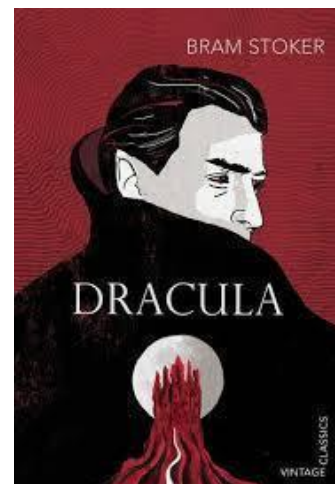
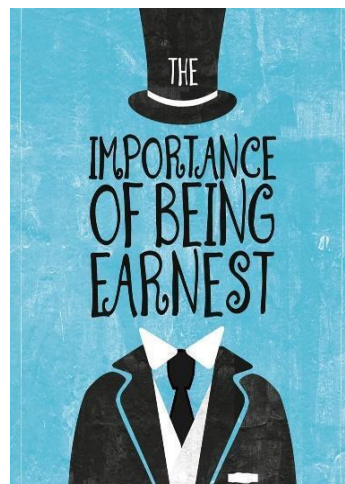
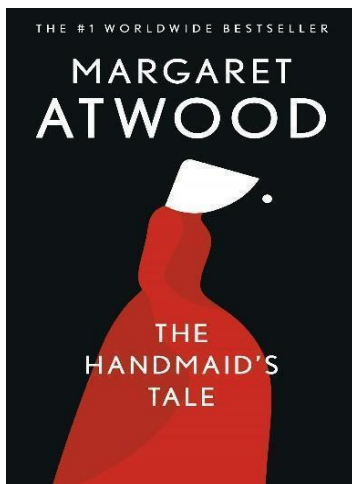
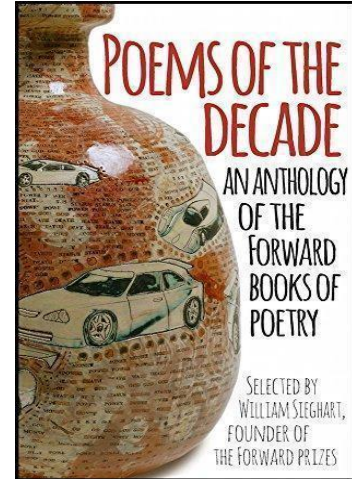
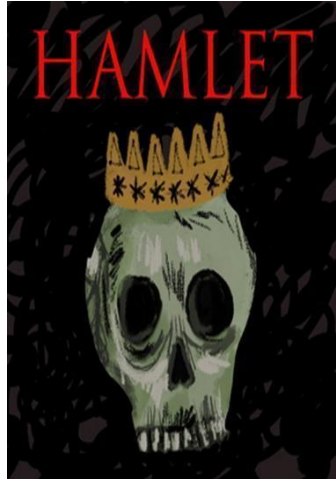
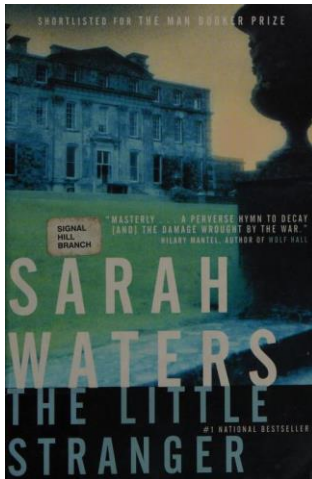




Hartismere College



English Literature

STUDENT'S GUIDE TO THE A LEVEL IN ENGLISH LITERATURE

All work in year 12 is preparation for the full A level qualification which is taken at the end of year 13.

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

In order to study this subject, it is usual to have at least a grade 6 in GCSE English or English literature and a passion for reading. Some areas covered in the course are developments of work at GCSE but others are new. The course focuses on the study of English literature and its development.

What will I learn on this A level course?

The course will enable you to:

- develop your interest and enjoyment of English literature
- develop you as an independent, informed and confident reader of literary texts
- develop a clear philosophy of reading and meaning
- to understand the importance of social, historical and cultural influences on readers and writers
- to understand the context of readers and writers and explore ways in which meaning is both produced and received, individually and generally

What kind of student is this course suitable for?

This course will appeal to students who:

- have an interest in reading a wide variety of literature from past and present
- enjoy expressing their opinions and justifying their comments on texts
- enjoy active participation to discussion
- enjoy studying a subject which is relevant to their own lives and experiences
- want to keep their options open for further study – English literature is a popular qualification for a wide range of courses in higher education or future careers

A Level English Literature (Edexcel)

Component 1 Drama

Written examination: 2 hours 15 mins (60 marks)

30% of qualification

Clean copies (no annotation) of the texts studied for both sections must be taken into the examination.

Overview of content:

- One Shakespeare play and one other drama from either tragedy or comedy
- Critical essays related to their selected Shakespeare play

Overview of assessment:

Two sections: students answer one question from a choice of two on their studied text for both Section A and Section B

Total of 60 marks available – 35 marks for Section A and 25 marks for Section B

- **Section A** – Shakespeare: one essay question, incorporating ideas from wider critical reading (AO1, AO2, AO3, AO5 assessed)
- **Section B** – Other Drama: one essay question (AO1, AO2, AO3 assessed)

Students are required to:

- show knowledge and understanding of how playwrights use dramatic forms to shape meaning in drama texts and evoke responses in audiences
- show knowledge and understanding of the contexts in which texts have been produced and received and understanding of how these contexts influence meaning
- show knowledge and understanding of a range of literary texts and make connections and explore the relationships between texts
- respond to and evaluate texts, drawing on their understanding of interpretations by different readers such as literary critics
- communicate fluently, accurately and effectively their knowledge, understanding and evaluation of texts
- use literary critical concepts and terminology with understanding and discrimination
- make appropriate use of the conventions of writing in literary studies, referring accurately and appropriately to texts and sources

Component 2 Prose

Written examination: 1 hour 15mins (40 marks)

20% of qualification

Clean copies (no annotation) of the texts studied must be taken into the examination

Overview of content:

- Two prose texts from a chosen theme. At least one of the prose texts must be pre-1900

Overview of assessment:

Students answer one comparative essay question from a choice of two on their studied theme (AO1, AO2, AO3, AO4 assessed)

Students are required to:

- show knowledge and understanding of how genre features and conventions operate in prose fiction texts
- show knowledge and understanding of a range of ways to read texts, including reading for detail of how writers use and adapt language, form and structure in texts, responding critically and creatively
 - show knowledge and understanding of a range of literary texts and make connections and explore the relationships between texts
 - show knowledge and understanding of the contexts in which texts have been produced and received and understanding of how these contexts influence meaning
- identify and explore how attitudes and values are expressed in texts
- communicate fluently, accurately and effectively their knowledge, understanding and evaluation of texts
- use literary critical concepts and terminology with understanding and discrimination
- make appropriate use of the conventions of writing in literary studies, referring accurately and appropriately to texts and sources.

Component 3 Poetry

Written examination: 2 hours 15mins (60 marks)

30% of qualification

Clean copies (no annotation) of the texts studied must be taken into the examination

Overview of content:

- poetic form, meaning and language
- a selection of post-2000 specified poetry and
- a specified range of poetry from: either a literary period (either pre- or post-1900) or a named poet from within a literary period.

Overview of Assessment:

Total of 60 marks available – 30 marks for Section A and 30 marks for Section B.

Two sections: students answer one question from a choice of two, comparing an unseen poem with a named poem from their studied contemporary text and one question from a choice of two on their studied movement/poet.

- Section A – Post-2000 Specified Poetry: one comparative essay question on an unseen modern poem written post-2000 and one named poem from the studied contemporary text (AO1, AO2, AO4 assessed).
- Section B – Specified Poetry Pre- or Post-1900: one essay question (AO1, AO2, AO3 assessed).

Students are required to:

- show knowledge and understanding of the function of genre features and conventions in poetry
- show knowledge and understanding of a range of ways to read texts, including reading for detail of how writers use and adapt language, form and structure in texts, responding critically and creatively
- show knowledge and understanding of a range of literary texts and make connections and explore the relationships between texts
- show knowledge and understanding of the ways texts can be grouped and compared to inform interpretation
- show knowledge and understanding of the contexts in which texts have been produced and received and understanding of how these contexts influence meaning
- communicate fluently, accurately and effectively their knowledge, understanding and critical evaluation of texts

- use literary critical concepts and terminology with understanding and discrimination
- make appropriate use of the conventions of writing in literary studies referring accurately and appropriately to texts and sources.

Non-examination assessment

Internally assessed, externally moderated (60 marks)
20% of qualification

Overview of content:

Students choose two texts to study. Chosen texts must be different from those studied in the course, be complete texts and may be linked by theme, movement, author or period.

Overview of assessment

- Students produce one extended comparative essay referring to two texts (AO1, AO2, AO3, AO4, AO5 assessed)
- advisory total word count is 2500–3000 words

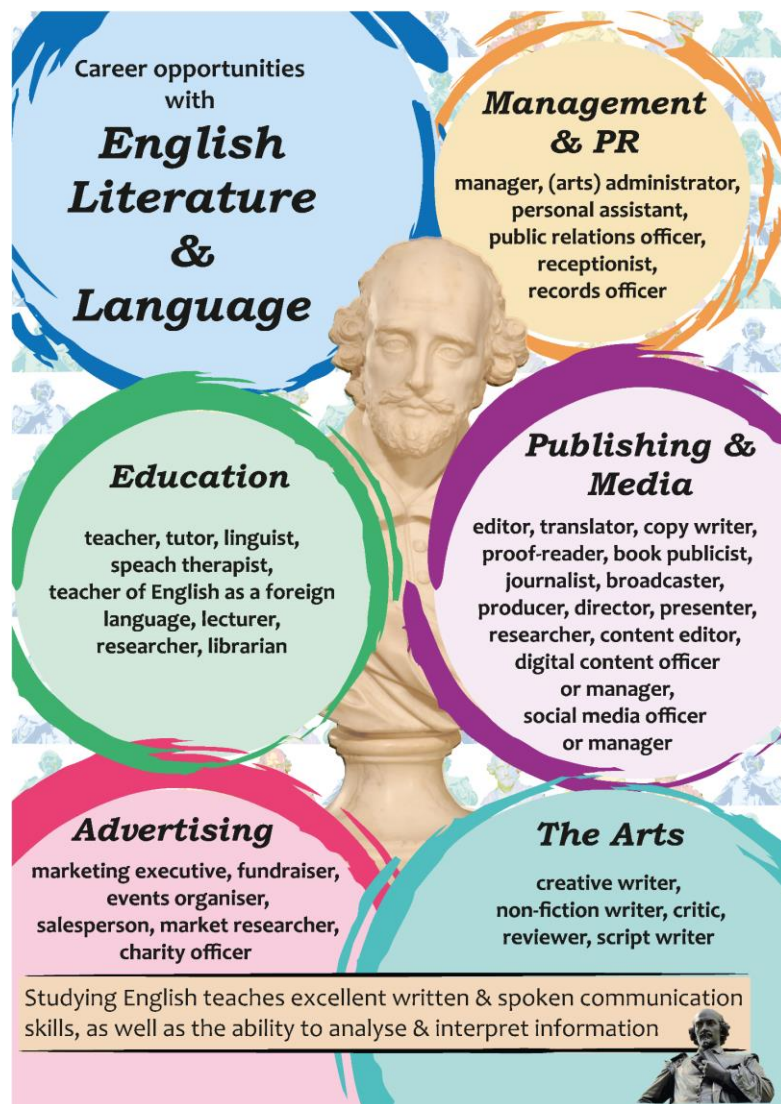
Students are required to:

- show knowledge and understanding of a variety of strategies for reading texts, including reading for detail of how writers use and adapt language, form and structure in texts
- show knowledge and understanding of ways to interpret and evaluate texts independently and in response to interpretations by different readers
- show knowledge and understanding of the contexts in which texts have been produced and received and understanding of how these contexts influence meaning
- show knowledge and understanding of a range of literary texts and make connections and explore the relationships between texts
- identify and explore how attitudes and values are expressed in texts
- communicate fluently, accurately and effectively their knowledge, understanding and evaluation of texts
- use literary critical concepts and terminology with understanding and discrimination
- make appropriate use of the conventions of writing in literary studies, referring accurately and appropriately to texts and sources
- make connections and explore the relationships between texts.

What could I go on to do at the end of my course?

Students with A Level English literature have a wide range of possible career and higher education opportunities. You will learn and use a wide variety of transferable skills during the course. These include developing writing skills, responding to literary, non-fiction and spoken texts, expressing informed and independent opinions, identifying and understanding the links between literature and language and understanding the context, history and development of English literature. These skills are in demand from employers, universities and colleges and are also valuable in their own right.

English literature can be studied as a single subject in higher education or can be combined with English language or a wide variety of other subjects. It would form a good basis for study in any arts-based subject in combination with, for example, history, media studies, philosophy, law, politics or foreign languages.



Many students will also use their qualification to go straight into employment rather than higher education. A wide range of occupations is open to students with A Level literature. This can also include the opportunity to receive further training in areas such as journalism, the media or law.

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