



St George's School  
*Aim Higher*

# Sixth Form Options

## English Literature

A Level Course – Pearson-Edexcel

# English Literature A Level



“I can never read all the books I want; I can never be all the people I want and live all the lives I want.”

- Sylvia Plath

“The ability to read awoke inside me some long dormant craving to be mentally alive.”

- Malcolm X

“Reading a book is like re-writing it for yourself. You bring to a novel, anything you read, all your experience of the world. You bring your history and you read it in your own terms.”

- Angela Carter

“Make a career of humanity. Make it a central part of your life”

- Colson Whitehead



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## Our A Level results 2024

**A\* - C = 95%** National 83%

This year, over a third of our students have applied for an English related degree course – Including Literature, Creative Writing and Journalism

### Our students went on to study...

- English Literature
- English language
- Journalism
- History
- Communications
- Geography

# Why study English Literature A Level?

- English Literature is a well-recognised, high quality academic subject which commands respect across all disciplines;
- If a student intends to take any Literature-based or English language degree course, it is essential;
- English Literature prepares students for the extended research and writing which will underpin almost all university courses;
- English Literature builds students' academic tone and equips them to write at degree level;
- English Literature is also a great foundation for university study in a range of humanities including the fields of history, philosophy, politics, psychology, sociology, classics and anthropology, due to its interdisciplinary content.



# Why study English Literature A Level here?



Pearson  
Edexcel

- We have a proven track record of excellent results;
- A number of our students each year go on to study English Literature at university;
- Our A level team are experienced English specialists who are passionate, engaged, skilled and knowledgeable;
- We are a dynamic department, teaching a cutting edge curriculum;
- We are building a great range of extracurricular and enrichment opportunities.



# Aims of the course

- To develop students' love of a variety of literature in a number of forms
- To develop students as informed, independent readers
- To develop students as confident verbal contributors
- To develop students' knowledge of the importance of context – across time, gender, culture, etc.
- To develop students' understanding of the co-existence of different interpretations
- To introduce students to all three genres – Drama, Poetry and Prose
- To explore new, exciting texts and debate critical contemporary issues



# Structure of the course

Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3	Unit 4
<b>Drama</b> Examination	<b>Prose</b> Examination	<b>Poetry</b> Examination	<b>Coursework</b> Non Exam
<b>Open Book</b> <b>Clean copy</b>	<b>Open Book</b> <b>Clean copy</b>	<b>Open Book</b> <b>Clean copy</b>	2,500 – 3,000 essay
<b>Three texts</b> (one is a critical anthology)	<b>Two texts</b>	<b>Two texts</b>	Comparison of two texts chosen by centre
One question on a Shakespeare play, one on another drama text	Comparative question on a choice of two prose texts, one pre-1900	One question on post-2000 poetry anthology; one on specific poet (centre's choice)	20% of A Level
2 hour 15 minute exam 30% of A Level	1 hour 15 minute exam 20% of A Level	2 hour 15 minute exam 30% of A Level	<b>Possible texts: tbc</b>
Possible texts: 'Othello', 'The Duchess of Malfi'	Possible texts: 'Lady Audley's Secret', 'The Cutting Season'	<b>Possible text: C Rosetti</b>	



- ✓ Do you have a *genuine* love of reading?
- ✓ Do you have confidence in your own opinion?
- ✓ Can you think critically?
- ✓ Are you able to consider different interpretations of the same thing and make your own conclusions?
- ✓ Will you engage with lively class discussion and debate?
- ✓ Can you express yourself clearly?
- ✓ Can you work – and think - independently?
- ✓ Are you organised / able to meet deadlines?



# What does English A Level go well with



Languages

History

Drama

Art

Fine art

Graphic art

Philosophy and Ethics

Politics

Maths

Business

PE

Psychology

Economics

Geography



# Careers linked to studying English

Freelance writing

Research

Editing

Publishing

Teaching

Law

Web content management

Journalism

Analyst

Academic librarian

Advertising

Film industry

Public relations

Theatre Arts

Marketing



“That is part of the beauty of all literature. You discover that your longings are universal longing, that you’re not lonely and isolated from anyone. You belong.”

- F. Scott Fitzgerald