



A Level

Specification: AQA English Literature B (7717)

# ENGLISH LITERATURE

## What will I study?

### Aspects of Tragedy:

The study of three texts: one Shakespeare play, a second drama text, and one further text, one of which must have been written before 1900.

### Elements of Political and Social Protest writing:

The study of three texts: one post-2000 prose text; one poetry and one further text. One of the texts must be written before 1900.

You will also produce two pieces of coursework, based on your own independent reading. In preparation for this part of the course you will study a range of approaches to critical theory, including feminist and Marxist criticism, post-colonial theory, eco-critical approaches to literary criticism, aspects of narrative, and discussion of the literary canon (in other words, which texts can be considered literature, and what it is that affords a text literary 'value').

## How will I be assessed?

### Paper 1: Literary Genres

{Tragedy}: 40% of the A Level

**Section A:** one passage based question on the set Shakespeare play (25 marks)

**Section B:** one essay question on the set Shakespeare play (25 marks)

**Section C:** one essay question on tragedy, which links two texts you have studied (25 marks)

### Paper 2: Texts and Genres

{40% of the A Level}

**Section A:** one compulsory question on an unseen passage (25 marks)

**Section B:** one essay on a set text (25 marks)

**Section C:** one essay question that links two texts you have studied (25 marks)

### Non-exam Assessment (coursework):

Two essays of between 1250 -1500 words each: one on a selection of poetry and one on a novel or collection of short stories, all of which must be read independently, and will be chosen by students individually.

## How will I learn?

Most lessons will involve a mix of discussion, reading and writing, but discussion of ideas (in pairs, small groups or as a whole class) is the main way that you will learn in class.

When you begin a new text you will be asked to annotate, answer questions, take notes, read critical interpretations and feed back (both formally and informally) your own ideas and opinions.

Outside lessons you will be expected to read and to make notes, and as you prepare for exams there will be the requirement to plan and write essays both independently (outside lessons) and in class.

Throughout the course we expect you to reflect on your work and to act on teachers' feedback to help you move forward.

## What skills will I need?

To enjoy and succeed at A Level Literature you must first of all enjoy reading. Studying texts demands a critical and enquiring mind: you need to be able to analyse how language is used and relate this to the writer's intentions or purpose.

As this is an essay based subject, you need to be articulate and able to express yourself well in writing. You will also enjoy the course more if you are prepared to share your ideas in discussion.

## Careers & Progression

An A Level in English opens doors to a very wide range of careers and higher education courses, as it proves to any employer or university/college admissions tutor that you are articulate, analytical and evaluative.

More particularly, if you are intending to pursue a career in journalism, media or law, then an A Level in English is a key requirement.