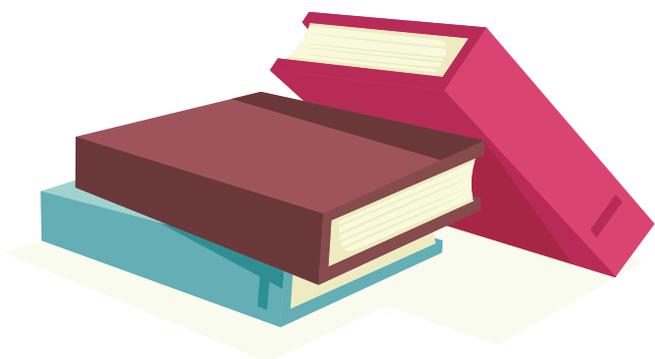


English Literature

GCE Student Guide

GCE English Literature enables you to engage critically and creatively with a substantial body of texts and gives you a variety of ways to respond to them. Across a wide range of novels, plays and poems, you will deepen your understanding of the changing traditions of literature.

Through independent research and critical reading, you will develop your interest and enjoyment of English literature and become an accomplished, discerning reader with advanced study skills that prepare you for third level education.



Why study English Literature?

A level English Literature broadens your horizons and opens your mind to new perspectives and ideas. It allows you to construct well-supported arguments and appreciate alternative interpretations of texts.

The course itself covers a wide range of engaging literature including novels, plays and poems. The texts are stimulating, interesting and will give you opportunities to develop individual interests. You can use your own original ideas and creativity when responding to each text and the course invites in-depth discussion and reflection at every opportunity.

The coursework element allows for independent study, wider reading and a sense of personal achievement. If you enjoy reading a wide range of literature and analysing associated ideas and issues then this will be an ideal course for you.

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What will I study?

| Unit | Areas of Study |
|--------------|---|
| AS 1: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poetry: comparative study of poetry 1900–present. (externally assessed; open book) Drama: response to a play written 1900–present (externally assessed; closed book) |
| AS 2: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prose: response to a novel written pre 1900 (externally assessed; closed book) |
| A2 1: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drama: response to a Shakespeare play (externally assessed; closed book) |
| A2 2: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poetry: response to a poem written before 1900 (externally assessed; closed book) Unseen Poetry: response to an unseen poem (externally assessed) |
| A2 3: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prose: comparative study of two novels across a theme (internally assessed) |

How will I be assessed?

| Unit | Assessment Description | Weighting |
|---|---|-----------------------------|
| AS 1: The Study of Poetry 1900–Present and Drama 1900–Present | External written examination, 2 hours Students answer two questions, one from Section A and one from Section B. Section A is open book. Section B is closed book. | 60% of AS 24% of A level |
| AS 2: The Study of Prose Pre–1900 | External written examination, 1 hour Students answer one question. Closed book | 40% of AS 16% of A level |
| A2 1: Shakespearean Genres | External written examination, 1 hour 30 minutes Students answer one question. Closed book | 20% of A level |
| A2 2: The Study of Poetry Pre–1900 and Unseen Poetry | External written examination, 2 hours Students answer two questions, one from Section A and the question set in Section B. Closed book | 20% of A level |
| A2 3: Internal Assessment | Internal assessment Students complete a 2500-word essay. | 20% of A level |

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What can I do with a qualification in English Literature?

An A level in English Literature develops your skills in written and face-to-face communication, as well as your capacity for research and your ability to understand complex ideas and theories. With this set of skills, you could go into the media industry which includes print, online, TV and radio.

Journalism or publishing are other areas that an A level in English Literature will allow you to access, for example, you could be an editorial assistant, proofreading and correcting books before they go to print. A job in advertising and PR is also available with a qualification in English Literature, such as a public relations officer or a press officer.

Teaching is another profession open to you, or you could work for an arts organisation, trying to secure funding or publishing material for a museum or a gallery. With further study, you could also go into sectors like law, business, social work or even politics.

To find out more, visit the **CCEA Website** for the latest support and updates for this subject.

