

English Literature

(A level)

Overview

English Literature is an enjoyable and rewarding subject which allows you to study a wide range of interesting and challenging literary texts. English Literature has long been acknowledged as a valuable and prestigious A level. It still ranks today as one of the top subjects to study in preparation for university and is formally listed as a Facilitating Subject for Russell Group universities. English Literature is perennially popular as a subject for A level study at The Sixth Form College and is an excellent companion subject for History, Law and many other A level subjects which require analysis of texts and data sources in order to create arguments and present interpretations supported by evidence.

Course Outline

Students follow the AQA English Literature B specification. There are two examination papers for which students will prepare. They account for 80% of the total A level.

Paper 1: Aspects of Tragedy

The first paper is two and a half hours long and requires students to answer questions on texts which illustrate Aspects of Tragedy. You will study two drama texts, *Othello* by William Shakespeare and *Death of a Salesman* by Arthur Miller, and a poetry text, comprising four poems by John Keats (*Isabella, or The Pot of Basil*, *La Belle Dame Sans Merci*, *Lamia* and *The Eve of St Agnes*).

Paper 2: Elements of Crime Writing / Elements of Political and Social Protest Writing

The second paper is three hours long and for this students will study texts which illustrate either Elements of Crime Writing or Elements of Political and Social Protest Writing. If you focus on Elements of Crime Writing, you will study two prose texts, *Atonement* by Ian McEwan and *Brighton Rock* by Graham Greene, and a poetry text, *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* by Samuel Taylor Coleridge. If you focus on Elements of Political and Social Protest Writing, you will study a prose text, *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini, a poetry text, *The Songs of Innocence and of Experience* by William Blake, and a drama text, *A Doll's House* by Henrik Ibsen. This paper will also require students to respond analytically to an unseen text.

Non-exam Assessment: Theory and Independence

The coursework is entitled 'Theory and Independence'. It accounts for 20% of the total A level. There are two tasks, each one requiring an essay of 1,250 – 1,500 words in length. For the first task you will study a prose text. Examples of prose texts studied in the past include *Heart of Darkness* by Joseph Conrad, *On Chesil Beach* by Ian McEwan, *Regeneration* by Pat Barker, *The Collector* by John Fowles and *The Turn of the Screw* by Henry James. For the second task you will study a poetry text. Examples of poets whose work has been studied in the past include Carol Ann Duffy, Owen Sheers, Sylvia Plath and Ted Hughes.

Assessment

Examination (80%)

Coursework (20%)

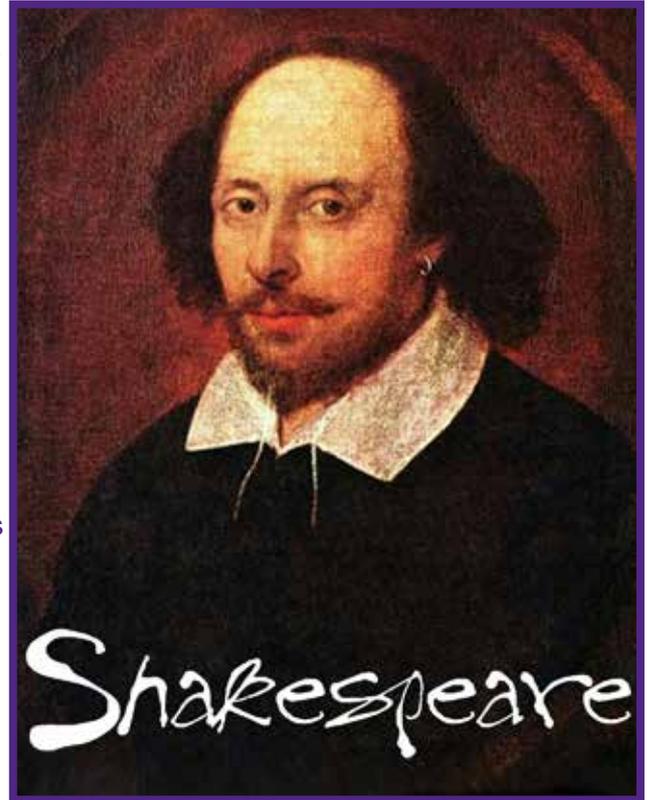
Examining Board – AQA (English Literature B).

Special Entry Requirements

GCSE English Literature at grade 5 or above is essential. In addition, standard A level entry requirements apply - www.solihullsfsc.ac.uk/courses/entry-requirements.

Prohibited Options

Students are not normally permitted to take more than one English course. However, if you are intending to study English at university and have grade 7 or above in both English Language and English Literature at GCSE, you may be permitted to take both English Language and English Literature, but only as part of a four A level programme.



Students wanting to do this must therefore meet the entry requirements for a four A level programme.

Career and Progression Opportunities

English Literature is one of the most popular courses at university and success in this subject will also allow you to access all sorts of degrees and career pathways. Those students considering English at HE will find that Literature is often required for the most competitive courses.

Links to External Organisations

The department runs a Shakespeare Academy which has worked in conjunction with the University of Warwick, the University of Birmingham and Keele University.

Other Information

You will be expected to read widely, independently and critically, to work with others on research and presentation projects, to manage your time effectively and to prepare work for the lessons. From time to time we offer students the opportunity to attend a variety of trips including study days and theatre visits.

Examination Results

In the past three years, there has been great success for students on this course, including consistently high pass rates. The full breakdown of results is as follows:

Year	Entry	A*	A	B	C	D	E	U	A-E%
2016	106	3	11	34	36	18	4	0	100.0%
2017	129	8	22	26	43	26	4	0	100.0%
2018	129	13	15	22	35	27	16	1	99.2%

Case Study

Among the recent successful students to have taken this course is **Ross Conway**.

He came to the College from CTC Kingshurst Academy and achieved A* grade in English Literature, as well as A and B grades in History and Religious Studies. He also completed an Extended Project as part of the Shakespeare Academy and got A* in that too.

He has progressed to the University of Birmingham to study English and Classical Literature & Civilisation.



English Department Staff

Jane McCard (Curriculum Leader)
Andrew Jackson (Assistant Curriculum Leader)
Zoe Bereza, Chris Cooper, Elizabeth Davies,
Mike Green, Claire Kelly, Roy Preston



Contact

Address: The Sixth Form College, Solihull
Widney Manor Road, Solihull
West Midlands B91 3WR

Tel: 0121 704 2581
Fax: 0121 711 1598
Email: admissions@solihullsf.ac.uk
Web: www.solihullsf.ac.uk