

ENGLISH LITERATURE

Course

A level English Literature

Exam Board

AQA - Specification B

Entry requirements

GCSE Grade 6 in both English Language and GCSE English Literature. To meet the demands of the course, you must be an avid reader.

Why study English Literature?

For voracious readers, word lovers, poets and theatre buffs, English Literature is the perfect choice. Studying literature feeds the imagination. It allows you to travel back in time, share the experiences of others, take on new perspectives, explore ideas, beliefs and values, challenge or discover your own and learn the literary skills to express yourself in original and creative ways through dialogue, argument, prose and poetry.

The analytical, interpretative and discursive skills you develop by studying literature will also prove excellent preparation for university. A level English Literature is a highly regarded qualification by universities.

Course content

Aspects of Tragedy:

At the core of all the set texts 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. The absence of an 'aspect' can be as significant as its presence.

St Peter's students say...

“I love being able to discuss and share our enjoyment of texts in class. The critical approach to studying texts is challenging but the seminar style lessons allow for lots of sharing of ideas.”

Elements of Crime Writing:

In the case of Elements of Crime Writing, many of the texts pre-date the crime fiction genre that emerged as a recognisable literary genre in the mid-19th century and gained academic recognition in the 20th century. However, in all the texts a significant crime drives the narrative and the execution and consequences of the crime are fundamentally important to the way the text is structured.

All set texts are narratives which focus on transgressions against established order and the specific breaking of either national, social, religious or moral laws.

Theory:

- Narrative theory
- Feminist theory
- Marxist theory
- Eco-critical theory
- Post-colonial theory
- Literary value and the canon

Assessment

Students will sit two exams - one will focus on Aspects of Tragedy whilst the other will look at Elements of Crime Writing. Students will also undertake two independent coursework style tasks which can be either critical essays or re-creative writing.

Progression after Sixth Form

English Literature is a highly regarded A level that can take students onto almost any course of study. It is an obvious choice for English degree courses but is also an excellent option for those considering arts and humanities subjects, languages, business and law.

Career opportunities

With your excellent communication skills, wily use of language and creative flair you could write a bestselling novel, set up your own publishing house or online media platform, produce scripts for film, theatre and TV, lead global campaigns and much more.

For more information contact Head of Department:
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