

A Level - English Literature - AQA

Contact: Mrs O Barnes

Course Description

The A Level course aims to encourage students to develop ways of reading literary texts that explore the connections which exist between texts. This involves studying literature through 'lenses'. For the examined units, these 'lenses' are comedy, and political and social protest writing. Within these units, texts include novels, poetry and drama from across time and countries: from Shakespeare's comedy, 'Twelfth Night' to Khaled Hosseini's political and social protest novel 'The Kite Runner', which is set in America, Pakistan and Afghanistan. Among other texts, we also study Henrik Ibsen's proto-feminist play 'A Doll's House', set in nineteenth century Norway, and Tony Harrison's protest poetry, which centres on the closing of the mines during the Thatcher era.

Examinations include extract questions and essays that focus on exploring debates around comedy, and political and social protest writing. The non-examined unit is a coursework unit, which gives students some independence as they can choose their own novel and poems to study through two critical perspectives. These include feminism, Marxism, ecocriticism and post-colonialism. Thus, the course exposes students to a breadth of literary texts through which they can develop

Assessment

Paper 1: Literary genres – Aspects of comedy

Study of three texts: one Shakespeare text (Twelfth Night); a second drama text (The Importance of Being Earnest) and one further text, of which one must be written pre-1900 (AQA's comedy poetry anthology). **Assessment:** written exam - 2 hours 30 minutes; 40% of A-level

Paper 2: Texts and genres – Political and Social Protest Writing

Study of three texts: one post-2000 prose text (The Kite Runner); one poetry (Tony Harrison's poetry) and one further text, one of which must be written pre-1900 (A Doll's House).

Examination will include an unseen passage. **Assessment:** written exam - 3 hours; 40% of A-level

Non-exam assessment: Theory and independence

Study of two texts: one poetry and one prose text, informed by study of the Critical Anthology

Two essays of 1250–1500 words, each responding to a different text and linking to a different aspect of the Critical anthology. **Assessment:** 50 marks; 20% of A-level - assessed by teachers and moderated by AQA

Additional Entry Guidance

This course is not suitable if you are resitting GCSE English. A grade 5 at GCSE is advisable.