

English Literature A-level

Exam board: Pearson Edexcel

Where do I start?

You will have to meet the minimum entry requirements for Wootton Park VI. You will then have to obtain a **Grade 6** at GCSE English (Literature or Language) to gain access to the course.

English Literature - about the Subject:

English Literature captures the essence of humanity. If you want to understand yourself and others, there is no better place to look than towards plays, poems and novels. As a subject, it complements any other A-level, as you are encouraged to think deeply and write accurately: vital skills for any learner hoping to continue into university education. Being well-read is seen as part of being a well-rounded, independent-minded and cultured person; all of the qualities demonstrated by Wootton Park learners. English also develops your analytical skills, close reading and questioning of what you read, looking beyond the obvious and, of course, through writing, it develops your own unique perspective and voice.

What type of learner chooses English Literature?

Learners of A-Level English Literature will need to be avid readers; individuals who enjoy the challenge of understanding and critiquing texts from a range of different time periods. Learners will need to be able to work independently when developing coursework and research widely around the texts studied in class. Learners must be ready to develop their analytical, interpretative and discussion skills.

What will I study in English Literature?

For A-level English Literature, learners will study eight texts from across the genres of prose, poetry and drama, three of which will be pre-1900 (including one Shakespeare play). In addition, the learners are encouraged to undertake a comprehensive programme of independent wider reading.

In summary, learners will study:

- a Shakespeare play alongside a Critical Anthology
- at least two prose texts, including one published pre-1900
- at least one play from the genres of either Tragedy or Comedy
- a range of unseen modern poetry alongside a prescribed pre-1900 poet
- wider reading to inform the coursework study



Modules will be taught through teacher instruction, class discussion, smaller group discussions, presentations, essays (including feedback), and independent research and study, as well as private tutorials for coursework.

What are the career/higher education prospects?

This can lead to a multitude of academic courses and respected professions. Closely related degrees would include Languages, Linguistics, History and Drama, as well as higher study of Literature, Fine Art, Philosophy, Politics and Law. English Literature can also go well with a more scientific choice of A-levels; learners of English Literature have gone on to Maths, Medicine, Pharmacy and Veterinary Science. Learners testify how they continue to use their skills in engaging with different people, expressing themselves on paper and in person and sifting out the essential from a mass of information in all sorts of fields. Future career options are virtually limitless: Employment in television, film, theatre, publishing, public relations, marketing, journalism, education, the law, and a variety of communication fields are some areas that Wootton Park learners could go on to enjoy!

What enrichment opportunities will exist within this subject area?

Alongside their study of Literature, learners will participate in a range of extra-curricular activities from theatre visits, creative writing, debating society, and journalism club to public speaking.

How will I be assessed?

Sixth Formers will be entered for three exam components in the June of Year 13 worth a total of 80% of the A-level course. Coursework is worth 20% of the A-level course.

Unit	Level	Name	Mode of assessment	Duration	Weighting GCE
1	GCE	Drama	Written examination	2 hours 15 mins	30%
2	GCE	Prose	Written examination	1 hour 15 mins	20%
3	GCE	Poetry	Written examination	2 hours 15 mins	30%
4	GCE	Course work	Comparative essay	-	20%