

A-Level English Literature



Why study English Literature?

English Literature A-Level provides you with great transferable skills that open up career pathways such as:

- Journalism
- Law
- Advertising, Marketing and PR
- Forensic Linguistics
- Media Researcher
- Speech and Language Therapist
- Writer, Screenwriter, Playwright
- Lexicographer
- Social Media/Web-content Manager
- Lecturer or English Teacher

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Reasons for Doing an English Degree

in a Nutshell

Written by Belinda Blevins
and David Lewis (English
and Media Centre),
Professor Robert Dargatzis
Royal Holloway, University
of London, Professor Gill
Hartlett, University of
Reading, and Professor
July Stone, University of
Nottingham



- 1 There are many different degrees to choose from – English Literature, English Language, Creative Writing, Linguistics, Cultural Studies, Liberal Arts, Comparative Literature and combined or joint honours too!
- 2 As an English student, you'll be part of the longest conversations of humanity, learning from the past, in the present, for the future.
- 3 It's about creativity – in the texts you read, how you respond and how you discover creativity in yourself!
- 4 Language is personal, social and political – it shapes us and our world so studying its use is vital.
- 5 English and Creative Writing degrees focus on the ways we shape language every day in talking and writing, in literature, the media and the workplace.
- 6 In English Literature and Creative Writing degrees, you'll read wonderful novels, poems, plays and other texts from all periods.
- 7 What you read for pleasure is part of what you study – it will fuel you as a reader and as a person for the rest of your life.
- 8 In English Language degrees you study everything from Twitter to children's language, the slang of different 'tribes' and the diverse voices of the English-speaking world.
- 9 Literature has always led technological change, from medieval manuscripts to e-readers and screens.
- 10 English is rich in variety. Texts in English come from diverse cultures across the globe.
- 11 English the subject isn't always in English – texts in translation let us read across national borders and think about communication between cultures.
- 12 English is contemporary – since language and literature are still growing and changing, you'll be involved in shaping them.
- 13 In English degrees you think about technology, history, geography, philosophy, the visual arts and science. You might even use the scientific tools of data analysis.
- 14 English is about both dissent and consensus – the disagreements are as intellectually engaging as the agreements.
- 15 You'll be taught by enthusiastic experts who are also thinking, researching and publishing on the texts that you're studying.
- 16 English degrees are assessed in lots of different ways – creative work, reviews, presentations, coursework, discussions, essays and portfolios as well as traditional exams.
- 17 Employers LOVE English graduates – research shows companies value communication, collaboration, critical thinking, independence, adaptability and resilience. English teaches all of these.
- 18 English is about who you are, how you express yourself and how you think critically about the world around you.

A-Level English Literature

EXAM BOARD EDUQAS (WJEC)

- English Literature A-Level will introduce you to a range of exciting texts across all genres – poetry, drama and prose.
- You will also read and evaluate critical articles on different texts, from Shakespeare's *The Tempest* to modern classics such as *A Streetcar Named Desire* by Tennessee Williams.
- You will learn how to structure a compelling and evaluative argument, both in class discussion and in essay writing.

Component 1: Poetry

Written examination: **2 hours**

30% of qualification

Section A: Poetry pre-1900 (open-book, clean copy)

One two-part question based on the reading of one pre-1900 poetry text from a prescribed list

Section B: Poetry post-1900 (open-book, clean copy)

One question from a choice of two based on the reading of two post-1900 poetry texts from a prescribed list

Component 2: Drama

Written examination: **2 hours**

30% of qualification

Section A: Shakespeare (closed-book)

One two-part question based on the reading of one Shakespeare play from a prescribed list

Section B: Drama (closed-book)

One question from a choice of two based on the reading of a pair of plays: one pre-1900 and one post-1900, from a prescribed list

Component 3: Unseen Texts

Written examination: **2 hours**

20% of qualification

Section A: Unseen prose

One question from a choice of two, analysing an unseen passage of prose, taken from one of two prescribed periods for study

Section B: Unseen poetry

One question from a choice of two, analysing an unseen poem or poetry extract

Component 4: Prose Study

Non-exam assessment: **2500-3500 words**

20% of qualification

One 2500-3500 word assignment based on the reading of two prose texts from different periods, one pre-2000 and one post-2000, nominated by the centre

Course Overview

Component 1: Poetry

Written examination: **2 hours**

30% of qualification

Section A: Poetry pre-1900 (open-book, clean copy)

One two-part question based on the reading of one pre-1900 poetry text from a prescribed list

Section B: Poetry post-1900 (open-book, clean copy)

One question from a choice of two based on the reading of two post-1900 poetry texts from a prescribed list

Component 2: Drama

Written examination: **2 hours**

30% of qualification

Section A: Shakespeare (closed-book)

One two-part question based on the reading of one Shakespeare play from a prescribed list

Section B: Drama (closed-book)

One question from a choice of two based on the reading of a pair of plays: one pre-1900 and one post-1900, from a prescribed list

Component 3: Unseen Texts

Written examination: **2 hours**

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Section A: Unseen prose

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Section B: Unseen poetry

One question from a choice of two, analysing an unseen poem or poetry extract

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Extra-curricular opportunities

Our extra-curricular activities include exciting theatre visits, whether to The Globe or to see current productions of drama texts we are studying.

We have also led trips to the British Library to explore the archives and get to know the history and origins of the texts we study.



Overview of Year 12

Autumn 2020	CW/Unseen (NEA) - Atonement (SKE) & Unseen 1880 - 1910
Autumn 2020	CW (NEA) - Small Island (CHB)
Spring 2021	Poetry - Duffy (SKE)
Spring 2021	Poetry - Rossetti (CHB)
Summer 2021	Drama - Streetcar (SKE)
Summer 2021	CW Tess of the D'Urbervilles & linked unseen

*NEA = Non-exam assessment

Y13 - DRAMA: The Tempest, The Duchess of Malfi; POETRY: Larkin + Unseen

Overview of Year 13

Autumn 2020	Drama - The Tempest / Unseen
Autumn 2020	CW (NEA) - Duchess of Malfi (& revise Streetcar)
Spring 2021	Poetry - Larkin (SKE) & revise Duffy
Spring 2021	Poetry - Revise Rossetti
Summer 2021	Revision & unseen

*NEA = Non-exam assessment

Y13 - DRAMA: The Tempest, The Duchess of Malfi; POETRY: Larkin + Unseen

Past Student Success



Lea Beasley (A)



Daniel Yehambaram (A)

**Emma Masters-Oca
(A*)**

Assessment Objectives

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

Organisation - Fabulous Folders



You will need:

- 4 x folders - one per component - Drama, Poetry, Unseen, Coursework - provide yourself
- Use labelled dividers for each section & have a revision section for each
- One essay folder (Monday P1 fortnightly) with essay log for grades - provided by RHS and to be returned to school
- A4 pad / paper / exercise book

Folders will be checked half-termly