

# A LEVEL ENGLISH LITERATURE

**Why is listening to or reading stories such a fundamental part of childhood? It is because there is nothing more powerful or important than acquiring a deep understanding of human behaviour; of the actions, thoughts and emotions that make up the human experience. Why is it that plays, poems, speeches, novels and films excite us so? Why is it that we often see in them so much truth and insight? It is because shared experience, and the expression of that experience, is absolutely fundamental to understanding humanity and to understanding ourselves.**

A Level English Literature at King's is designed to show you that texts can be read in a variety of ways. Exploring the relationships between texts in terms of genre and literary theory, you will learn that the interest and pleasure derived from close reading involve understanding that meanings in texts are not limited to a single interpretation; instead they are open to multiple interpretations. By learning to explore alternate opinions of texts you will develop and gain confidence in your own judgments.

Throughout the course you will study various novels, poems and plays to develop your skills in analysis and interpretation. There will be a lively mix of literary analysis, contextual thinking, wider reading and independent learning. The study of texts in detail, in context and in relation to other cultural influences is at the heart of our teaching and learning experience. You will be encouraged to question, debate and develop informed opinions, and the enjoyment and discipline of reading will give you a secure basis for astute critical discussion.

## COURSE OUTLINE

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## ASSESSMENT STRUCTURE

A Level assessment is split into three parts consisting of two written exams and one controlled assessment. Paper one is 2 hours 30 minutes in length, Paper is 3 hours in length with each being worth 40% of the A Level and taken at the end of Year 13. Your controlled assessment is worth 20% of the A level. This is a language investigation that you will have to independently research and analyse. Your investigation must be 3500 words in length.

YEAR	TITLE	CONTENT	WEIGHTING
End of Year 13	Paper 1	Shakespeare plus two other texts (closed book)	40%
End of Year 13	Paper 2	Unseen text (open book)	40%
End of Year 13	Controlled Assessment	Two essays of 1250-1500 words	20% (10% per essay)

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Competition for places will be high as English and related subjects are a popular choice at A Level as well as university. As a result to ensure we strive for the highest success students will ideally have Grade Point 7-9 (Grade A\*/A) at English Literature GCSE. The minimum GCSE grade required is Grade point 6 (Grade B). Some of the content will overlap with English Language and studying both these subjects would be advantageous. Studying English Literature would also complement A levels which are essay based and/or those which have a heavy reading load such as geography, history, English language and modern foreign languages. You must have a passion for reading and the analysis of language.



Literature adds to reality, it does not simply describe it. It enriches the necessary competencies that daily life requires and provides. – C.S Lewis



## PROGRESSION ROUTES

English is a competitive university subject and supports a very wide range of careers; studying at King's will prepare you not only for exams but also for employment. Being able to write well prepares you for every degree subject. You would be specifically well prepared for a degree in any English discipline such as English Literature, English Language, English or English studies. You would also be very well prepared for any other essay writing subject such as law, history, politics or languages. Admissions tutors of sciences and social sciences are also often interested in students who have been successful in English Literature too. There are a range of potential career options you could explore including communications, creative writing, journalism, law, marketing, publishing and teaching.

## RECOMMENDED EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Read as widely and diversely as possible: English writers, foreign writers who write in English, foreign writers in translation. Broaden your horizons: listen to music, look at the art, think about the politics and the morality that give context to a work of literature. You will need to persevere sometimes: not every text will captivate you on line 1 of page 1, but overcoming the challenge will be hugely rewarding. People talk about losing themselves in a good book; when that happens, it's a wonderful experience.

There will be opportunities to visit the theatre, take part in our reading society and journalism workshops and learn from professionals who are working in the arts industries. Being a member of the debating society and the Model United Nations team would also enhance your debating skills.

## RECOMMENDED READING LIST

King Lear by William Shakespeare  
Death of a Salesman by Arthur Miller  
The Great Gatsby by F.Scott Fitzgerald  
Tess of the D'Urbervilles by Thomas Hardy  
Twelfth Night by William Shakespeare  
Educating Rita by Willy Russel  
Emma by Jane Austen  
The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood  
Hard Times by Charles Dickens  
Atonement by Ian McEwan

## TOP 5 UNIVERSITIES CURRENTLY FOR THIS SUBJECT

1. Durham
2. Cambridge
3. St Andrews
4. Oxford
5. University College London

## COURSE/QUALIFICATION DETAILS

Qualification: A Level English Literature  
Specification: AQA  
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