

Edexcel A-Level English Literature: Qualification Overview

Our A-Level is made up of **four units**:

Component One: **Drama** (exam, 2 hours 15 minutes, 60 marks, 30%)

Component Two: **Prose** (exam, 1 hour 15 minutes, 40 marks, 20%)

Component Three: **Poetry** (exam, 2 hours 15 minutes, 60 marks, 30%)

Non-Examination Assessment: **Extended Comparative Essay** (controlled assessment, 60 marks, 20%)

Each examination is at the end of Year 13. Your coursework will formally begin in the Autumn Term of Year 13, after preparing with wider reading throughout Year 12. With the support of your teachers, you will choose two appropriate texts that you will read over the summer holidays in preparation for your comparative essay.

We have to study **six core literary areas** over the two years of the course:

Shakespearean Tragedy Post-1900 Drama	Pre-1900 Prose Post-1900 Prose	Pre-1900 Poetry Post-2000 Poetry
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Whilst our approach to each area will be to consider a wide range of texts, as well as the history, conventions and key issues and debates related to each, you will primarily be examined on your knowledge and understanding of specific **literary texts** chosen by both the board and your teachers.

Each text has to be studied in a different way, with the focus on the areas indicated below:

Texts	Component	AO1	AO2	AO3	AO4	AO5
Othello William Shakespeare	Paper 1: Drama (Section A) [35 marks]					
A Streetcar Named Desire Tennessee Williams	Paper 1: Drama (Section B) [25 marks]					
Frankenstein Mary Shelley	Paper 2: Prose (Comparative Essay)					
The Handmaid's Tale Margaret Atwood	Paper 2: Prose (Comparative Essay) [40 marks]					
Poems of the Decade (2002-2011)	Paper 3: Poetry (Section A) [30 marks]					
Pre-1900 Poetry: Christina Rossetti	Paper 3: Poetry (Section B) [30 marks]					
	Marks Percentage %	26.7%	26.7%	21.9%	14%	11%

By the end of Year 12 we will have prepared you for Paper 1: Drama and be partway towards preparing for Paper 2: Prose and Paper 3: Poetry. In Year 13 we'll finish preparing you for Paper 2: Prose and Paper 3: Poetry, as well as completing the Non-Examination Assessment and revising for each paper.

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Assessment:

Each of your assessment objectives is tailored to target critical skills in the study of literature. Whilst they might look similar to GCSE, they are designed to allow a more sophisticated study of literary texts, as shown below:

Assessment Objective (AO)	Key Skills
AO1	Articulate informed, personal and creative responses to literary texts, using associated concepts and terminology, and coherent, accurate written expression
AO2	Analyse ways in which meanings are shaped in literary texts
AO3	Demonstrate understanding of the significance and influence of the contexts in which literary texts are written and received
AO4	Explore connections across literary texts
AO5	Explore literary texts informed by different interpretations

You will be assessed regularly through **essays, research tasks, in-class presentations, knowledge tests and online quizzes** - with **ten hours of independent study time per fortnight** you should expect to be immersed in the study of literature!

At the end of each unit you will be tested through **formal exam questions**, whilst the **mock exams** in June (Year One) and November/December (Year Two) will test you on full papers.

The **NEA component** (20%) in the Autumn Term of Year Two requires you to develop and apply crafted essay skills, love of wider reading, self-motivation, resourcefulness, originality and organisation to **compare two texts of your choice** - expect this to be a challenging and time-consuming task!

Here is our estimated guide to your **unit structure and assessment dates** for the course:

Mr Graham Golding	Miss Ogilvie	Miss Godden	Key Assessments & Dates (week commencing)
Year 12			
Paper 1: Othello & Critical Theory	Paper 1: A Streetcar Named Desire	Paper 2: Frankenstein	Autumn 1a: Y12 High Stakes Assessment (w/c Sep 14th)
Paper 1: Othello & Critical Theory	Paper 1: A Streetcar Named Desire	Paper 2: Frankenstein	Autumn 1b: Y12 Assessment Week 1 (w/c Nov 2nd) Formative Essay: Paper 1 Drama
Paper 1: Othello & Critical Theory	Paper 1: A Streetcar Named Desire	Paper 2: Frankenstein	Spring 2a: Summative Essay: Streetcar (w/c Jan 25th)
Paper 1: Othello & Critical Theory	Paper 3: Modern & Unseen Poetry	Paper 2: The Handmaid's Tale	Spring 2b: Y12 Assessment Week 2 (w/c Feb 22nd) Summative Essay: Othello
NEA Coursework & Exam Revision	Paper 3: Modern & Unseen Poetry	Paper 2: The Handmaid's Tale	Summer 3a: NEA Coursework: First Draft (w/c Jun 7th)
NEA Coursework & Exam Revision	NEA Coursework & Exam Revision	NEA Coursework & Exam Revision	Summer 3b: Mock Exams: Paper 1 Drama (w/c Jun 14th)
Year 13			
NEA Coursework & Exam Revision	Paper 3: Modern & Unseen Poetry	Paper 3: Poetry of Christina Rossetti	Term 1a: NEA Coursework: Second Draft (w/c Sep 7th) Summative Essay: Paper 2 Prose
NEA Coursework & Exam Revision	Paper 3: Modern & Unseen Poetry	Paper 3: Poetry of Christina Rossetti	Term 1b: NEA Coursework: Third Draft (w/c Dec 14th)
Paper 3: Poetry of Christina Rossetti	Paper 1 & Paper 3 Revision	Paper 3: Poetry of Christina Rossetti	Term 2a: Mock Exams: Paper 2 Prose and Paper 3 Poetry (w/c Jan 11th)
Paper 1 & Paper 3 Revision	Paper 1 & Paper 3 Revision	Paper 2 & Paper 3 Revision	Term 2b: NEA Coursework: Final Submission (w/c Mar 15th)
Paper 1 & Paper 3 Revision	Paper 1 & Paper 3 Revision	Paper 2 & Paper 3 Revision	Term 3a: Exam Revision
Final Exam Period	Final Exam Period	Final Exam Period	Term 3b: Final Exams

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Super-Curricular Enrichment

ENGLISH LITERATURE BOOK CLUB @ORIEL

A-Level Book Club is our first opportunity to enrich your preparation for your upcoming non-examination coursework with exciting texts and guided discussion... as well as continuing your love of reading!

We aim to **meet once-a-month** to discuss our chosen reads, share our first reactions, and reflect on whether you feel the text might be a good starting point for further reading. It's a great opportunity to hear the views of your fellow readers on a text of your interest - it might just spark an idea you want to pursue in your final coursework essay.

Book Club Suggestions	
<i>The Crucible</i> by Arthur Miller	<i>The Secret History</i> by Donna Tartt
<i>Cat on a Hot Tin Roof</i> by Tennessee Williams	<i>The Picture of Dorian Gray</i> by Oscar Wilde
<i>Fahrenheit 451</i> by Ray Bradbury	<i>Slaughterhouse-Five</i> by Kurt Vonnegut
<i>The Great Gatsby</i> by F. Scott Fitzgerald	<i>Brave New World</i> by Aldous Huxley
<i>Beloved</i> by Toni Morrison	<i>The World's Wife</i> by Carol Ann Duffy
<i>The Bloody Chamber</i> by Angela Carter	<i>Wuthering Heights</i> by Emily Brontë
<i>The Haunting of Hill House</i> by Shirley Jackson	<i>The Yellow Wallpaper</i> by Charlotte Perkins Gilman
<i>Carmilla</i> by Sheridan Le Fanu	<i>Wild Sargasso Sea</i> by Jean Rhys
... and others of <i>your</i> choosing!	

Study days outside the classroom are also available to us. We intend to explore the best possible opportunities for trips and study days which will give you firsthand experience of some of the greatest locations, performances, and culture that will add depth to your study.

Upcoming opportunities include:

- **The British Library**
- **The Globe Theatre**
- **Strawberry Hill House**
- **Royal Shakespeare Company, Stratford-upon-Avon**
- and many more!

Contract us with any questions, queries or suggestions across your time on the course.

Contact Information:

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