

ENGLISH LITERATURE

SPECIFICATION

A Level Edexcel English Literature 9ETO

OBJECTIVES OF THE COURSE

To provide students with progression from the knowledge, understanding and skills established in English Literature GCSE; to encourage wide independent reading for pleasure and understanding.

Students will develop knowledge and understanding of:

- How writers use language in texts to shape meaning in and evoke responses in audiences and readers
- The function of genre features and conventions in poetry, prose and drama
- A range of ways to read texts, including reading for detail of how writers use and adapt language, form and structure in texts, responding critically and creatively
- The contexts (historical, literary and ideological) in which texts have been produced and received
- How to respond and critically evaluate texts, drawing on understanding of interpretations by different readers
- How attitudes and values are expressed in texts
- How to fluently and effectively convey knowledge, understanding and evaluation of texts
- How to use literary critical concepts and terminology
- How to make appropriate use of the conventions of writing in literary studies, referring accurately and appropriately to texts and sources

CONTENT AND ASSESSMENT

Year 1	Year 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Poetry	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Drama

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>English Romantic Verse</i>: Poetry from the Romantic Period - <i>Poems of the Decade: An Anthology of the Forward Books of Poetry</i>: Post 2000 Contemporary Poetry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prose - <i>Heart of Darkness</i>, Joseph Conrad - <i>The Lonely Londoners</i>, Sam Selvon 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - One Shakespeare play (<i>King Lear</i>) plus selection of related essays from the Shakespeare Critical Anthology - <i>A Streetcar Named Desire</i>, Tennessee Williams <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coursework - One comparative essay of up to 3000 words.
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Year 1

Component 1: Poetry – The Romantics / Post 2000 Contemporary

You will study,

- A selection of poems from *English Romantic Verse* to develop understanding of the contexts for Romantic poetry, its formal and ideological aspects, and how to compare poems independently
- A selection of poems from *Poems of the Decade, An Anthology of the Forward Books of Poetry 2002 – 2011* to develop understanding of contemporary poetry in its formal and ideological aspects, and how to compare poems unseen at a high level.

Assessment

- Written exam of 2 hours and 15 minutes
- Section A: Contemporary Poetry: one comparative essay from a choice of two on an unseen poem written after 2000 and a named poem from the studied collection
- Section B: Poetry Collections: one essay question from a choice of two on the Poetry from the Romantic Period

Component 2: Prose – *Heart of Darkness* and *The Lonely Londoners*

You will study,

- Two texts from the Nineteenth and Twentieth century respectively, from a comparative perspective, analysing formal and ideological aspects and comparing the various contexts for reading they present.

Assessment

- Written exam of one hour and 15 minutes
- One comparative essay from a choice of two questions

Year 2

Component 1: Drama

You will study,

- *King Lear*: William Shakespeare
- *Les Blancs*: Lorraine Hansbury
- Essays and other critical commentary related to the form of tragedy and the history of Shakespeare studies in *Shakespeare: A Critical Anthology*

Assessment

- One written exam lasting 2 hours and 15 minutes
- Section A: Shakespeare – one essay question, on *King Lear* incorporating ideas from wider critical reading
- Section B: Other Drama – one essay question on *Les Blancs*

Component 4: Coursework

One extended comparative essay (up to 3000 words) referring to two texts and a range of secondary material and literary criticism: free choice of texts but linked by theme, movement, author or period.

METHODS OF STUDY

Students participate in group work, class discussion, individual research and a wide range of reading. There will be opportunities for theatre and cinema visits throughout the course, as well as relevant trips.

SPECIAL FEATURES OF THE COURSE

- The course offers the opportunity to develop creative writing skills, as well as sophisticated reading skills
- Students will have the opportunity for theatre and cinema visits as well as study days at Manchester Metropolitan University

