Year 8 Options 2020

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, “Jekyll and Hyde” by Robert Louis Stevenson 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 “Jekyll and Hyde” by Robert Louis Stevenson.

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 then 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.