



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 and Victorian prose, Dystopian fiction and Gothic fiction within the department, to name but a few.

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 and literary heritage. 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 A Level is taught in a dedicated classroom 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, with an annual trip to The Globe and performances at the RSC and Bristol Old Vic. You will have the opportunity to enter

into national essay writing and poetry competitions and participate in our very strong debating society, MUN, for which Queen's has an outstanding reputation and its very own conference (QUMUN).

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 either 'Hamlet' or 'King Lear'; both build beautifully on the exploration of the human psyche seen in 'Macbeth' at GCSE. A study of texts on a given literary context is a key part of the course, and we either select the Gothic tradition or Dystopia. Coursework covers a poet, a play and a novel and all are modern texts, post-1900, chosen according to the teacher's own interests and passions. 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.

Progression

Many of our students progress onto university to study single honours English or combined/liberal arts degrees. Recently, students have secured places at Oxford and at other Russell Group universities. English is a diverse qualification that will help you to achieve an analytical and evaluative mindset, which is essential in fields such as law, journalism, publishing, data analysis, management consultancy, marketing and the media.



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