Why Study A Level English Literature?

Course Introduction

A-level English Literature explores how writers use language, form and structure to communicate ideas and reflect the world around them. Through studying poetry, prose and drama across different periods, you'll develop your critical thinking, interpret complex texts and explore how literature reflects human experiences and society.

Entry Requirements

5 GCSEs with a minimum Grade 6
Minimum Grade 6 in GCSE Maths & GCSE English

Course Content

Explore literary texts and examine how writers present themes, characters and ideas across different periods.

- Shakespeare and pre-1900 literature: Analyse drama or poetry through exploring language, context and literary techniques.
- Comparative and contextual study: Compare texts and explore how historical and social contexts shape meaning in literature.
- Modern literature: Study post-1900 prose, poetry and drama, exploring themes and perspectives.
- Critical analysis: Develop interpretations, use textual evidence and compare writers' methods and ideas.

Skills Developed

Develop your ability to interpret complex texts, analyse language and construct persuasive arguments. Strengthen your written communication, critical thinking and attention to detail while learning to compare perspectives, evaluate evidence and express ideas with clarity and confidence.

Career Opportunities

A-level English Literature can lead to university courses and careers in English, journalism, law, teaching and publishing. It also develops valuable skills in reasoning, communication, debate and written expression, which are transferable to any career.

Course Assessment

Assessment combines closed-text examinations with independent coursework, testing literary analysis, comparison and written argument.

- Paper 1: Drama and Poetry Pre-1900: 2 hours 30 minutes (40%).
- Paper 2: Comparative and Contextual Study: 2 hours 30 minutes (40%).
- Paper 3: Literature Post-1900: Coursework, including close analysis or re-creative writing and a comparative essay (20%).