English Literature



Subject Content

Paper 1 - Shakespeare and the 19th-century novel Students will study Macbeth by William Shakespeare and A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens.

Paper 2 – Modern Texts and Poetry

Students will study An Inspector Calls by J.B Priestley and one cluster of 15 poems taken from the AQA poetry anthology, Poems Past and Present. The poems in each cluster are thematically linked and were written between 1789 and the present day. The title of the cluster is Power and conflict. There is also an unseen poetry section of the examination. Students experience a wide range of poetry in order to develop their ability to closely analyse unseen poems.

Students will develop reading comprehensions skills including: literal and inferential comprehension; critical reading; evaluation of a writer's choice of vocabulary, grammatical and structural features and comparing texts. They will also develop proficiency in producing clear and coherent text by writing effectively about literature for a range of purposes and by using accurate Standard English including accurate spelling, punctuation and grammar.

Assessment Information

The exams will measure how students have achieved the following assessment objectives:

AO1: Read, understand and respond to texts. Students should be able to: maintain a critical style and develop an informed personal response; use textual references, including quotations, to support and illustrate interpretations.

AO2: Analyse the language, form and structure used by a writer to create meanings and effects, using relevant subject terminology where appropriate.

AO3: Show understanding of the relationships between texts and the contexts in which they were written.

AO4: Use a range of vocabulary and sentence structures for clarity, purpose and effect, with accurate spelling and punctuation.

Why Study...?

This course encourages students to develop knowledge and skills in reading, writing and critical thinking. Through literature, students have a chance to develop culturally and acquire knowledge of the best that has been thought and written. Studying GCSE English Literature encourages students to read widely for pleasure and prepares them for studying literature at a higher level.

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