

Subject: English Literature

Teachers: Mrs Postle and Miss Tomkinson

Exam Board: Edexcel

NEWPORT GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL

KS5 CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

Curriculum Intent & Organisation		
At A Level, Students will study prose, poetry and drama from a range of periods and countries. All examinations are open book and we feel that the Edexcel course offers the best balance of breadth and depth at A Level.		
Examination Information		Facilitating Subject?
The course is assessed by three examinations (poetry, prose and drama) (80%) and one extended comparative coursework essay [Non-Examined Assessment] (20%).		Yes
Impact of Prior Learning from KS4		
The A Level course builds on the interpretation, analysis and essay writing skills that are fundamental to the GCSE courses, with an increased focus on students developing their own independent readings of literary texts and on developing pre-undergraduate level essay writing skills. To support students in the transition from GCSE to A Level, all students are expected to read the set texts for the first year of the course over the summer holidays, in preparation for September. Students are also given a wider reading list of literary texts which compliment the set texts, as well as URLs to useful websites. This ensure students have a secure knowledge of the set texts before embarking on more in-depth study.		
Equipment Required for this course		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Standard classroom stationery• Copies of all of the set texts (these can be new or second-hand)• Four lever arch files (one for each of the units)• Own lined paper• We recommend that students have a membership of their local library, in order the encourage them to read as widely as possible.		
Curriculum Implementation – Areas of Focus Year 12		
Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 'The Picture of Dorian Gray' by Oscar Wilde.• 'Poems of the Decade: An Anthology of the Forward Books of Poetry'	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 'Dracula' by Bram Stoker.• 'A Streetcar Named Desire' by Tennessee Williams.	Coursework Preparation: American Literature in the 20 th Century. Core Texts: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 'The Great Gatsby' by F. Scott Fitzgerald• The Poetry of Robert Frost Student will have the option to read and study other 20 th Century American texts by writers such as Steinbeck and Wharton and are able to design a coursework question around their own choices of texts.

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Curriculum Implementation – Areas of Focus Year 13

Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Coursework preparation and workshops.• ‘Othello’ by William Shakespeare.• ‘A Further Range’ by Philip Larkin.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ‘Othello’ by William Shakespeare.• ‘A Further Range’ by Philip Larkin.• Consolidation of texts studied in Year 12.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consolidation of texts studied in Year 12 and final examination preparation.

Impact / Outcomes

Learning will be assessed throughout the course by:

- Low stakes testing of core knowledge (e.g. plot tests and terminology tests)
- Practice essay style paragraphs
- Homework essays
- Mock examinations within the classroom
- Formal mock examinations during assessment weeks and mock examination weeks
- Assessment of the quality of class notes and homework notes
- Informal assessment of spoken responses and in class presentations.

Homework / Self Study

At A-Level it is important that students balance out pre-lesson preparation with post-lesson consolidation and homework is set with this in mind. Students are expected to have re-read whichever text or section of a text they will be exploring ahead of the lesson. In addition, students will often be set academic reading tasks, such as exploring the Guardian poem of the week or reading a literary article on one of the set texts in preparation for a seminar style discussion as a lesson opener. Exam style essays and coursework style essays will also be set. There are a number of stretch and challenge activities students can engage with and this includes listening to podcasts, reading extra academic texts and reading literary texts from the same genre or author as the set texts. Above all, we encourage students to be autonomous learners, in order to prepare them for life after A Levels.

Ways to support learning

Students will be issued with a handout during their pre-visit which includes a reading list and activities to complete prior to starting the course. ‘Stretch and challenge’ material and revision resources are available on the school network, which students can access in school or through the cloud service.

- Edexcel Resources and Past Papers: <https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/english-literature-2015.coursematerials.html#filterQuery=category:Pearson-UK:Category%2FSpecification-and-sample-assessments>
- A Level English Discussion Forum (External Website): <https://peripeteia.webs.com/apps/forums/>
- British Library Literature in Context Website: <https://www.bl.uk/discovering-literature>

Field Work / Extension / Enrichment Opportunities

During the course, students will have the opportunity to attend theatre trips and lecture days. In the last few years, students have been to see a touring West End production of *Othello*, *Hedda Gabler* by Henrik Ibsen and an RSC production of *The Taming of the Shrew*. The department have an education membership with the RSC, enabling us to offer regular trips to see productions in Stratford-Upon-Avon. There are a number of leadership roles available to students studying English Literature. Currently, a group of 6th form students are involved in supporting the Performing Arts Society and are working collaboratively to adapt, produce and direct a drama revue. There are also similar opportunities in public speaking, as well as an opportunity to lead and curate the school’s film society and act as mentors to GCSE English students. The 6th form is well represented in the school’s literary society and there are several opportunities to enter prestigious writing competitions, such as the annual Tower Poetry competition.

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Next Steps

Every year, we have a number of students who are inspired to study English at university, with students often gaining places on some of the most competitive courses in the country. As well as English and related subjects, past students have studied a diverse range of subjects at undergraduate level such as: History, Politics, Law, Biology, Fashion Management, Paramedic Science, Physics, Psychology and Theatre Studies. The communication and essay writing skills students will develop during the course will be transferable to a variety of subjects and careers. English Literature is on the Russell Group list of facilitating subjects, meaning that the subject can help students gain places on a range of the most competitive courses at undergraduate level.

For more information, contact Mr Postle, Head of English, via schooloffice@nghs.org.uk