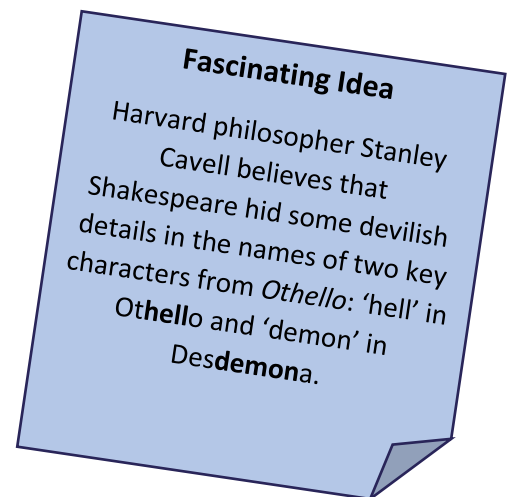


Clarendon Academy Sixth Form: Subject Essentials

English Literature

Exam Board: AQA

Specification: English Literature A



How am I examined in this subject?

English Literature is assessed through two exam papers and one piece of coursework:

- **Paper 1 Love Through The Ages:** This exam is worth 40% of your A-Level and is 3 hours long. It is divided into three sections: an extract and essay based around Shakespeare's *Othello*; an essay based around two unseen poems; and a final essay in which you need to compare Daphne du Maurier's *Rebecca* with an anthology of pre-1900 poetry. The only closed text element is the task on *Othello*.
- **Paper 2 Texts in Shared Contexts (World War I and its Aftermath):** This exam is worth 40% of your A-Level and is 2 ½ hours long. You will study three texts: *Regeneration* by Pat Barker (prose); *Up The Line to Death* (poetry); and *My Boy Jack* by David Haig (drama). In the exam, you will have a choice of questions.
- **Non-Examined Assessment:** This is a piece of independent coursework that requires you to write a detailed comparison of two texts of your choice, one of which must be pre-1900. It is worth 20% of your A-Level and has a word guide of 2,500 words.

How are my responses assessed?

In each essay you write, you are assessed on five separate skills or assessment objectives:

- **AO1:** Introducing and developing a relevant and interesting response or argument; using appropriate evidence. *This is the most important of all the assessment objectives.*
- **AO2:** Analyse how meaning is shaped by the use of language, structure and other methods.
- **AO3:** Linking texts and arguments to their contexts of production and reception.
- **AO4:** Exploring connections between a broad network of texts and contexts across time and place.
- **AO5:** Exploring debates and different interpretations linked to texts and tasks.

What do I have to achieve at GCSE to study this subject?

You need to achieve at least a grade 5 in either English Language or – preferably – English Literature at GCSE to continue with English Literature at A-Level.

How could this subject support my future education or career?

English Literature can help you develop skills that can support careers in journalism, the media, publishing, teaching, marketing and a wide range of other sectors.

One of the most important skills you will develop as an English Literature student is developing and supporting an argument. This is useful when studying most subjects at degree level, but could be especially important if you are considering studying a subject that relies on your ability to share your opinions in an articulate and convincing manner, such as Law or Politics.

How do we support students who are aiming for A/A* grades?

- We encourage our most able students to read widely around the texts that we are studying in class. A comprehensive English Literature folder is available on the Sixth Form VLE, which contains a number of thought-provoking articles from academic journals. Students are encouraged to read and make notes on these articles in their Supported Study sessions.
- We organise one-to-one sessions with students who would like additional support in improving their essays or their coursework drafts.
- We invite guest speakers from local universities to deliver lectures to our students. For example, in 2019, our Year 13 students received a lecture on the gothic elements in *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* from Dr Nicky Lloyd from Bath Spa University.

How do we support students who are finding this subject difficult?

- We organise one-to-one sessions with students who are struggling with specific texts or skills in our subject.
- We provide printed versions of the PowerPoint presentations and other notes we use in lessons for students who experience difficulties with the pace of lessons.
- We provide detailed and helpful feedback on the work that students submit to use and give them the opportunity to improve their work at regular opportunities.
- We direct students to a range of online resources that are designed to support them with independent study and reviewing their notes from class, such as The Shakespeare Learning Zone from the Royal Shakespeare Company.

Who can I contact if I want to find out more?

Mr Mike Griffiths (*Head of Sixth Form / A-Level English Literature Teacher*):
mlg@clarendonacademy.com

Ms Louise Currant (*A-Level English Literature Teacher*): lxc@clarendonacademy.com

Mrs Amy Soan (*A-Level English Literature Teacher*): als@clarendonacademy.com