

# The Osborne Sixth Form

## English Literature



### A Level

Specification: <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/as-and-a-level/english-literature-b-7716-7717/introduction>

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### Why study A Level English Literature?

English Literature is a prestigious A Level qualification that is highly regarded by universities and employers alike. The course provides an in-depth study into two literary genres: tragedy and crime. Students will have the opportunity to explore a rich variety of prose, drama and poetry: from Shakespeare's famous tragedy 'Othello'; to McEwan's post-modern novel 'Atonement'. Taught in university-style seminar lessons, students are given the opportunity to acquire and develop a variety of transferable skills in the context of lively debates, formal presentations and academic writing. Exposure to the rich heritage of the literary canon is encouraged and supported by the A Level book club and students are able to explore their own literary analysis in the Non-Exam Assessment component of the course. There will be regular visits to the theatre to see texts in performance and students' critical appreciation of texts is supported by activities such as the shadowing of The Man Booker Prize for Literature.

### What skills will I develop?

Students will enrich their understanding of literary concepts, genres and movements. Students become adept at sourcing and scrutinising critical material, and are well-rehearsed at how to use these to support their own academic arguments. Paper 1 is a closed-book exam, and therefore students develop the ability to synthesise texts, memorise and select quotations judiciously and to work efficiently under time restraints. The academic nature of English Literature allows for students to hone their formal writing skills, producing in-depth analytical and evaluative arguments and exploratory discussions. There is a strong emphasis on debate and discussion, giving the opportunity for students to become accomplished speakers who are confident presenting ideas to audiences in formal contexts.

### What will I study?

Paper 1 focuses on the genre of tragedy: texts studied include Shakespeare's 'Othello'; Arthur Miller's 'Death of a Salesman'; and a selection of poetry by Keats.

Paper 2 explores the crime genre: texts studied include Kate Atkinson's novel 'When Will There Be Good News?'; Ian McEwan's 'Atonement'; Coleridge's 'The Rime of the Ancient Mariner'; as well as a variety of extracts from crime texts throughout history.

Non-Exam Assessment: students have the opportunity to explore two texts of their own choice, which are linked by a theme or concept and viewed through a critical lens.

### How will I be assessed?

Paper 1 – closed book examination  
Paper 2 – open book examination  
Non Exam Assessment – coursework

### Where might it lead?

English Literature is highly regarded as an A Level. Students who study this subject at sixth form often go on to study English Literature or Language, History, Law, Philosophy and Ethics, Sociology, Psychology and other Arts/Humanities related subjects at university. It is an excellent choice for students wishing to pursue Oxbridge applications and those hoping to apply for Russell Group universities.

### What are the entry requirements?

Grade 5 in GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature.