



# English Literature

## Examination Board

- OCR

## Course Content

The OCR A Level in English Literature will require students to develop their judgement and independence as they synthesise and reflect upon their knowledge and understanding of a range of literary texts and ways of reading them. It will require learners to show knowledge of:

- the ways in which writers shape meanings in texts
- the ways in which texts are interpreted by different readers, including over time
- the ways in which texts relate to one another and to literary traditions, movements and genres
- the significance of cultural and contextual influences on readers and writers.

Over the course of A Level study, students will develop skills in analysis, evaluation and debate, engendering a love of literature and an appreciation of its cultural significance.

Component 1 (40% of A Level)

### **Shakespeare, Drama and Poetry pre-1900**

Key Texts: *Twelfth Night* William Shakespeare, *A Doll's House* Henrik Ibsen, Selected poems Christina Rossetti poetry\*

Component 2 (40% of A Level)

### **Dystopian literature**

Key Texts: *Nineteen Eighty-four* George Orwell, *A Handmaid's Tale* Margaret Atwood\*

Component 3 *non-examined assessment* (20% A Level)

### **Literature post-1900**

**Task 1: Close analysis of an extract/text (1000 words)**

**Task 2: Comparative essay on two literary texts (2000 words)**

*The three texts studied here must include: prose, poetry and drama.*

\*set texts are subject to change

## Useful websites / reading materials:

- AMVC Library – Literature Shelf
- The English Review magazine (kept in the library)
- The British Library website
- The Digital Theatre website
- The Bedford Companion to Shakespeare
- OCR website and supporting resources
- Jstor
- Various study guides and websites are available to assist with the understanding of the set texts, but students must be careful of plagiarism and make sure they correctly reference any work they are using as part of their own writing



**Recommended study**

- Class teachers and the librarians can provide suggestions and recommendations for further reading of a wide range of literature texts which supports the A Level course. Dystopian fiction is a key element of the A Level; students can really support their study by ensuring they read a wide array of dystopian texts
- Watching performances and televised versions of the texts is highly recommended and can be used to consider various interpretations of the texts
- Work will be set for completion, either at home or during study periods, and is likely to include reading, research tasks linked to context and essay writing practice. Students will be required to re-draft work in order to improve their written work.

**Recommended study**

- In terms of work done at home, students should expect to spend on average about five hours per week reading, researching and writing.