

## ENGLISH LITERATURE Advanced Level

**Qualification** Level 3 Advanced GCE in English Literature

**Exam Board** AQA

**Course Specific Entry Requirements** Grade 5 or above in **both** GCSE English Language **and** GCSE English Literature

### Overview

Advanced Level English Literature involves students in the study of a range of literary texts from a variety of genres and contexts. You will develop new approaches to the ways in which texts are analysed, interpreted and explored and will examine the ways in which authors' methods shape complex meanings and ideas. You will develop your ability to analyse the structure and language of a range of poetry, drama texts and prose as well as exploring the relationships between texts and the contexts in which they are set in order to make connections across literary genres. You will be assessed through two examinations at the end of the course. You will also complete a non-examined component that requires you to explore texts of your own choosing, both creatively and analytically.

### What will I learn?

- ▲ **Paper 1 Love through the Ages:** you will study a Shakespeare play focussing on the ways in which the theme of love is explored through language and dramatic technique. You will also study one prose and one poetry text, one of which will have been written pre-1900 and one post-1900. The exam will ask you to relate a printed extract from your studied play to the play as a whole. You will learn to respond to unseen poetry and to compare prose and poetry texts. Both these skills will be tested in the exam.
- ▲ **Paper 2 Texts in Shared Contexts:** you will study three texts – one prose, one poetry and one drama - exploring aspects of literature connected through a period of time. The exam will test your ability to compare texts and to respond to unseen texts, as well as responding to an individual text in detail. There are two periods of time from which to choose:
  - ▲ **WW1 and its Aftermath** explores literature arising out of World War 1, but extends this period to allow reflection on the full impact of the war that reverberates up to the present day. It considers the impact on combatants, non-combatants and subsequent generations as well as its social, political, personal and literary legacies.
  - ▲ **Modern Times** takes the end of World War 2 as its historical starting point and explores both modern and contemporary literature's engagement with some of the social, political, personal and literary issues which have helped to shape the latter half of the 20th century and the early decades of the 21st century.
- ▲ **Non-examined assessment Texts across Time:** you will undertake an independent, comparative, critical study of two texts. With teacher guidance, you will be encouraged to read widely and, in this component, can choose texts that you find particularly stimulating and engaging to focus. You will receive regular support and feedback but will be expected to explore ideas and interpretations entirely of your own choosing in order to produce an essay of 2500 words together with a supporting bibliography.

### How will I learn?

Lessons are designed to encourage active participation. Discussion and group or individual presentations are regular features and you will often be expected to lead learning. Lessons will teach you to develop reading, writing and thinking skills; beyond the classroom, learning is consolidated and supplemented by independent reading, research and engagement with relevant social and historical texts.

### Where could it lead?

English Literature is valued both by universities and in the workplace. Literature students are highly competent in analysing texts, thinking creatively and writing coherently, skills essential in many professions including law, journalism, education, public relations, management, media and the arts.