

Course Content

The A-Level English Literature course offers an approach to the study of literature with a focus on genre and theory. The course focuses on different ways of reading and the connections that exist between texts within a literary genre. Students will gain a solid understanding of how texts can be connected and how they can be interpreted in multiple ways so that they can arrive at their own interpretations and become confident autonomous readers.

AS

'Literary Genres' – 'Aspects of Tragedy'

Working with *genre* involves looking at ways in which authors shape meanings within their texts. It also involves thinking about a wide range of relevant contexts, those of production, some (where possible) to do with how the text has been received over time, and most of all with how the text can be interpreted by readers now.

At the core of all the set texts is a tragic hero or heroine who is flawed in some way, who suffers and causes suffering to others and in all texts there is an interplay between what might be seen as villains and victims. Some tragic features will be more in evidence in some texts than in others and students will need to understand how particular aspects of the tragic genre are used and how they work in the four chosen texts.

A-level

'Texts and Genres' – 'Elements of political and social protest writing'

Although it could be claimed that all texts are political, what defines the texts studied have issues of power and powerlessness at their core, with political and social protest issues central to each text's structure. The political and social protest genre covers representations of both public and private settings. All set texts foreground oppression and domination and they all look at the cultures we live in and have lived in over time.

Theory and independence

This component allows students to read widely, to choose their own texts and to understand that contemporary study of literature needs to be informed by the fact that different theoretical and critical methods can be applied to the subject.

Skills and Qualifications Required

A Grade 6 in English Literature at GCSE

A keen interest in literature and reading.

Constructing concise arguments both verbally and in the written form.

Drawing personal and pertinent observations in response to prose, drama and poetry texts.

Assessment

AS – At the end of the first year there will be two 90 minutes externally assessed examination papers.

A Level - At the end of the second year with two externally assessed examination papers one of 2 and a half hours and one that is 3 hours. There is also a NEA component that comprises of two 1250-1500 word essays.

A Pathway To...

English Literature is regarded as a *facilitating subject*. An advanced level qualification in any facilitating subject will keep open to you a number of degree courses. At some universities, a qualification in the subject is a requirement for entry to the course. At other universities, it may not be a requirement for the course, but will still be useful to gain entry.

It can lead to further studies of the subject but equips students with a number of transferrable skills that are essential to a number of different areas of study.

For More Information Speak To:

Ms Donovan Email: DonovanV@ThomasBecket.org.uk

Mrs Page Email: PageK@ThomasBecket.org.uk