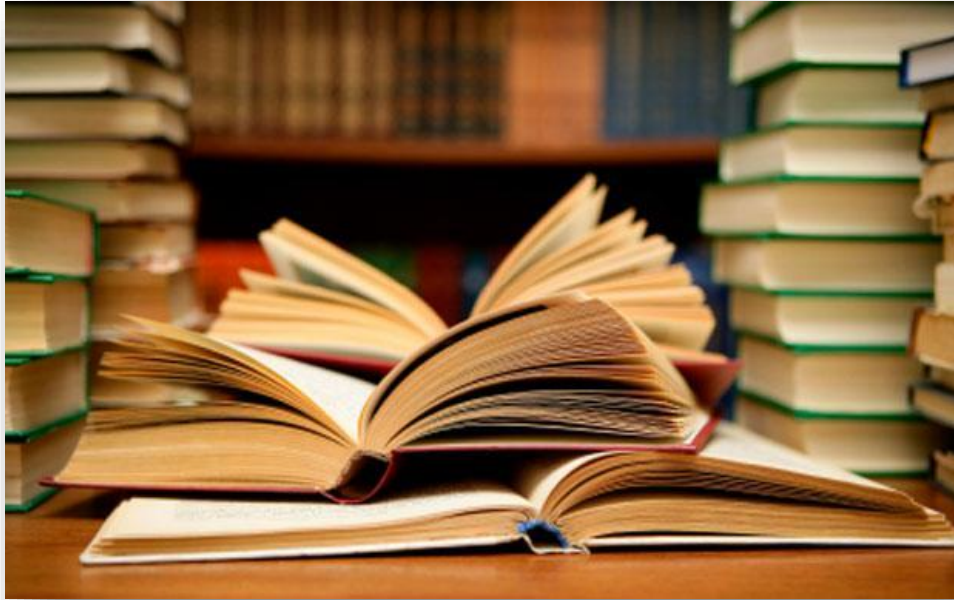


A level English Literature AQA - A



'What really knocks me out is a book that, when you're all done reading it, you wish the author that wrote it was a terrific friend of yours and you could call him up on the phone whenever you felt like it'.

J.D. Salinger

'That is part of the beauty of all literature. You discover that your longings are universal longings, that you're not lonely and isolated from anyone. You belong.'

F.Scott-Fitzgerald

'He liked the mere act of reading, the magic of turning scratches on a page into words inside his head.'

John Green

Welcome to A level English Literature!

Firstly, a few words about your course:

What are the principles behind the A-level English Literature course?

Working from the belief that no text exists in isolation but is the product of the time in which it was produced, the A-level English Literature course will encourage you to **explore the relationships that exist between texts and the contexts within which they are written, received and understood**. This is known as a '*new historicist*' approach. Studying texts within a shared context will enable you to investigate and connect them, drawing out patterns of similarity and difference using a variety of reading strategies and perspectives.

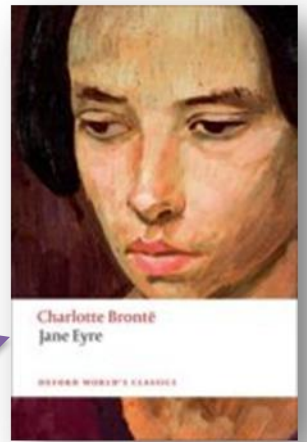
What are the GCSE entry requirements?

Ideally GCSE English Language at level 7 or above and GCSE English Literature at 7 or above.

BE PREPARED! Some students seem surprised that A level English Literature requires a lot of reading! A lot of reading! You will be expected to read not only your set texts, but other works by those writers, works by writers in the same era, journal articles and criticism. You will be expected to come to class having formed critical opinions of your own and be prepared to share them. This is a wondrous part of the course, where we all learn from each other. You are part of the longest conversation about human behaviour ever!

Purchase ASAP:

Jane Eyre (Oxford World Classics edition only. This is very important! See Link)



https://www.amazon.co.uk/s?k=jane+eyre+oxford+world+classics&crid=18S30ED4LVXHW&sprefix=jane+eyre+oxford+world+classics%2Caps%2C139&ref=nb_sb_ss_sc_1_32

<https://www.waterstones.com/books/search/term/jane+eyre+oxford+world+classics>

How is the A-level course assessed?

- Two exams at the end of the A-level course, worth 80% of the total qualification, and one non-exam assessment essay (coursework), worth 20% of the total qualification.
- All A-level English Literature students receive 9 hours of lessons per fortnight.

Who should I ask if I have any questions?

Mrs. Tetley Tetley@heles.plymouth.sch.uk



What texts will I study and how will I be assessed?

First year:

Paper 1: Love through the ages

- 3 hours
- 3 questions
- Each question is marked out of 25
- 40% of A level

There are 3 sections:

Section A: Shakespeare (closed book so an extract from the play will be printed for you) 25 marks

Typical question: **Othello**

- 'Typically, texts about husbands and wives present marriage from a male point of view. In the light of this, discuss how Shakespeare presents the relationship between Othello and Desdemona in this extract *and elsewhere in the play*'.

Section B: Unseen poetry 25 marks

Typical question:

- 'It has been said that Rossetti's poem is conventional and celebratory, whereas Millay's poem offers a very different view of love. Compare and contrast the presentation of love in the following poem in the light of this comment.

Section C: Comparing texts 25 marks

You must write about two texts: one poetry text (at least two poems, from the post 1900 anthology) and one prose (**Jane Eyre**).

Typical question:

- Compare how the authors of two texts you have studied present ideas about passion

Second year:

Paper 2b: Texts in shared contexts

There are two options. We are studying option 2b - modern times: literature from 1945 to the present day.

- 2 hours 30 mins
- Open book
- 75 marks
- 40% of A level

There are three sections:

Section A: set texts (25 marks)

One essay question on a set **drama** text, (25 marks) Currently **Top Girls** or **Streetcar named Desire**

Section B: Prose and poetry contextual linking – two essays both worth 25 marks

You must answer both questions.

- The first question will ask you to refer to an **unseen prose** extract which will be printed for you.
- The second question asks you to link your two remaining set texts – currently **'Ariel' Sylvia Plath** and **'The Help' Kathryn Stockett**

A total of 5 hours and 30 mins of exams for A level. We haven't finished! Now onto the Non-examined assessment (N.E.A.)



NEA

NEA is worth 20% of your A level

It is assessed by your teachers and is marked out of 50

It will be moderated by the exam board.

It is a comparative critical study of 2 texts, one of which must have been written **pre-1900**. You will produce an extended essay of **2500 words** with an accompanying academically referenced bibliography.

Your teachers will help you with text selection, guidance, referencing and the writing of your NEA essay title. It must be stressed however, that **at A level, you are expected to embrace the concept of independent learning and independent thought. You choose your own texts, one of which must be *pre-1900***

We start work on this at the end of the first year. The current deadline for completion is February half term.

Hele's School ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

Code of practice for students studying English at A Level

'A' Level English Literature is a demanding course of study.

APPROACH TO LEARNING

- You made a positive choice to study English and are expected to approach the course pro-actively. This means engaging in lesson activities and work set, thinking for yourself, discussing and seeking clarification when needed.
- **You are responsible for your own learning and we expect you to become increasingly independent as a learner.** Guided tasks will help you become so but take it upon yourself to 'go a step further' with your work. Thrill and amaze us! Tell us something we don't know!

ATTENDANCE

- You must attend every lesson and be punctual. If you are ill you should inform your teacher by email. Similarly, if there are known exceptional circumstances, such as going to University Open Days, you should inform your teacher in advance. If absent, it is **your responsibility** to find out what you have missed and to catch up. All Mrs. Tetley's lessons will be put onto Edmodo.

NOTEMAKING

- You must make meaningful notes in lessons and consolidate your learning later with overview notes. You may also need to explore concepts with further reading in order to feel secure. We will be using the Cornell method.

DEADLINES

- You are expected to complete all work set for the designated deadline.

PEER SUPPORT

- You are expected to support one another. If you are absent, ask other students about lesson ideas and information. If you then have any queries you should see your teacher. Many students have found it helpful to have a WhatsApp group to share ideas and information.

STUDY BEYOND LESSON TIME

- You are expected to spend **6 hours a week** on personal study. After every lesson you should consolidate your learning with overview notes, bullet points or diagrams. Before every lesson you should prepare and come ready to discuss and lead discussion. In addition, you need to read around your subject and undertake individual research beyond tasks set for homework.

ORGANISATION

- Bring all relevant texts and equipment to every lesson, including your own stationery and set text.
- You must keep organised notes and present your file for checking when requested.

PRESENTATION AND SUBMISSION OF WORK

- All work must be well presented: legibly written. Hand in paper versions unless specifically asked for an electronic submission.

INDEPENDENT STUDY

Independent study is fundamental to developing your skills as a learner, and you are expected to read and research widely during the course. (See Code of Practice).

FOLDER ORGANISATION

You need to buy a set of highlighter pens a ring file and about 10 dividers for your English work. It is essential that notes on each part of the course are organised in sections and that you extend the glossary of terms and list of resources and references. Keep your course handbook in the file for easy reference and referral in lessons. Included in your file is a Student Progress Checker sheet to help you keep an overview of your progress. Each time an assignment is returned use this page to make a note of how you did and the specific targets highlighted to work on for improvement. To support you your English teachers will be monitoring files through the year, taking in individual ones for scrutiny each term.

HELP YOURSELF! SET UP A GOOD SYSTEM AT THE START OF THE COURSE AND IT WILL BE EASY TO KEEP ON TOP OF NOTES AND WORK

- **KEEP THE STUDENT PROGRESS CHECKER UP TO DATE**
- **CHECK PERSONAL TARGETS BEFORE EACH NEW ASSIGNMENT**

I have read and agree to abide by these guidelines.

Signed (STUDENT)..... Date.....

Signed (PARENT)..... Date.....

Useful wider reading:

I will send out suggestions for wider reading in due course, but in the meantime:

- Make use of your own local library. If you have a library card you can access wide range of scholarly journals. Join the public library using this online form – you need to nominate a library to collect the card from.
https://www.webopac.plymouth.gov.uk/06_SelfRegistration/06_001_Your_Details.aspx Remember to arrange a PIN when you pick up your card – this is needed to download e-books from the excellent e-book borrowing website and to use computers in the public libraries.
- Try and read other works by the authors we are studying.
- Read lots of poetry – just because it is a wonderful thing to do!
- Use e-media – there are hundreds of accounts by authors, writers, poets, teachers etc. on Twitter. Subscribe to some and open up your world!
- Search for blogs by subject – poetry, English Literature. Again, there are hundreds out there.
- Visit <http://peripeteia.webs.com/> written especially for A level students.
- *We have a* subscription to the English and Media magazine which is terrifically helpful - <https://www.englishandmedia.co.uk/e-magazine/emag-login>
 - **Username: Hele's**
 - **Password: Bronte16**

'While thought exists, words are alive and literature becomes an escape, not from, but into living.'

—Cyril Connolly

