

# ENGLISH LITERATURE



**Why study English Literature?** The English Literature course is split into two topics: 'Aspects of Tragedy' (Paper 1) and 'Elements of Crime' (Paper 2). Currently, we study 'Othello', 'Tess of the D'Urbervilles' and 'Death of a Salesman', for Paper 1 and move on to 'Oliver Twist', 'Atonement' and poetry by Crabbe, Browning and Wilde, for Paper 2. We might be changing one of the texts for Paper 2, so please check before purchasing any resources. The A-Level builds upon the analytical essays written at GCSE and introduces you to critical theories, such as Feminism, Marxism and Eco-Critical theory. You will then be supported in applying a theory to your choice of novel and poetry for the NEA. Students enjoy this opportunity to read and analyse their selected author and the process of writing and answering your own essay question sets you up for dissertation writing at university. In terms of job opportunities, media and publishing can be a good fit for an English Literature graduate, as they offer a good way to apply your knowledge of the written language. These skills will also serve you well in advertising and marketing. Teaching is another option; from primary education right up to tertiary, English as a subject is considered important at all stages. The analytical skills associated with such a degree also apply well to subjects such as Law. Generally speaking, English Literature is a degree well respected by

## Course Content

### Paper 1: Literary genres

- Aspects of tragedy: study of three texts: one Shakespeare text; a second drama text and one further text, of which one must be written pre-1900

### Paper 2: Texts and genres

- Elements of crime writing: Study of three texts: one post-2000 prose text; one poetry and one further text, of which one must be written pre-1900
- Exam will include an unseen passage

### Non-exam assessment: Theory and independence

- Study of two texts: one poetry and one prose text, informed by study of the Critical anthology
- Two essays of 1,250–1,500 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

## Assessment

Paper	Title	Assessment	A Level
1	Literary genres	Written Exam: 2hr 30min (closed book)	40%
2	Texts and genres	Written Exam: 3hr (open book)	40%
-	Non-exam assessment: Theory and independence	Non-exam Assessment	20%