

GCSE English Literature

Examination Board: AQA
Course Specification: 8702

What is GCSE English Literature all about?

GCSE English Literature will develop your reading and analysis skills. You will read a variety of texts by many different authors from different time periods.

Course Structure:

You will study a wide range of texts including “Romeo and Juliet” by William Shakespeare, “The Sign of Four” by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and “An Inspector Calls” by J.B. Priestley. You will also study a collection of poetry on the theme of “Power and Conflict” and learn how to analyse “unseen” poems.

How will I be assessed?

There are two written examinations for English Literature. There are no tiers of entry for this subject. At the end of the two year course, candidates will be awarded a grade from 1 to 9. Grade 9 is highest grade.

Paper 1

Shakespeare and the 19th century novel: 1 hour 45 min exam. 64 marks 40% of GCSE

Section A Shakespeare: one question on “Romeo and Juliet”.
Section B The 19th-century novel: one question on “The Sign of Four” by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

Paper 2

Modern texts and poetry: 2 hour 15 min exam. 96 marks. 60% of GCSE

Section A Modern texts: one essay question on “An Inspector Calls” by JB Priestley.
Section B Poetry: compare two poems on the theme of “power and conflict.”
Section C Unseen poetry: Analyse an unseen poem and compare it to another unseen poem.

What could I do next with GCSE English Literature?

This GCSE will open the door to a wide variety of sixth form or college courses. In the sixth form at Sandbach School we offer A Level English Language and English Literature that this course will prepare you for.