

The Vale Academy

Sixth Form

A Level English Literature

The A Level course is modular and follows the AQA specification 7712. The course comprises 2 examinations and a piece of coursework (NEA).

How Will I Be Assessed?

Paper 1: Love through the ages

What is assessed?

Study of three texts: one poetry and one prose text, of which one must be written pre-1900, and one Shakespeare play.

Exam will include two unseen poems

Questions

Section A: Shakespeare: one passage-based question with linked essay (25 marks)

Section B: Unseen poetry: compulsory essay question on two unseen poems (25 marks)

Section C: Comparing texts: one essay question linking two texts (25 marks)

Paper 2: Texts in shared contexts

What is assessed?

Option 2B: Modern times: literature from 1945 to the present day

Study of three texts: one prose, one poetry, and one drama, of which one must be written post-2000

Exam will include an unseen extract

Questions

Section A: Set texts. One essay question on set text (25 marks)

Section B: Contextual linking

- one compulsory question on an unseen extract (25 marks)

- one essay question linking two texts (25 marks)

Non-exam assessment: Independent critical study: texts across time

What is assessed?

Comparative critical study of two texts, at least one of which must have been written pre-1900

One extended essay (2,500 words) and a bibliography

What Will I Learn On This Course?

This course will enrich your appreciation of literary texts by giving you the opportunity to read a variety of genres, discuss different ways of interpreting texts and investigate ways poems, plays and novels are influenced by social, cultural and historical contexts. English Literature will develop your skills of analysis, debate and imaginative thinking as well as the quality of your written work.

What Kind of Person Studies This Course?

A love of reading, writing and discussion is key! You will be expected not just to read, but to develop the skill of thinking critically about what you read and of analysing texts to work out how the author's use of situation and language create powerful impressions. You will need to explore your own emotional response to writing and be able to discuss it, in class and through your own writing, and to argue constructively for your point of view.

There are often no 'correct' responses to issues or questions raised in English Literature, so you need to be open minded and willing to hear and discuss the opinions of others.

Where will an A Level in English Literature Lead Me?

English Literature teaches the communication, writing and creative skills that are necessary for a wide variety of professions and university degrees. The A-Level provides analytical and critical skills that students will benefit from throughout their careers.