

A Student's Guide to GCSE English Literature (1213)



What is GCSE English Literature all about?

In your GCSE Literature course you will study pre and post 1914 poetry, prose and drama. Your teacher may decide that you will study one literary non-fiction text in place of one of the post 1914 texts.

You will learn how to respond to texts critically, sensitively and in detail and develop an awareness of their social, historical and cultural contexts.

How does it follow on from what I have learnt before?

You will already have gained much experience of reading and responding to literature in your English lessons so far. This will be of help to you in GCSE English Literature.

Will I enjoy this course?

You will enjoy this course if you would like to explore literature further and learn more about the ways in which authors achieve their effects.

What about exams?

At the end of year eleven you will take one exam paper which will contribute 70% of your final grade.

The exam will last for 2 hours 15 minutes.

You must answer three questions (one on each of the post 1914 texts you have studied) and should spend 45 minutes on each.

You are allowed to take copies of your texts into the exam.

Is there any coursework?

At the end of year eleven you must submit your coursework folder of work on three pre 1914 texts: on a play by a major playwright such as Shakespeare; on prose and on a collection of poetry chosen by your teacher. It may be possible to submit some of the work from your English

coursework folder for your Literature coursework provided it is relevant to both subjects.

What about my results?

You will receive your results towards the end of August. These will be graded from A* to G. On your teacher's advice, you will enter for either the Higher Tier, for which you can receive grades A* to D, or Foundation Tier, for which you can be awarded grades C to G.

What could I do next with my GCSE English Literature?

A good grade at GCSE will help you to move on to an AS, A level or vocational A level course or a job of your choice. If you enjoy GCSE English Literature, you might want to continue with this subject, or study a related one such as Languages or History.

My GCSE English Literature course texts are:

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