

English Literature at OLA

"Literature always anticipates life." **Oscar Wilde**

Awarding body: Pearson
Edexcel

Code: 9ETO

The course is a two year A Level of which 80% is examined and 20% is assessed on an extended coursework essay. The course consists of four components:

- **Drama** – students study two drama texts, one of which is a Shakespeare play. There is a wide choice of modern and classic texts dating from the 16th to 21st centuries, encompassing the themes of comedy and tragedy. This section of the course is examined and accounts for 30% of the total qualification.
- **Prose** – students study two prose texts from a chosen theme, one of which must have been written before 1900. Students compare the ways in which their chosen texts reflect this theme, reflecting on the significance of the contexts in which they were written. This component is examined through a single essay which accounts for 20% of the total qualification.
- **Poetry** – all students are required to study a range of contemporary poems specified by the exam board. In addition, they study either a poet or poetry movement from a particular period, ranging from medieval to modern times. In this component students learn to compare poems thematically and stylistically, as well as considering the contexts in which they were written. The component is examined and accounts for 30% of the total qualification.
- **Coursework** – the coursework component allows students to write an extended essay on two texts of their choice. Students are expected to read widely around their texts, investigating different interpretations and critical views as well as researching the political, social and literary contexts in which they were written. This component is usually completed in the Upper Sixth and accounts for 20% of the qualification.

Who is suitable for this course?

Study English literature if:

- You love reading and want to study in more depth than you were able to at GCSE
- You are an independent thinker and want to develop your skills of interpretation and building an argument
- You want to find out how literature is a social and historical record of today's world and of the past
- You enjoy writing – all assessment is based on evaluative essays

Results: 2018

36% A* or A

90% A* to C

73% on or above their baseline grade.

Where can English Literature lead?

English at A Level is an 'enabling subject' meaning that it can lead in many directions. The core skills that it teaches are valued in many careers and will prepare you for a range of degree courses. These skills include: writing with precision and depth; analysing and interrogating written sources; presenting an argument that is backed by evidence and personal interpretation.