity of ideas, reading and interpretation is valued alongside a passion for reading and criticising literary theories.

You will be expected to read the core texts alongside theories of Marxism, Post-Colonialism and Feminism to support your interpretation. English Literature A-Level will revisit the works of Shakespeare, explore Arthur Miller, investigate social and political protest writing and poetry.

If you really enjoy reading classic and modern literature and then traversing the moral, philosophical and emotional issues which arise, this is the course for you.

## NEED MORE INFORMATION?

Please contact Mrs G Allsopp, Head of English, [gallsopp@lighthall.co.uk](mailto:gallsopp@lighthall.co.uk)

### READING LIST

- Death of a Salesman - Arthur Miller
- Othello - William Shakespeare
- The Kite Runner - Khaled Hosseini
- A Doll's House - Henrik Ibsen
- Songs of Innocence and Experience - Poetry by John Keats and William Blake

