

ENGLISH LITERATURE A LEVEL

Subject title	English Literature A level
Exam board	AQA Specification A
Specification number	7712

Through studying English Literature at A level, you will learn to:

- Articulate **informed, personal and creative responses** to literary texts, using associated concepts and terminology,
- Produce **coherent, accurate written expression**.
- Analyse ways in which **meanings are shaped** in literary texts.
- Demonstrate understanding of the **significance and influence of the contexts** in which literary texts are written and received.
- Explore **connections** across literary texts.
- Explore literary texts informed by **different interpretations**.

At the end of Year 13, you will take two exams:

Love through the Ages (40%)	Texts in shared contexts (40%)
Study of three texts: one poetry anthology, one novel, and one Shakespeare play. The exam will include two unseen poems. You will study all of these texts through the lens of love: how has the way love is written about changed over centuries? In the exam: • Section A: Shakespeare: one passage-based question with linked essay • Section B: Unseen poetry: one essay question on two unseen poems • Section C: Comparing texts: one essay question linking your poetry and your novel	One of two options: Option 2A: WW1 and its aftermath Option 2B: Modern times: literature from 1945 to the present day Study of three texts: one novel, one poetry, and one play. The exam will include an unseen prose extract. Rather than taking one topic and studying it over time, you will take one time period and look at a range of texts written in that historical period. In the exam: • Section A: Set texts. One essay question on your set text • Section B: Contextual linking • one question on an

	unseen extract • one essay question linking two texts
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Within the course itself, you will produce a piece of non-examined assessment (20%):

Independent critical study: Texts across time

Comparative critical study of two texts, at least one of which must have been written pre-1900. You will write an extended essay (2500 words) in which you bring together two texts of your choice under your own critical viewpoint and a bibliography.

You could explore one of these themes:

- the struggle for identity
- crime and punishment
- minds under stress
- nostalgia and the past
- the Gothic
- satire and dystopia
- war and conflict
- representations of race and ethnicity
- representations of sexuality
- representations of women
- representations of men
- representations of social class and culture.