

English Literature

If you love reading, going to the theatre, watching films and like talking about your ideas with other people, then you will definitely enjoy English Literature at A Level.

This course will introduce you to a wide range of novels, plays and poetry from different periods of history, including modern works. You will read important books, learn about themes and ideas that writers explore, as well as the techniques they use. The course will certainly develop your analytical skills, enabling you to “read” texts much more critically and it will offer you the opportunity to explore your own ideas about...well...life, death and just about everything in between! The ability to read sensitively and intelligently and to write concisely and elegantly is not only a great life skill but also gives you a huge advantage in any number of courses and careers you may be interested in after school.

What will you be learning?

Core Content:

Paper1 - Love Through the Ages (Perhaps Othello, Measure For Measure or The Winter’s Tale, a selection of poetry, ancient and modern and novels such as The Great Gatsby, A Room with a View, Atonement, Rebecca, Wuthering Heights)

Paper2 – Texts connected by the theme of World War One and its Aftermath or Modern Times (Literature from 1945 to the present day)

Independent Critical Study (AKA coursework) – a comparative essay on two texts of your choice

Assessment:

80% of A level assessed by exam

20% of A level by coursework

What are the lessons like?

This is what two Year 13 students have to say about the English Literature course:

“I have found studying English Literature a very enjoyable experience and would have no hesitation in recommending it to others. Prospective students should consider the friendly and informal seminar- style of lessons which are both enjoyable in their own right and prepare students well for Higher Education.”

“It’s a great subject to take, if, like me, you enjoy reading, writing and talking. In fact, English Lit is probably the subject where you get most opportunity to discuss your own and others’ ideas. This means that, although you do get introduced to a wide variety of literature, it’s not just about sitting alone with a book; it’s very much an interactive subject.”

What can it lead to?

English Literature can lead on to a very wide variety of courses and careers. Obviously, some students go on to do an English degree, but it is also a very popular choice for those considering Law, History, Politics, Philosophy, Journalism, Languages, Theatre Studies, Drama and Art History.

Want to know more?

To find out more about the course and discuss your suitability please contact L.Domingues@qes.org.uk or F.Astbury@qes.org.uk