



WESTONBIRT
— SCHOOL —

ENGLISH LITERATURE A-LEVEL

Exam Board - EDEXCEL

What can I expect from this subject?

English Literature is a subject that is set to challenge your conceptions about society, history, and yourself. It is a subject that often brings out deeply personal responses and affects the way we view our own experiences as well as the world around us. A-Level Literature seeks to expose you to authors from the canon of English Literature, like Shakespeare, to more global and inclusive texts which can challenge your views on what art and literature and life can be like. There is an emphasis on the subject of developing a personal relationship with the texts and genres we study. The course requires that you study eight texts over two years – 2 selections of poetry, 4 novels and 2 drama texts – and consists of 3 exams and 1 piece of coursework.

What can I do to prepare for this course?

Wider reading is highly recommended – honing the skill of reading and understanding a variety of texts is key to success in Literature. Reading non-fiction and fiction texts are equally beneficial and some students really enjoy and make excellent progress, due to subscriptions such as the New Yorker, the White Review and the Paris Review. Please see or email Miss T Sheehan (Head of English) for your year's specific reading list as we do change units and set texts per year group: tabatha.sheehan@westonbirtschool.uk

What will my next steps be?

English Literature at A-Level is a prestigious award that can build literary and literacy skills required for nearly all career paths. As such it is highly valued across the board. However, some students follow a specific Literary path into degrees and careers such as law, journalism in all its forms, teaching, writing, editing, marketing, advertising, publishing, scriptwriting and media production.

FAQs for English Language:

Grades at GCSE - what will I need? Grade 6 and above in English Literature are required for this A level. Grade 5 in English Language is also required.

What is the A level workload - what are the prep expectations and revision hours required? You will receive 2 pieces of prep a week - one will be extensive, such as research or an essay, and the other will be briefer, such as annotating or short wider reading.

What skills are necessary for this A level? A passion for discussion and an open mind are both vital in developing your critical thinking skills. You should enjoy and be capable of reading and analysing texts in detail, as well as considering meanings and techniques in various manners. An interest in compassion and our global society; the literary canon and philosophy is also key!