

English Literature



Why choose English Literature?

- English Literature is valuable in many ways. It allows you to develop empathy skills and the ability to investigate the way words and phrases shape meaning and create effect.
- It is fun whilst simultaneously challenging. You can explore a wide range of characters and societies in the past, present and future analysing the events which drive characters to behave and speak in the way that they do.
- Class sizes allow for small group discussion and wider debate.
- Experienced teachers.
- Good value-added examination results
- Many students progress to study English at university
- Extra curricular opportunities
- It helps prepare you for a wide range of career options, including police work, journalism, teaching, the law, psychiatry and related medical professions.

English Literature Course Details

Exam Requirements

The OCR course consists of two modules.

AS Unit F661: Poetry and Prose 1800-1945 (closed text examination)

This is a two-hour examination, divided into Section A (poetry) and Section B (prose). You have to answer two essay-style questions, one from Section A and one from Section B, based on the set texts you have studied.

Section A - you answer one question on one poem, written by a poet you have studied, and you are expected to make reference to other poems by the same poet. This is a closed text examination, but the poems on which the questions are set will be printed in the examination paper.

Section B - there is a choice of two questions on each set text and you answer one question. You will need to: respond to the question, discussing how themes and issues are presented; demonstrate an understanding of literary-critical concepts and approaches, which you will have studied from the complementary literary-critical text.

AS Unit F662: Literature post-1900 (coursework)

In this unit you complete two pieces of writing based on three texts chosen by your teacher.

First piece of writing: this must be either a close, critical analysis of a section of one chosen text or poem, or an item of re-creative writing based on a selected passage. If you choose the recreative writing option then you will also need to do a commentary which explains the link between your own writing and the original passage selected. We recommend that this should be approximately 1000 words.

Second piece of writing: this must be an essay considering two texts, exploring contrasts and comparisons between them, informed by interpretations of other readers. We recommend that this should be approximately 2000 words.

Departmental Information

Mrs. G Roberts, Head of Department

Mrs. B Cameron-Lyle, Deputy Head of Department

Mr. J Hughes, Deputy Head of Department

All staff are graduates.

Student Comments

“English Literature at the Alun is fantastic.

My reading has become so much broader since studying for my A levels.

I have studied texts ranging from American Literature to the Gothic and Romantic. The course is both interesting and enjoyable; I never thought I would enjoy Shakespeare so much either.”

- Year 13 Student