

## GETTING STARTED

Whether you already teach our existing GCE English Literature specification, teach a similar specification with another awarding body, or are considering offering this for the first time, getting started with our revised specification really couldn't be easier:



Visit [www.ccea.org.uk/specifications](http://www.ccea.org.uk/specifications) to view the full revised specification for your subject.



Attend the next available support event. Go online for our up-to-date events schedule.

Go to [www.ccea.org.uk/specifications](http://www.ccea.org.uk/specifications) to download the full **GCE English Literature AS & A2 Specification**



## CONTACT US NOW

### Subject Officer

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#### For queries in relation to:

Specification content  
Subject-specific issues  
Interpretation of exemplar papers & other materials

#### For queries in relation to:

Requesting a meeting  
Requesting further support  
General subject-specific queries

#### For queries in relation to:

Entries  
Results

#### For queries in relation to:

Requesting materials



**WHATEVER YOUR QUERY, WE GUARANTEE YOU A PROMPT, FRIENDLY AND EFFICIENT SERVICE WHEN YOU CONTACT US**

Check out our online leaflet *Customer Charter – Putting You First* at [www.ccea.org.uk](http://www.ccea.org.uk) to view our service targets and our commitment to you.

"I'm really pleased to introduce this revised specification. We have designed it to meet the needs of learners in Northern Ireland whilst also providing a qualification that has international currency. We're proud to be your local awarding body. It is my priority to ensure that our dedicated subject team listens, responds and provides you with a first-class service."

**Anne Marie Duffy – Examinations Manager, CCEA**

"I'm delighted to provide robust operational systems that support all aspects of examination administration. Whether you are making entries, have a query about examinations or require assistance in relation to results, I can assure you that our specialised systems and customer-focused teams will provide you with the top-class level of service you expect."

**Martin Quinn – Business Manager, Examination and Assessment Administration, CCEA**

## WHAT TEACHERS SAY ABOUT OUR EXAMINATIONS SERVICE....

**98.9%** of teachers are satisfied with the support and helpfulness of our staff.

**95.5%** of teachers are satisfied with the reliability and appropriateness of the materials we dispatch.

**98.9%** of teachers are satisfied with our administration of examinations.

\* Source: CCEA's 2006 Post-Primary Customer Satisfaction Research



Rewarding Learning

# REVISED GCE AS & A2 SPECIFICATION SNAPSHOT FOR ENGLISH LITERATURE

For first teaching from September 2008

For first award of AS Level in Summer 2009

For first award of A Level in Summer 2010



## SUMMARY

- AS 1: **The Study of Drama** – Internal Assessment (2 pieces), 40% of AS, 20% of A Level, available Summer only
- AS 2: **The Study of Poetry Written after 1800 and The Study of Prose 1800 - 1945** – Examination, questions per selected text/pair of texts, 2hrs, 60% of AS, 30% of A Level, available January and Summer
- A2 1: **The Study of Poetry 1300 - 1800 and Drama** Closed book examination, two questions, one on a poetry text, one on a pair of drama texts, 2hrs, 50% of A2, 25% of A Level, available January and Summer
- A2 2: **The Study of Prose - theme based** – Examination, one close analysis of an extract from a text on a given theme, one question on a pair of novels on that same theme, 2hrs, 50% of A2, 25% of A Level, available Summer only

## KEY FEATURES

- Provides an opportunity to study a range of English literature written by Irish writers
- Provides an opportunity to read literature from outside the UK and literature in translation
- Provides an opportunity to vary strategies for reading
- Reflects assessment objectives in questions and assessment procedures
- Equity between raw and uniform mark allocation
- Develops students as discerning readers who are capable of independent, critical research
- Provides agendas for study for prescribed texts

## BENEFITS TO LEARNERS

We have designed this specification to help learners develop:

- An interest in wide and independent reading;
- The ability to engage creatively with a substantial body of texts and ways of responding to them;
- The means to effectively apply their knowledge of literary evaluation in speech and writing;
- The ability to explore the contexts of the texts they are reading and others' interpretations of them; and
- Their understanding of the changing traditions of literature in English.

CURRENT		NEW		WHAT HAS CHANGED AND WHY?	
MODULE	TITLE	UNIT	TITLE	WHAT HAS CHANGED?	WHY HAS IT CHANGED?
AS 1	The Study of Poetry Written after 1800 and The Study of 20th Century Dramatists	AS 1	The Study of Drama	Shakespeare is now assessed through coursework.  There is a study of paired drama texts by a twentieth century playwright.  New playwrights include Albee Wertebaker, Bennett and Stoppard.	To fulfil subject criteria, which require coursework to be retained and comparisons and contrasts between texts to be explored at AS  Our response to teacher feedback, which requested one coursework unit and internal assessment of Shakespeare and to provide an opportunity for a creative response to the work of a twentieth century dramatist  To give students a chance to build on their experience at GCSE
AS 2	The Study of Shakespeare	AS 2	The Study of Poetry Written after 1800 and the Study of Prose 1800 - 1945	There is now a study of paired poets. New poets include Duffy, Lochhead, Montague and Kavanagh. New authors include Fitzgerald and Forster.  The examination is now closed book.	To fulfil subject criteria requiring students to study work published 1800 – 1945 as well as to compare and contrast texts at AS  Our response to teacher feedback
AS 3	The Study of Prose Written Before 1900			This unit has been deleted.	To fulfil the subject criteria requiring that three AS units be reduced to two
A2 1	Response to Unseen Poetry and The Study of Poetry Written Before 1770	A2 1	The Study of Poetry 1300 - 1800 and Drama	There is now a study of paired drama texts. New playwrights include Jonson, Sheridan, Eliot, Ibsen and Osborne.	To enable learners to vary reading strategies and look at connections between texts
A2 2	The Study of Twentieth Century Prose	A2 2	The Study of Prose – theme based	Post-1990 prose is now studied and assessed through extract-based analysis.  There is also a theme-based approach to studying paired prose texts. New authors include Doyle, McCabe, O'Brian, Johnston, Camus and Morrison.	To fulfil the subject criteria, which requires that learners study post-1990 works and explore how texts relate to one another  Our response to teacher feedback, which also gives learners an opportunity for theme-based study and encourages the use of a variety of reading strategies
A2 3	Drama			This unit has been deleted.	To fulfil the subject criteria requiring that three A2 units be reduced to two

## COUNT ON US FOR SUPPORT...

### LOCAL SUPPORT > IN PERSON

- We are your **local awarding body**, so we can provide personalised support and visits to you and your centre upon request. Contact the Specification Support Officer named on the back cover if you would like to arrange for us to visit you, your department or your students.
- If you have a query or require advice/guidance, please contact the relevant person listed on the back cover.



**CONTACT US IF YOU DON'T FIND WHAT YOU ARE LOOKING FOR**

### LOCAL SUPPORT > AT TEACHER-FOCUSED EVENTS

We provide a comprehensive programme of events to support this specification which includes:

- FREE launch events** to introduce you to the revised specification; and
- FREE seminars** to support its teaching and assessment and to assist you with subject-specific issues.

We will mail invitations to Heads of Department at least three weeks in advance of each event. Alternatively, check out our full list of support events online at [www.ccea.org.uk/spec-changes](http://www.ccea.org.uk/spec-changes)

### SUPPORT > ONLINE

Most of the support we provide will be available on your subject microsite. The site will contain:

- The latest version of the GCE English Literature specification;
- Schemes of Work;
- Chief Examiner's Reports with top tips for improving examination performance;
- Exemplar Papers and Mark Schemes; and
- Exemplification of Standards (available after the first examination series).

Visit your subject microsite by logging on to [www.ccea.org.uk](http://www.ccea.org.uk) and selecting it from the dropdown menu.

### SUPPORT > IN PRINT

Some of the materials listed above are also available in print. To find out which materials and publications are currently available for your subject:

- Contact Bernard Trainor in our Distribution Team on (028) 9026 1200 ext 2168; or
- Go to [www.ccea.org.uk](http://www.ccea.org.uk) to view our *Examination and Assessment Sales Catalogue*.

## BACKGROUND TO THE REVISION PROCESS

During the Revision of Specifications process, we consulted our stakeholders through:

- Questionnaires
- Focus Group meetings
- Subject Advisory Team meetings.

We have drawn up this revised specification with the help of:

- Teachers and Heads of Departments in post-primary schools;
- Lecturers in Institutes of Further and Higher Education;
- Representatives from Employer Committees;
- Members of Subject Associations;
- Subject experts from Education and Library Boards; and
- Specialists from our Curriculum Development Teams.

