

ENGLISH LITERATURE AS/A2

THE PROGRAMME

Students will begin their A Level study by first exploring 'Texts and Genres'. Within this module, students will be exploring the genre of Tragedy, studying texts such as, 'The Great Gatsby', 'Othello' and an anthology of poetry connected to the genre. Their learning within the module will focus upon tragic aspects such as; the type of the tragic text itself, whether it is classical and about public figures or domestic and about representations of ordinary people; the settings for the tragedy, both places and times; the journey towards death of the protagonists, their flaws, pride and folly, their blindness and insight and the role of fate.

Students will then move on to explore 'Elements of Social and Protest Writing'. The social and protest genre covers representations of both public and private settings. All set texts foreground oppression and domination and they all look at the cultures we live in and have lived in over time. They will be exploring dystopian texts such as 'The Handmaid's Tale' and post modernist texts such as 'The Kite Runner'.

Students will need to consider the specific elements that exist in each of their texts. The elements that might be explored could be; the type of the text itself, whether it is a post-modern novel, science fiction, satirical poetry, historical and political drama.

WHY STUDY THIS SUBJECT?

A Level English Literature offers students the opportunity to develop inference and deduction skills which are particularly useful to careers and courses that require you to break down rhetoric and formulate an informed argument. The content of the course enables students to explore the study of literature through the lens of genre and theory, which in turn encourages the independent study of a range of texts within a shared context.

This unifying approach facilitates the inclusion of a range of wider reading, thus extending students' experience and appreciation of literature beyond core set texts. This course allows students the autonomy to explore, debate and tackle challenging literary concepts and shape their understanding of the world around them.

CAREER POSSIBILITIES

Careers that centre on the ability to debate and evaluate evidence, such as those in the field of law (police/solicitor etc.) would find A Level English Literature a useful course to pursue. Alternatively, their immersion in a range of texts from different eras would provide a firm literary background to draw creative inspiration from. As a consequence, careers in the creative arts, or even curatorship, would benefit from this wide breadth of literary knowledge.

