

# ENGLISH LITERATURE

## **Exam board: AQA B Specification**

Method of assessment: 80% written exam (two equally weighted papers). 20% coursework (two equally weighted essays, maximum 1,500 words each)

Length of exams: One two and a half hour, closed book paper; one three hour, open book paper  
Texts - Paper 1 - Othello by Shakespeare, Tess of the d'Urbervilles by Thomas Hardy, Death of A Salesman by Arthur Miller. Paper 2 -Elements of Crime Writing: Selected poetry of Crabbe, Browning and Wilde, Brighton Rock by Graham Greene, When Will There Be Good News? by Kate Atkinson. NEA (coursework) - one further prose text and one further poetry text of the candidate's choice by agreement with our NEA advisor.

Breakdown of units  
1. Aspects of Tragedy (two and a half hour, closed book exam on texts outlined above). Tragedy is a classic and long established form of literature, centered on a flawed hero or heroine. The unit explores the recurring events, patterns and themes in tragedy. This is a way of thinking about the continuity and evolution of types of literature.

2.Elements of Crime Writing (three hour, open book exam on the texts outlined above). In the modern world we may group texts together independently of the classical genres. These texts are centered on issues of power and powerlessness among lawmakers, lawbreakers, victims and those appointed to keep order. This unit explores the ways in which transgressions of the law and attempts to uphold its values are depicted in literature and the role of literature in making us reflect on associated emotional, social and moral issues.

3. Theory and Independence (coursework, two 1,500 word essays - one prose text, one poetry text). This module gives students the opportunity to explore texts that they have developed an interest in. It also gives students the opportunity to pursue their own areas of critical study, in such areas as narrative theory, feminism, cultural materialism, eco-criticism, post-colonialism and the role of the literary canon in the modern study of literature.

Overlap with other subjects: English Literature has a number of clear overlaps with other subjects such as Film Studies which centre on the deconstruction of the properties of texts. As an essay based subject, skills learnt in English Literature are easily transferred to a host of Humanities fields such as History, Sociology, Philosophy and Media Studies. This subject requires students to be effective independent learners which is a useful skill for all A-level subjects.

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