

QUEEN'S GATE SCHOOL

ENGLISH LITERATURE

A-LEVEL GUIDE



WHY STUDY ENGLISH LITERATURE?

A Level English is a popular choice at Queen's Gate. Studying literature is intellectually challenging, intensely personal and immensely rewarding. If you enjoy reading and talking about books and the ideas they contain, then this course is for you. You will acquire the valuable and transferable skills of analysis, argument, critical thinking and teamwork; you will be expected to form and voice your own opinions, and to evaluate the opinions of others. English Literature is widely recognised as a highly desirable qualification, both at university and beyond.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

To study English Literature at A-level, a grade 6 at GCSE is essential, with a grade 7 or above considered desirable.

CAREERS AND SKILLS

- Publishing
- Editing
- Law
- Proofing
- Copywriting
- Teaching/ Education
- Web content professionals
- Journalism
- Author
- Poet
- Advertising
- Marketing
- Translators
- Critical thinking
- Communication (written and verbal)
- Proofing
- Research
- Teamwork
- Argumentative writing
- Time management
- Organisation
- Negotiation
- Creative thinking

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY

Component 1: Drama (60 marks)

2hrs 15mins

You will study *Othello* by William Shakespeare and Section A of the examination will consist of an essay question covering the play, incorporating ideas from wider critical reading. The second section will be an essay on Tennessee Williams' *A Streetcar Named Desire*. You will need to develop a good contextual understanding of the plays and engage in a detailed discussion of language. You will also study a Critical Anthology considering the conventions of tragedy. Clean copies of the texts may be taken into the examination.

Component 2: Prose (40 marks)

1hr 15mins

This paper allows you to delve into two prose texts linked by a central theme. You will be studying *The Picture of Dorian Gray* by Oscar Wilde and *Dracula* by Bram Stoker. You will be encouraged to read other texts from the topic independently in order to develop your understanding of features and conventions of the genre. You will answer one question from a choice of two on the theme. Clean copies of the texts may be taken into the examination.

Component 3: Poetry (60 marks)

2hrs 15 mins

This paper will enable you to develop a detailed understanding of poetic form, meaning and language from a range of poetry across both a literary period (pre-1900) and a range of 20th Century poetry. You will answer one essay question comparing an unseen poem with a named poem from the Post-2000 Specified Poetry. The second question will be on a poem from the pre-1900 selection.

Coursework: Literature post-1900 (60 marks).

The coursework unit allows the class to study two comparative texts, which can come from any literary genre or form. You will write one comparative essay referring to two texts, approximately 2500-3000 words in length. Your teacher will choose texts that will interest and stimulate the class. Past choices have included *The Picture of Dorian Gray* and *The Handmaid's Tale*.

Hopefully you will enjoy the benefits and delights of studying literature to an advanced level.

Whether you have chosen similar subject such as history, modern languages or classics, or focused on the physical or social sciences, English Literature will complement and support your interests and give you essential skills. Perhaps chiefly, you will become a more rounded and open individual, ready to take an active part in our remarkably rich cultural environment.

ASSESSMENT OBJECTIVES

AO1 Engagement	Articulate informed, personal and creative responses to literary texts, using associated concepts and terminology, and coherent, accurate written expression.
AO2 Analysis	Analyse ways in which meanings are shaped in literary texts.
AO3 Context	Demonstrate understanding of the significance and influence of the contexts in which literary texts are written and received.
AO4 Comparison	Explore connections across literary texts.
AO5 Critical Interpretation	Explore literary texts informed by different interpretations

	AO1 Engagement	AO2 Analysis	AO3 Context	AO4 Comparison	AO5 Critical Interpretation
Shakespeare					
Modern Drama					
Comparative Prose					
Post-2000 Poetry					
Pre-19 Poetry					
Comparative Coursework					