

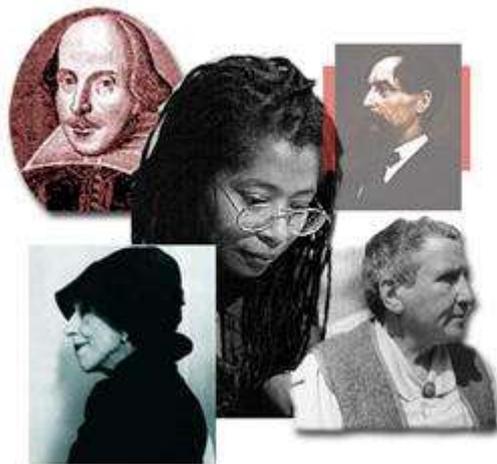


ENGLISH LITERATURE

A Level Subject Information

*A book must be an ice-axe to break
the seas frozen inside our soul.*

~Franz Kafka



*Fiction reveals truths that
reality obscures.*

~Jessamyn West

*The smallest bookstore still contains more ideas of
worth than have been presented in the entire history of television.*

~Andrew Ross



A Level English Literature

Examining Board - OCR

Why is Big Brother called Big Brother? Is it true that *a single man in possession of a good fortune must be in want of a wife*? What makes tragedy tragic? And should a good writer begin a sentence with a conjunction? For the answers to these and many other questions, consider A Level English Literature.

A Level Literature is challenging, exciting and rewarding. Here's how it works. You read something and then we ask you what it means. We don't tell you. We know that the best results come from independent thinking, not remembering something you've been told.

Literature is not for the faint-hearted. There is a lot of reading involved, from Shakespeare to Carol Ann Duffy, from Oscar Wilde to Tennessee Williams. This is a challenging A Level subject but one valued by universities even if you are not continuing to study Literature at University. Not only is it valued as excellent preparation for careers such as Law but is also a 'facilitating subject' for a variety of Oxbridge degrees (including MFL).

Results in this subject are good, with 61% A*-A grades and 100% A*-C grades last year.

(2019 36% A*-A and 92% A*-C)

English Literature

At NHGS we study the new OCR English Literature course.

A-Level

Component 1: Shakespeare with Drama and Poetry pre-1900.

40% Exam

Studying “Hamlet” alongside Oscar Wilde’s “An Ideal Husband” and the poetry of Christina Rossetti.

Component 2: Close Reading with Comparative and Contextual Study.

40% Exam

Focus on Dystopian fiction as a genre and Orwell’s “Nineteen Eighty-four” and Atwood’s “The Handmaid’s Tale” in particular.

Component 3: Critical Piece and Linked Texts Essay.

20% Non-Exam

We study a prose, poetry and drama text, all written after 1900 and at least one published after 2000.