

Why study English Literature at A Level?

English Literature is a great subject choice for students who enjoy reading independently, thinking critically and evaluating ideas. This course provides the opportunity to discuss, explore and interpret a wide range of literary texts, understand and evaluate literary genres and develop analysis and interpretation skills. By studying English Literature you will develop many valuable and transferable skills that will increase your future employability.

Student Perspective

I chose to do English Literature because of all the interesting aspects it contains: politics, history, academic reading, debating, and critical ideas. I love reading, and this course exposes you to many new engaging texts. I thoroughly enjoy learning in depth the culture which exists around the texts, as well as the feminist, Marxist and psychoanalytical readings. I am going on to study English Literature at degree level, something I hadn't planned to do until my teachers at Wellsway inspired my passion for the subject.

Adriana, A Level English Literature student

What will I study?

Throughout the course, you will study a range of unseen prose and poetry texts alongside:

- The poetry of Christina Rossetti
- The Tempest by William Shakespeare
- A Streetcar Named Desire by Tennessee Williams
- A Doll's House by Henrik Ibsen
- The Bloody Chamber by Angela Carter
- Dracula by Bram Stoker
- Even the Dogs by Jon McGregor
- Brand New Ancients by Kate Tempest

Assessment

80% examined, 20% coursework.

Paper 1: Shakespeare, Drama and Poetry pre-1900. You will answer two questions on a Shakespeare play, and respond to a critical statement using your knowledge of poetry and drama.

Paper 2: Drama and Prose post-1900. You will write a critical appreciation of a gothic extract and compare two Gothic texts that you have studied. You will also complete a close reading essay and a thematic comparative essay on two contrasting texts.

Study trips, visits and events

You will get to meet and engage with visiting speakers and university lecturers or attend lectures. You will attend theatre trips, take part in coaching and mentoring opportunities with younger students and have chances to enter writing competitions such as The Christopher Tower Poetry Contest.

Subject entry requirements

6 in English Literature.