



# GCSE English Literature

- CORE COMPULSORY
- NON-QUALIFICATION
- OPTION
- EBACC SUBJECT

Examination board: AQA

Course code: 8702

Subject contact: Ms J. Williams, Curriculum Leader for English

## Course Description

GCSE English Literature will encourage students to develop knowledge and skills in reading, writing and critical thinking. Through literature, students have the chance to develop culturally and acquire knowledge of some of the best English literature ever written. Studying GCSE English Literature should encourage students to read widely and for pleasure.

Students should:

- Read a wide range of literature fluently and with a developed understanding, making connections across their reading.
- Read in depth, critically and evaluatively, so that they are able to discuss and explain their understanding and ideas.
- Develop the habit of reading widely and often.
- Appreciate the depth and power of the English literary heritage.
- Write accurately, effectively and analytically about their reading, using standard English.

This is a core subject and is taken with GCSE English Language.

## Entry Requirements

None.

## Key Skills

Good written work and creative ability.

Students should be reading independently outside of lessons.

## Cost

Students will be required to purchase copies of the texts in order to annotate thoroughly. Texts will be confirmed by the end of Y9. Poetry anthologies will be provided free of charge but they may wish to purchase a revision guide for this, and each of the other set texts.

## Assessment

100% Examination

50% - Paper 1: Shakespeare (Macbeth) and the 19<sup>th</sup> Century Novel (A Christmas Carol)

50% - Paper 2: Modern texts (An Inspector Calls) and Poetry (Power & Conflict, and unseen poetry)

## Careers

Literature is a core subject and may be studied at A level and University. It is also useful for other subjects, where good written expression is required. It can lead into careers in film and media, law, education, and creative industries.

## Further education opportunities

GCSE English Language is required for most courses students will take in the future. Many employers expect young people to have at least a grade 5 and to demonstrate effective communication skills. Students who achieve a grade 5, or above, can progress onto A level in English Literature or English Language and Literature, though due to the demands of A level Literature, some colleges demand a grade 6.

## Enrichment and Support

Exam support sessions are available weekly. Focussed revision sessions will be offered nearer the exam.