

REVISED GCE AS & A LEVEL
Student Guide
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

english
literature

Student Guide: English Literature

GCE English Literature will give you the opportunity to study not only a wide range of literature written by home grown Irish writers but also literature from outside the UK and literature in translation. This course will give you the opportunity to explore an important part of your own cultural heritage. Moreover with the wide range of novels, poems and plays you will study by both Irish and international writers, you will not only deepen your understanding of your own history and society but also gain an insight into others. Through independent and critical reading you will develop your interest and enjoyment in literary studies and become an accomplished, discerning reader. You can take the AS as a stand alone qualification. To obtain the full A Level qualification you must take the second half of the course, referred to as A2.

Q. Why study English Literature?

If you enjoy reading and discussing ideas, and have an interest in not only reading books but also critically analysing them, then this course is ideal for you. To obtain the full A Level qualification in English Literature you will need to complete both the AS and A2 units. However if you have chosen to study subjects which are scientific or technologically based yet still have an interest and an aptitude for English Literature, why not take the AS course as a stand alone qualification simply for pleasure? This would demonstrate the breadth of your interests and competencies which would serve you well when applying for degree courses.

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Q. What do I need to be able to take this course?

Whilst GCE English Literature builds upon the knowledge and skills developed in GCSE English Literature, you do not need to have taken the GCSE course in order to study GCE English Literature. A grade C in GCSE English Literature would however be a great advantage. Moreover a passion for reading and discussing literature, along with a willingness to study independently, is a must!

Q. What will I study?

You will study 2 units at AS and a further 2 units at A2. For GCE English Literature we have selected a wide range of literary texts and themes which you will study while developing your ability to critically analyse and explore various aspects of literature.

AS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Drama – <i>critical response to Shakespeare and a creative/personal response to a C20th dramatist</i>• Comparative study of Poetry written after 1800 – <i>Heaney, Duffy, Kavanagh</i>• Prose 1800-1945 – <i>Austen, Hardy, Bronte</i>
A2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Poetry 1300-1800 – <i>closed book</i>• Drama – <i>comparing and contrasting a set of paired plays</i>• Theme-based prose – <i>war, women in society, the outsider, childhood</i>

This course will encourage you to read widely and independently. Moreover you will learn how to:

- articulate creative, informed and relevant responses to questions on literary texts using appropriate terminology
- explore connections and comparisons between characters, themes or issues
- identify and examine a range of methods employed by the author ie. tone, form, structure and how these methods shape meaning
- demonstrate understanding of the context in which texts are written by drawing on appropriate information from outside the text

How can I find out more?

There are a number of ways that you can find out more about studying English Literature. These include:

- Teachers at your school or college
- Students who are already studying the subject
- www.ccea.org.uk/english_literature
- The English Association - www.le.ac.uk/engassoc/
- Careers advisor
- UCAS www.ucas.com or CAO www.cao.ie for details on entry requirements for university courses

Q. How will I be assessed?

Unit	Type of Assessment
<p>AS 1 The Study of Drama</p> <p>40% of AS 20% of A Level</p>	<p>For this unit you must submit 2 pieces of coursework:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One critical assignment based on Section A – The Study of Shakespeare • One creative/personal assignment based on Section B – The study of a Twentieth Century Dramatist <p><i>For more information on coursework please refer to P.18-20 of the specification.</i></p> <p><i>Available in Summer only.</i></p>
<p>AS 2 The Study of Poetry Written after 1800 and the Study of Prose 1800 - 1945</p> <p>60% of AS 30% of A Level</p>	<p>For this unit you must answer 2 questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One question from Section A on a set of paired poets. • One question from Section B from a choice of prescribed novels. For this section a choice of 2 questions will be set on each text. <p>Duration: 2 hours</p> <p><i>Available in January and Summer.</i></p>
<p>A2 1 The Study of Poetry 1300 - 1800 and Drama</p> <p>25% of A Level</p>	<p>This is a closed book examination. You will answer 2 questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One question from Section A on a poetry text For this section a choice of 2 questions will be set on each poetry text. • One question from Section B on a pair of drama texts <p>Duration: 2 hours</p> <p><i>Available in January and Summer.</i></p>
<p>A22 The Study of Prose – theme based</p> <p>25% of A Level</p>	<p>You will answer 2 questions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One question from Section A requiring close analysis of an extract from the novel you have read • One question from Section B requiring comparison of 2 novels on the same theme as that chosen for Section A. <p>Duration: 2 hours</p> <p><i>Available in Summer only.</i></p>

Q. What can I do with a qualification in English Literature?

English Literature is one of the main subjects in the Arts and Humanities family and complements subjects such as Languages, History, and Politics. A qualification in GCE English Literature could lead you into a degree course in the Arts, Humanities and Communication. Armed with GCE English Literature you could even go straight into employment. The skills you will acquire through taking this course are in high demand from employers as well as universities and colleges. If you are interested in a career in journalism, the media or law then a qualification in GCE English Literature is a good basis for further training in these areas.

