



# ENGLISH LITERATURE

**Level:** AS + A2      **Specification:** OCR

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**Examination/assessment details:** A combination of written papers and coursework in Year 13.

## COURSE AIMS

To encourage an enjoyment and appreciation of English Literature based on informed personal response and to extend this appreciation where it has already been acquired.

## QUALIFICATIONS, QUALITIES, EXPERIENCE DESIRABLE

It is important that you enjoy reading independently and engaging with a variety of different texts. An ability to put forward your own opinion is useful, as is the ability to listen to others and adopt new ideas. An enjoyment of writing, in particular essays, is important.

## COURSE CONTENT AND ASSESSMENT

In Year 12 students should expect to complete the study of one poet, currently Tennyson and two plays. These will include "The Tempest" by Shakespeare and "A Doll's House" by Ibsen. In addition, they will study the Gothic genre and two gothic texts – "The Bloody Chamber" by Carter and Bram Stoker's "Dracula". Wider reading is paramount to success. These texts will also be taught in Year 13. Independent coursework is submitted in Year 13.

## TEACHING AND LEARNING METHODS

This will involve making presentations, participating in discussions, note taking and essay writing. You are expected to use a wide range of critical sources independently and present your ideas to others orally and in writing. The key presentation skills of communication will be advanced on this course. Set texts are usually purchased by students.

## HOME LEARNING

Homework can consist of preparing for presentations, making notes, planning and writing essays, reading from critical works or from the text. Research homework is also set.

## COMPLEMENTARY SUBJECTS

It is not essential that particular subjects are taken in conjunction with this course, but those candidates wishing to do subjects in which assessment is essay based, will find English Literature useful. However, it complements most subjects and develops key skills such as presenting a coherent line of argument and structuring an essay. Many feel it facilitates university study. It is recognised as an academically prestigious subject by the Russell Group.

## TRIPS AND VISITS

Theatre trips are regularly planned. They are not compulsory but clearly enrich the study of this subject. An average theatre trip will cost £25. This year we have attended a performance of 'Macbeth' and lectures in London on both the gothic genre and 'The Tempest'. We are taking students to Stratford to see "The Tempest" in January.

## MATERIALS

Candidates usually prefer to buy their own texts so that they can annotate them. Costs vary, but an average student will pay something in the region of £30 for all of their texts over the two years.

## KEY FEATURES

- A variety of literature from different eras will be studied.
- A balance of prose, poetry and drama will be taught.
- Students will be taught by at least two different teachers, breaking the course up into manageable portions.