

ST MARY'S COLLEGE



INTRODUCTION



Through this course you will develop your enthusiasm for literature as well as the skills of critical thinking and textual analysis. The study of literature incorporates a consideration of History, Sociology and Psychology and will combine well with these subjects.

The study of literature at this level is based on the critical exploration of whole texts and teaching will focus on encouraging you to articulate your opinions and textual interpretations. You will follow modules on Narrative, Tragedy and the Gothic as well as engaging with critical material and reading widely. Through this course you will develop the skills of critical thinking and the textual analysis and broaden your understanding of literature and its cultural importance.

English Literature is an essential subject for students hoping to study English at most universities.

SINGLE AS

Module	Assessment
LITB1: ASPECTS OF NARRATIVE Two Novels & Two Poetry texts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Enduring Love</i>, Ian McEwan • <i>Dubliners</i>, James Joyce • <i>The Rime of the Ancient Mariner</i>, S T Coleridge • <i>The Eve of St Agnes & Lamia</i>, John Keats 	Written paper Open book 2 hours 60% of total AS 30% of total A level
LITB2: DRAMATIC GENRES Two Dramatic texts within the genre of Tragedy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Othello</i>, William Shakespeare* • <i>The Changeling</i>, Middleton & Rowley Two pieces of written coursework (one may be re-creative) 1200-1500 words each	Coursework 40% of total AS 20% of total A level

How is the course delivered?

Teaching will focus on encouraging a variety of interpretations of texts and you will explore and develop ideas about how texts suggest meanings. You will be encouraged to develop independence in your learning which will deepen your understanding of the subject.

Entry requirements

Five GCSE passes at Grade C or above including English Language and, if it has been taken, English Literature.

What skills and interest do I need?

When you are thinking about studying English Literature an important factor to consider is your approach to reading. It is essential that you read and re-read the set texts and also expected that you will read beyond the course specification. To enjoy the course you should already be an avid reader of novels and an interest in poetry is an advantage.

The ability to write clearly and accurately is essential and so is the willingness to spend time working on developing your writing skills. You will need imagination but also the ability to discipline your thoughts and communicate your ideas clearly in essays. You will need skill in presenting an argument and an interest in words.

As you will need to share your own ideas and arguments in class, you should enjoy thinking about books on your own and be able to construct your own critical judgements as well as being open to other students' interpretations.

As the study of literature involves the reading of texts in a cultural context, you should have a lively interest in current affairs.

- You should have an enthusiasm for the subject
- You need to enjoy reading complete and challenging texts independently
- You need to have a real interest in examining how texts suggest meanings
- You should have proven skills in essay writing

How does it build upon studies in Key Stage 4?

There is a greater emphasis on the stylistic and technical construction of texts as well as deeper exploration of sub-text and critical perspective. You will need to be able to think analytically and to develop an awareness that texts can be interpreted in a number of different ways. Essay writing skills developed in English Language at Key Stage 4 will help you to adapt to more formal essay writing at advanced level but there are new approaches to essay writing that you will need to assimilate. Re-creative writing at AS level is a way of engaging in a more imaginative way with a text and will build on your creative writing skills. The study of literature at this level is based on the critical examination of whole texts so the reading - and re-reading - of novels, plays and poetry is essential.

How is the course assessed?

The course follows AQA's Specification B and is assessed by open book exam and by coursework.

Special equipment

No special equipment is needed but access to word processing and the internet is helpful. Set texts are provided by college.

A2 LEVEL

Content

Module	Assessment
LITB3: TEXTS & GENRES Elements of the Gothic <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>The Pardoner's Tale, Geoffrey Chaucer</i>• <i>Frankenstein, Mary Shelley</i>• <i>Dracula, Bram Stoker</i>	Written paper Closed book 2 hours 60% of total A2 30% of total A level
LITB4: FURTHER & INDEPENDENT READING <p>Minimum of three texts for study including one pre-released anthology of critical material examining the making of meaning, Marxist & Feminist criticism & ideas about studying literature</p> <p>First piece of coursework: a comparative study of an aspect of two texts. 1500-2000 words</p> <p>Second piece of coursework: an application of critical ideas from the pre-released anthology to a literary text. 1200-1500 words</p>	Coursework 40% of total A2 20% of total A level

How is the course delivered?

The teaching and learning at A2 level follows a similar pattern to AS but with greater emphasis on independent learning.

Entry requirements

You will need a pass grade at English Literature AS level.

What skills and interests do I need?

- You need to enjoy reading challenging texts independently
- You need to be able to read critical works about the set texts
- You need to be able to conduct extensive independent research on set topics
- You should have proven skills in essay writing at AS level and be keen to develop these skills further

How is the course assessed?

The course follows AQA's Specification B and is assessed by closed book exam and by coursework.

Progression routes

The course is unrelated to any specific vocational direction, however, it aims to develop critical, analytical and communication skills which are invaluable in any career. English Literature is an essential subject for students hoping to study English at most universities.

Further Information



For further information please contact Ged Groves at St Mary's.

The full specifications can be found at www.aqa.org.uk

Follow the links: Qualifications, New GCEs, English Literature B.

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