

English Literature

A-Level

Overview

English Literature A-Level is taught by a pair of highly experienced, enthusiastic individuals who share a common love of written and spoken English. We draw on a range of specialist interests and knowledge including drama, Shakespeare, contemporary prose, Renaissance and Romantic poetry and Gothic fiction within the department.

Why Study?

There are many skills that you will learn whilst studying English Literature at A Level including accurate written English, articulate oral presentation, critical thinking skills and a thorough understanding of our socio-political context. By the end of the course, as a student of English Literature you will be a well-informed, critical thinker and writer who has a more mature appreciation of humanity and culture.

Lively and challenging teaching methods and imaginative task-setting means that you will be fully engaged and inspired with lots of opportunities to go beyond the curriculum. Many English Literature students choose to continue the subject at university.

English is taught in a suite of classrooms with a dedicated Sixth Form English Literature library attached. It contains an extensive range of prose, poetry and drama including classic fiction and contemporary award-winning texts, plus critical texts to widen your understanding of reception to literary texts; wider reading and a love of fiction is encouraged. Many theatre trips are run, including most recently Ian McKellen's 'Hamlet' in Windsor. You will have the opportunity to enter into national essay writing and poetry competitions and participate in our very strong debating society, for which Queen's has an outstanding reputation.

Course Overview

At Queen's we have chosen to teach the OCR A Level, believing that it is structured to best support students through final exams, whilst also offering the broadest range of choices of Literature. All A Level syllabi include Shakespeare (the greatest writer of them all) and we opt for 'Hamlet'; it builds beautifully on the exploration of the human psyche seen in 'Macbeth'. A study of texts on a chosen context is a key part of the course, and we have opted for the Gothic tradition. Coursework covers a poet, a play and a novel and all are modern texts; currently, we study Lucy Prebble's 'Enron', followed by a study of war poets in tandem with Sebastian Faulks' 'Birdsong'. As with GCSE, we believe that flair in teaching comes from a love of the Literature itself, and we are best equipped to bring that Literature to life when teaching what we most enjoy.





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Progression

Many of our students progress onto university either to study this subject further or to study one of the aforementioned subjects. It is a diverse qualification that will help you achieve an analytic and evaluative mindset, which is essential in fields such as journalism, publishing, data analysis, research and the media.

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