

English Literature A Level

Studying literature at Lipson involves the development of sophisticated reading skills and of an ability to place literary texts in their wider intellectual and historical contexts. It also requires you to consider the critical processes by which you analyse and judge, to learn about literary form and technique, and to evaluate various approaches to literary criticism and theory. You will enhance your knowledge of society and how writers reflect this in their texts.

What will you study?

This A Level is a two year option with all of your formal assessments taking place at the end of the second year.

Exam 1: Love Through The Ages

One poetry collection, one prose text (one written pre 1900), one Shakespeare play and two unseen poems.
3 hours

Open Book for Section C only

Section A: Shakespeare passage based question

Section B: Unseen Poetry (comparing two unseen poems)

Section C: Comparing Texts, one essay question

Exam 2: Texts in Shared Contexts - Modern Times, 1945 to present day

One prose text, one poetry collection and one drama text (one of which is post-2000)
2 hours and 30 minutes

Open book exam

Section A: One essay question on set text.

Section B: One compulsory question on an unseen extract

One essay question linking two texts

Non-Exam Assessment: Independent Critical Study

Comparative critical study of two texts of your own choice; at least one written pre 1900.
One extended essay (2500 words and a bibliography)

Where could this take you?

Many career opportunities are open to you with A Level English Literature, such as Publishing, Media, Public relations, Marketing, Law, Business and Education and Journalism. This course will also enable you to progress onto a degree course in English Literature or related studies.

Entry Requirements

- GCSE grade 6 or above in English Language
- GCSE grade 6 or above in English Literature
- 5 GCSEs at Level 5 or above

You will read a wide range of texts over the course of the two years, therefore it is important that you enjoy reading and are keen to broaden your literary horizons. Possessing good inference and analytical skills is also central to succeeding in your study of Literature. Finally, the skill of structuring a coherent essay is one that you will develop over the course of the two years.

