

OPTIONS SUBJECTS: GCSE English Literature

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT

Ms J Cuthbert

EXAM BOARD

AQA

BREAKDOWN OF MARKS

Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th Century Novel

64 marks (40%)
1 hr 45 mins

Paper 2: Modern Texts and Poetry

96 marks (60%)
2 hr 45 mins

SKILLS

Fluency in reading and writing
Critical reading and comprehension
Analytical writing
Evaluative writing
Comparative writing
Writing effectively about literature for a range of purposes
Using Standard English accurately

VITAL INFORMATION

This course is an opportunity for students to explore the world around them through the writing of others. The texts we study span several centuries, from the 1600s to the present day. By studying a wealth of literature, students will develop their understanding of what it means to be human - our shared experiences but also our differences. This course is a separate qualification to GCSE English Language; however, it develops many of the same analytical writing skills.

CURRICULUM CONTENT

Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th Century Novel

Section A - Macbeth (30 marks + 4 SPAG marks)

Students will study Shakespeare's gruesome tale of murder and deception in order to develop both their understanding of Shakespeare's writing and also the world in which he was presenting his ideas and how they may link to the modern day.

Section B - A Christmas Carol (30 marks)

This text may initially seem like a simple Christmas story; however, students will soon be intrigued to learn about Dickens' determination to transform Victorian society by addressing serious issues such as poverty, greed and isolation.

Paper 2: Modern Texts and Poetry

Section A - An Inspector Calls (30 marks + 4 SPaG marks)

Students start Year 10 studying JB Priestley's ghostly detective play about a wealthy family who have more to do with the sudden death of a young woman than they'd like to admit.

Section B - Anthology Poetry (30 marks)

Students will study a cluster of 15 poems which are linked by themes relating to the human experience.

Section C - Unseen Poetry (32 marks)

This element of the course allows students to explore a range of poems that they have not seen before and analyse themes, ideas and writer's methods.

CURRICULUM & CAREER PROGRESSION

NEXT STEPS

Most A levels and BTECs but especially:
English Language
English Language and Literature
English Literature
History
Philosophy
Sociology

CAREERS

Journalism
Writing - plays/poems/novels
Law
Education
Theatre