

Why do you have to study GCSE English Literature?

Language and Literature are studied in tandem with good reason. They are complementary and there is significant overlap between the two. However, if pushed to state the difference, language is about communication; whereas literature is about meaning. Texts don't exist in isolation; they are a product of values, both from the author and society, and they fit into a pattern of other published texts. In effect, all works of literature are a part of a huge and changing conversation, spanning centuries and featuring every conceivable viewpoint. By teaching you how to analyse literature, we are empowering you to become a part of that conversation.

We study Literature in school because it tells us important truths about ourselves, our lives and our subjectivity. We look at literary texts with a contemporary eye, thinking about then and now, how we have changed and what this means. It is about themes, the big ones – gender, race, life, death, personal happiness, and we work together to decode the tensions which animate our set texts. This involves exploring the time and context in which works are produced, and how these factors press down on a text to reshape meaning. In working out what a book might mean, we are also defining something about ourselves and the things that matter to us.

Skills/attributes developed/required:

- A desire to get close to the text, to look at words and phrases and think about what they mean
- A willingness to engage with different forms: drama, poetry and novels
- The ability to see things differently, to explore more than one meaning
- The capacity to see that meaning is rarely certain. It is what we think about things and how we express it that matters the most.

Examination Information

Exam Board: AQA

Exam: 100%

Course outline:

Component 1: Shakespeare and the 19th Century Novel (40% of the qualification)

Component 2: Modern Texts and Poetry (60% of qualification)

Where can it take me?

Next Steps: In line with Language, a Literature pass is a key that unlocks further study in all subjects.

Future career opportunities that this subject may lead to: Future career opportunities: the English GCSE and A Level is recognised and valued by universities and employers. It fits with the English suite of subjects and careers – like writing, journalism, communications, PR, marketing, law and linguistics. However, it also acts as a perfect counterweight to other subjects and careers because of the skills inherent to the study of language and literature.

What Key Skills will I gain by taking English Literature?

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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Analysing | <input type="checkbox"/> Independent Learning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communication - Verbal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Independent Thinking |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Communication - Written | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Listening Skills |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Creative Thinking | <input type="checkbox"/> Presentation Skills |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Debating | <input type="checkbox"/> Problem Solving |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Decision Making | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reading |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Evaluating | <input type="checkbox"/> Research |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hands-On / Technical Skills | <input type="checkbox"/> Team Work |