

SUBJECT: ENGLISH LITERATURE
Title of GCE: A level English Literature B
Exam Board: AQA
Syllabus Number: 7717
Single or Double Award: Single

General Information:

Students will study a minimum of eight texts including novels (at least one pre-1900), plays (including Shakespeare) and poetry across the two years.

Study of texts within the chosen literary and cultural genres in the examined topic areas is enhanced by the study of critical theory in the non exam assessment. In this way, students can gain a solid understanding of how texts can be connected and how they can be interpreted in multiple ways so that students can arrive at their own interpretations and become confident autonomous readers.

At the core of all the set texts for 'Aspects of tragedy' is a tragic hero or heroine who is flawed in some way, who suffers and causes suffering to others and in all texts there is an interplay between what might be seen as villains and victims. Some tragic features will be more in evidence in some texts than in others and students will need to understand how particular aspects of the tragic genre are used and how they work in the three chosen texts.

What defines the texts in 'Elements of political and social protest writing' is that they have issues of power and powerlessness at their core, with political and social protest issues central to each text's structure. The political and social protest genre covers representations of both public and private settings. All set texts foreground oppression and domination and they all look at the cultures we live in and have lived in over time.

The course enables students to:

- Study a variety of literary texts.
- Develop their understanding in the study of language, form and structure, exploring connections and comparisons between texts where appropriate.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the significance and influence of the contexts in which the texts were written.
- Carry out background research and wider reading regarding historical context and influences, as well as reading such publications as 'The English Review' to increase their understanding of how to write about literature in an analytical way.

This course can open numerous degrees including: English Literature, English Language, Media, Journalism and Law, Teaching, Editing and more.

A Level Assessment:

Exam: 80% of total grade

- Aspects of tragedy. Three questions, closed book (40% of A-level).
- Elements of political and social protest writing. Three questions, open book (40% of A-level). One extract will be unseen.

Coursework/Controlled Assessment: 20% of total grade

Theory and Independence

Brief outline of coursework/controlled assessment:

Two essays of 1250–1500 words, each responding to a different text and linking to a different aspect of the Critical anthology.

One essay can be re-creative. The re-creative piece will be accompanied by a commentary

Career Opportunities:

Qualifications in English can lead to many careers such as: journalism, publishing, copywriting, marketing, teaching, law and advertising.

"I like the way English allows me to channel my creativity into words"

"I just find it really interesting. I'm really enjoying the books we are studying"

A level English Literature student.

Students who study this subject often complement it with:

History, Media Studies, Psychology, Sociology, Performing Arts

For more information or advice contact:

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