

A LEVEL ENGLISH LITERATURE

Exam Board: Edexcel

Syllabus Code: 9ETO

Entry Requirement

Grade 6 in English Literature IGCSE and Grade 6 in English Language IGCSE in most circumstances.

Introduction

The aim of the A Level specification is to encourage boys to develop their interest in and enjoyment of literature and literary studies as they:

- read independently set texts and others that they have selected for themselves
- engage critically and creatively with a substantial body of texts and ways of responding to them
- develop and effectively apply their knowledge of literary analysis and evaluation
- explore the contexts of the texts they are reading and others' interpretations of them.

In addition, students will be required to show knowledge and understanding of:

- the functions and effects of structure, form and language in texts
- some of the ways in which individual texts are interpreted by different readers
- some of the ways in which texts relate to one another and the significance of cultural and contextual influences upon readers and writers.

Boys will be required to:

- read texts in a variety of ways and respond critically and creatively

- have a variety of strategies for reading, including for detail, overview and gist depending on the texts being studied and purposes for reading them
- explore comparisons and contrasts between texts, establishing links and relationships
- identify and consider how attitudes and values are expressed in texts
- draw on their understanding of different interpretations in responding to and evaluating texts
- communicate fluently, accurately and effectively their knowledge, understanding and judgement of texts
- use literary critical concepts and terminology with understanding and discrimination
- make accurate reference to quotations from texts and sources.

Syllabus Content

Component 1: Drama (external, 30% of qualification)

Students will study aspects of the form of drama via two plays. The central focus of the drama study is the literary text. Students will need to explore the use of literary and dramatic devices and shaping of meanings in their chosen plays. Students study a tragedy or comedy drama by Shakespeare and another tragedy or comedy drama.

Teaching and wider reading should address the significance and influence of contextual factors and engage with different interpretations of the chosen Shakespeare play. Students' study of Shakespeare should be enhanced by engagement with critical writing.

Outline of Assessment

- Written examination, lasting 2 hours.
- Open book – clean copies of the drama texts can be taken into the examination.
- Total of 70 marks available – 40 marks for Section A and 30 marks for Section B.
- Two sections: students answer one question from a choice of two on their studied text for both Section A and Section B.
- Section A – Shakespeare: one essay question, incorporating ideas from wider critical reading.
- Section B – Other drama: one essay question.

Texts Studied

Drama (Tragedy or Comedy)

Tragedy

William Shakespeare: Antony and Cleopatra, Hamlet, King Lear, Othello

Other drama texts drawn from the A Level Text List

Comedy

William Shakespeare: A Midsummer Night's Dream, Measure for Measure, The Taming of the Shrew, Twelfth Night

Other drama texts drawn from the A Level Text List

Component 2: Prose (external, 20% of qualification)

Students will study aspects of prose via two thematically linked texts, at least one of which must be pre-1900. Literary study of both texts selected for this component should incorporate the links and connections between them, and the contexts in which they were written and received.

Overview of assessment

- Written examination, lasting 1 hour 15 minutes.
- Open book – clean copies of the prose texts can be taken into the examination.
- Total of 40 marks available.
- Students answer one comparative essay question from a choice of two on their studied texts.

Texts Studied

These are taken from the exam board's themed list.

Component 3: Poetry (external, 30% of qualification)

Students will develop depth of knowledge about poetic style by studying the work of a single named poet, or a specified selection of poetry from within a literary period or movement. Literary study of the chosen set poems should be enhanced by study of the links and connections between them and the contexts in which they were written and received. For the unseen study, students will need to apply their knowledge of poetic form, content and meaning in their response to an unseen poem written within their lifetime. Classroom study should extend students' understanding of the concerns and choices of modern-day poets.

Overview of assessment

- Written examination, lasting 2 hours.
- Open book – clean copies of the poetry texts can be taken into the examination.
- Total of 60 marks available – 20 marks for Section A and 40 marks for Section B.
- Two sections: students answer the question on the unseen poem

- and one question from a choice of two on their studied text.
- Section A – Unseen Poetry: one essay question on an unseen modern poem written post 2000 (AO1, AO2 assessed).
 - Section B – Prescribed Poetry: one essay question (AO1, AO2, AO3, AO4 assessed).

Texts Studied

The options available are vast and wide-ranging

– from the Early Medieval through to Larkin.

Coursework (internal, 20% of qualification)

Coursework will be assessed via two texts. There are no prescribed texts but centres must select complete texts which may be drawn from poetry, drama, prose or literary non-fiction. Students must select different texts from those studied in Components 1, 2 and 3. The selected texts may be linked by theme, movement, author or period. Literary study of both texts should be enhanced by study of the links and connections between them, different interpretations and the contexts in which they were written and received.

Overview of assessment

Students produce one assignment

- one extended comparative essay referring to two texts
- advisory total word count is 2500- 3000 words