



ENGLISH LITERATURE

DETAILS OF COURSE:

The specification studied is EDEXCEL English Literature.

At AS level, candidates will study a play (E.g. 'Doctor Faustus' by Christopher Marlowe) and a collection of contemporary poetry for unit 1 and two novels (E.g. *The Picture of Dorian Gray* by Oscar Wilde and *Dracula* by Bram Stoker) for unit 2. They will then have two exams at the end of the year:

- Unit 1 – Poetry and Drama (60% of the AS grade) – This exam is 2 hours long and is open book.
- Unit 2 – Prose (40% of the AS grade) – This exam is 1 hour long and is open book.

For the A level, candidates will study a collection of contemporary poetry, and two plays (E.g. Shakespeare's 'Othello' and 'A Streetcar Named Desire') for unit 1. They will study two novels (E.g. *The Picture of Dorian Gray* by Oscar Wilde and *Dracula* by Bram Stoker) for unit 2. They will then study a collection of poetry (E.g. The Romantics, The Victorians, or Larkin's poetry) for unit 3. They will also study two texts for the coursework.

- Unit 1 – (30% of the A level) – 2 hours and 15 mins and open book. - Drama
- Unit 2 – (20% of the A level) – 1 hour and is open book - Prose
- Unit 3 – (30% of the A level) – 2 hours and 15 mins and is open book - Poetry
- Coursework (20% of the A level) – one 2500-300 word essay.

QUALITIES AND COMMITMENT EXPECTED FROM THE STUDENT:

- Above all, candidates who study this course **must** enjoy reading; if they do not fulfil the wider reading entailed in the course then they will not be able to complete the A level.
- They should also have the ability to construct a basic argument and select interesting quotations from a text.
- They must be willing to conduct research independently.
- Candidates should also be willing to engage in class discussions of texts.

THE FUTURE:

A level English is a demanding subject but it is also very rewarding. In studying these important novels, plays and poetry, students gain the ability to think critically and construct sophisticated arguments. Many students go on to study English or related subjects at university with students gaining places at both Oxford and Cambridge in recent years.