



Kimberley
School

A Level
ENGLISH
LITERATURE

SIXTH FORM
ENGLISH

What is English Literature?

English Literature involves the study of all written texts (drama, prose, poetry) from varying periods of time, including work published in recent years. These will obviously be written in English, however, some of the texts may be an English translation of a foreign work.

Who is it for?

This course is for anyone who is interested in building a mature and advanced understanding of how and why authors create particular effects, or convey specific messages. People who enrol on this course should enjoy reading a range of texts which may stretch beyond what they would normally select. They should also be prepared to conduct independent research to compliment class work.

To join the course Grade 5 is preferred - it will make the transition to A Level easier; Grade 4 may be accepted following discussions with SPL/ Head of Sixth Form on suitability. You must be an avid reader!

What will I study?

Apart from understanding the many advanced techniques employed by an author, you will learn to look beyond the piece of literature and investigate its history, to understand the deeper social, political and philosophical meanings behind it. As a result you will learn to look closer at the world around you today, not only of literature, but of politics and the media. Through texts from the past we will gain the key to exploring those of the present and examine how issues 100 years ago are still surprisingly relevant today.



The course is made up of:

A Level – 4 Units

Unit 1: Poetry (exam worth 30%)

Section A: Poetry pre-1900 (open book)

One two-part question based on the reading of one pre-1900 poetry text from a prescribed list.

Section B: Poetry post-1900 (open book, clean copy)

One question from a choice of two based on the reading of two post-1900 poetry texts from a prescribed list.

Unit 2: Drama (exam worth 30%)

Section A: Shakespeare (closed book)

One two-part question based on the reading of one Shakespeare play from a prescribed list.

Section B: Drama (closed book)

One question from a choice of two based on the reading of a pair of plays: one pre-1900 and one post-1900, from a prescribed list.

Unit 3: Unseen texts (exam worth 20%)

Section A: Unseen Prose

One question from a choice of two, analysing an unseen passage of prose, taken from one of the two prescribed periods for study.

Section B: Unseen Poetry

One question from a choice of two, analysing an unseen poem or poetry extract.

Unit 4: Coursework

One 2500-3500 word assignment based on the reading of two prose texts from different periods, one pre-2000 and one post-2000, nominated by the student or school.

See Miss Walter or Ms Eatherington for further details.

