

Course title: English Literature A-Level AQA

Academic year:	2026
Course Venue:	The Weston Road Academy
Course Type:	A-level
Duration:	2 years

Course Description:

Books, books and more books! English Literature is the study of prose, plays and poetry, spanning centuries and involving plenty of reading and analysis. It's an incredibly varied and diverse subject and one which overlaps with history, language and the social sciences to create a picture of how literature influences, and is influenced by, major changes in society and the world as we know it. Although reading is obviously a big part of the course, you'll also find yourself discussing, analysing and exploring the texts you read, as well as linking them to related works and drawing a deeper meaning from them.

Course Content:

Unit 1: Love Through the Ages.

Here, you will study three texts: one poetry; one prose and one Shakespeare play. In addition to the core texts, you are also encouraged to read widely in the topic area, reading texts from a range of authors and times. Some of the areas that could be explored are: romantic love; love and loss; lust; social conventions and taboos; jealousy and guilt and truth and deception.

Unit 2: Texts in Shared Contexts.

This is the close study of three texts, each linked to World War One and its aftermath. The unit considers the impact on combatants, non-combatants and subsequent generations as well as its social, political, personal and literary legacies.

Unit 3: Texts Across Time.

A non-exam unit which focuses on the comparative critical study of two texts. It is a challenging but wide-ranging opportunity for independent study. Possible themes for your extended essay include: Identity; Crime and Punishment; The Gothic; Minds under Stress; Representations of Social Class and Culture.

Entry requirements:

The standard entry criteria to study in the sixth form are a 9-4 in at least seven different subjects, including English and mathematics, which would usually be at grade 4 or above.

To study science subjects at A-level (biology, chemistry, physics or psychology), you will be required to achieve at least a 6 grade in additional science or have achieved 6 or above in the individual subject area if taken as a separate science.

Assessment:

There is a variety of assessment styles, including passage-based questions; unseen material; single-text questions; multiple-text questions; and open- and closed-book approaches.





Financial Information:

For Unit 1, AQA do provide a poetry anthology free of charge. Other texts will need to be bought but can be done so cheaply.

Future opportunities:

The skills gained from studying English Literature are marketable in most career areas. Critical reasoning and analysis; working independently; articulating knowledge and understanding of complex ideas and theories; thinking creatively; undertaking research and delivering presentations are skills sought by public and private sector organisations, educational institutions, financial and legal firms and in administration and management. There are lots of exciting possibilities.

