



# English Literature: A Level

AQA Specification A (7712)

Qualification: A Level

## What do I need to start the course?

You must like reading!

You should have a genuine interest in a range of literacy texts and genres, for example, poetry, prose and drama. You should enjoy discussion and writing at length about your own ideas and the ideas of others.

## What will I learn on this course?

The A level course in English Literature: 'Love through the Ages', is a superb option for students wishing to pursue post sixteen education. English Literature is widely recognised as an excellent grounding for an immense range of different careers. Not only will it allow you to develop your critical thinking skills, powers of interpretation, resilience but also your independence.

Working with a wide range of texts over a broad time period, you will be looking at ways in which authors shape meanings within their texts. You will also think about a wide range of relevant contexts- how readers over time have received and understood the text- looking finally at your own personal response and the interpretations that it might share with modern/contemporary ideals.

Year 13 Students develop their repertoire of thinking skills further- wider reading and preparation for both examination and an independent comparative coursework unit, develop and stretch you both intellectually and critically. Meeting deadlines; engaging with a wide range of literary texts and critical works; striving for the very best in written expression (in technical accuracy and style) will ensure that you are more than ready for Higher Education.

## What can you do when you have your qualification?

You will learn a wide range of transferable skills: you can extend your analytical skills by continuing to study towards an English/English Literature degree. Many students who have studied English Literature A-Level progress to careers in teaching, law, media (especially publishing, journalism, advertising, marketing), librarianship, archives, events management...even banking and accountancy! A Level English Literature is a subject that will open many doors for you.

## COURSE OUTLINE AND ASSESSMENT

### 80% Examination and 20% Coursework

#### Paper 1: Love through the ages

Study of three texts: one poetry and one prose text, of which one must be written pre-1900, and one Shakespeare play.

Exam will include two unseen poems

#### Options for Poetry:

AQA ed. *Anthology of love poetry through the ages: pre-1900*  
Pre-1900

AQA ed. *Anthology of love poetry through the ages: post-1900*

#### Options for Shakespeare:

- *Othello*
- *The Taming of the Shrew*
- *Measure for Measure*
- *The Winter's Tale*

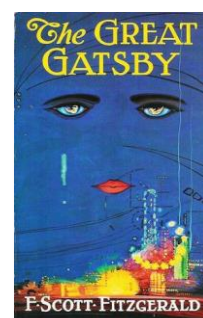
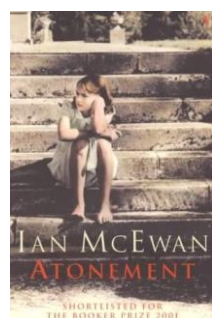
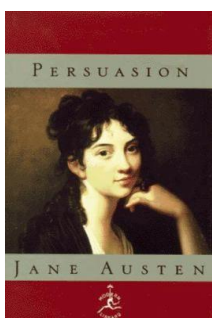
#### Options for prose text:

- Jane Austen: *Persuasion* Pre-1900
- Charlotte Brontë: *Jane Eyre* Pre-1900
- Emily Brontë: *Wuthering Heights* Pre-1900
- Kate Chopin: *The Awakening* Pre-1900
- Thomas Hardy: *Tess of the D'Urbervilles* Pre-1900
- F. Scott Fitzgerald: *The Great Gatsby*
- E.M. Forster: *A Room with a View*
- L.P. Hartley: *The Go-Between*
- Daphne Du Maurier: *Rebecca*
- Ian McEwan: *Atonement*

#### Written exam: 3 hours

- Open book in Section C only (Comparing Texts)
- 75 marks
- 40% of A Level

For further information or advice please contact [english@williamhoward.cumbria.sch.uk](mailto:english@williamhoward.cumbria.sch.uk)



## COURSE OUTLINE AND ASSESSMENT

### Paper 2: Texts in shared contexts

#### **Modern times: literature from 1945 to the present day**

Study of three texts: one prose, one poetry, and one drama, of which one must be written post-2000.

Exam will include an unseen extract.

#### **Section A: Core set texts**

Students study at least one of the six core set texts listed below:

##### **Prose**

- Margaret Atwood: *The Handmaid's Tale*
- Graham Swift: *Waterland*

##### **Drama**

- Caryl Churchill: *Top Girls*
- Tennessee Williams: *A Streetcar Named Desire*

##### **Poetry**

- Carol Ann Duffy: *Feminine Gospels* (post-2000)
- Owen Sheers: *Skirrid Hill* (post-2000)

#### **Section B: Contextual linking**

Students study two texts. These texts can be taken from the following list or from the core set text list. Any text from the core set text list used in the Section A response, however, cannot be used in Section B. There is also a question on an unseen extract.

##### **Prose**

- Michael Frayn: *Spies* (post-2000)
- Ken Kesey: *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*
- Arundhati Roy: *The God of Small Things*
- Kathryn Stockett: *The Help* (post-2000)
- Alice Walker: *The Color Purple*
- Jeanette Winterson: *Oranges are not the Only Fruit*
- Richard Yates: *Revolutionary Road*

##### **Drama**

- Brian Friel: *Translations*
- Arthur Miller: *All My Sons*
- Timberlake Wertenbaker: *Our Country's Good*
- Tennessee Williams: *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*
- Sylvia Plath: *Ariel*

##### **Poetry**

- Tony Harrison: *Selected Poems* 2013 Edition
- Seamus Heaney: *New Selected Poems*
- Ted Hughes: *Birthday Letters*

#### **Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes**

- open book
- 75 marks
- 40% of A Level

## COURSE OUTLINE AND ASSESSMENT

### Unit 3 Coursework: Independent critical study

Comparative critical study of two texts, at least one of which must have been written pre-1900.

One extended essay (2,500 words) and a bibliography

- 50 marks
- 20% of A Level
- assessed by teachers, moderated by AQA