



# ENGLISH LITERATURE A-LEVEL

## WHY SHOULD I STUDY A-LEVEL ENGLISH LITERATURE?

If you want to study a wide range of influential and thought-provoking texts, this is the course for you. You will foster a deeper appreciation of how writers address recurring themes and analytically engage with a rich range of stimulating, challenging and compelling works. The course offers an opportunity to read and critically evaluate a diverse range of poetry, prose, and drama in addition to introducing you to the world of literary theory and criticism.

## WHAT WILL I LEARN ABOUT?

You will study two distinct but complimentary units: "Love Through the Ages" and "Texts in Shared Contexts - Modern Times: 1945 to Present." The set texts for each unit are as follows:

### Love Through the Ages:

- *Othello* (William Shakespeare)
- *The Great Gatsby* (F. Scott Fitzgerald)
- *AQA Anthology of Love Poetry Through the Ages*

### Texts in Shared Contexts Modern Times: 1945 to Present:

- *A Streetcar Named Desire* (Tennessee Williams)
- *The Handmaid's Tale* (Margaret Atwood)
- *Skirrid Hill* (Owen Sheers)

In addition to the above, you will study another two texts of your choice (one pre-1900) for the Independent Critical Study, the non-exam assessment (NEA) unit. The study of all three units is supported by the Critical Anthology, an exam board-produced course accompaniment that covers a range of examples and approaches to literary theory and criticism, including narrative theory, feminist theory, Marxist theory and eco-critical theory.

## HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

You will sit two terminal, externally assessed examinations and complete the non-examination assessment unit:

- Paper 1: Love Through the Ages is open book - you will have access to the texts in the examination.
- Paper 2: Modern Times: 1945 to Present is closed book - texts will not be available.
- The Non-Exam Assessment comprises a single 2500-word critical study produced in the form of an extended analytical essay. This is an independent study which is fully supported by your teacher in a tutor/supervisor capacity, much like you might experience at university.

## WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

Studying A-level English Literature enhances critical thinking, communication, and research skills. You'll develop analytical abilities, articulate ideas clearly, and construct persuasive arguments with well-chosen evidence. The course fosters creative thinking, empathy, and cultural awareness by exploring diverse perspectives; engaging with literature deepens your appreciation for storytelling and offers unique insights into the human condition through the eyes and words of notable writers.

## WHERE COULD THIS SUBJECT TAKE ME IN THE FUTURE?

Pupils with English Literature qualifications are valued for their strong reading, writing, and analytical skills. You'll enhance your emotional intelligence and empathy, gaining insight into human behaviour and a broader worldview. These skills are in demand across various careers, including law, journalism, and the civil service, and are also sought after in technology fields involving content creation and strategic communication consulting.

Exam Board: AQA A

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/as-and-a-level/english-literature-a-7711-7712>

