



Gordon's Sixth Form

# ENGLISH LITERATURE

A LEVEL

## WHY CHOOSE ENGLISH LITERATURE?

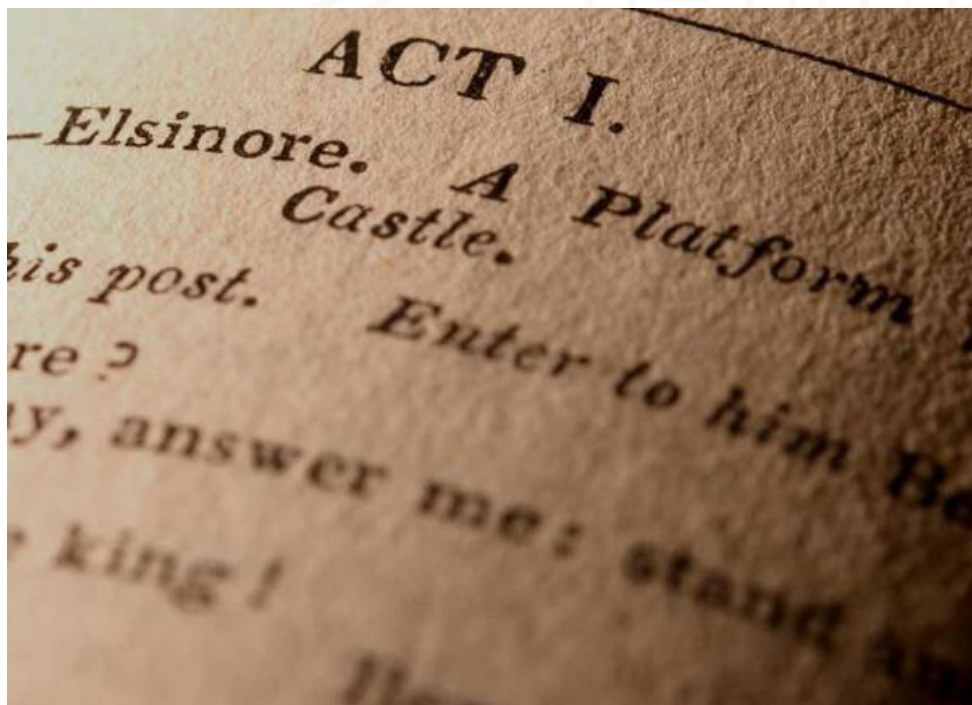
The English Literature A Level specification encourages students to develop interest in and enjoyment of English Literature, through reading widely, critically and independently, across centuries, genre and gender, and through experience of an extensive range of views about texts and how to read them.

## THE NEW SPECIFICATION OFFERS

- Emphasis on the development of the informed, independent reader of literary texts through a course of wide and close reading;
- centrality of the prepared text as the test of the candidate's ability to synthesise the key knowledge, understanding and skills of the course;
- linking, connecting and comparing a range of whole texts and extracts.

## THIS SUBJECT MAKES A GREAT A LEVEL CHOICE

It is particularly suitable for those students who wish to study English Literature in higher education or for students wishing to pursue a career in publishing, law, advertising, journalism or teaching. English Literature builds both your analytical and inter-personal skills. It is a rigorous, academic subject and highly respected by universities. English Literature complements a wide range of subject combinations and is widely recognised as a facilitating subject.



## A LEVEL

### Paper 1: Love through the ages (40% of A-level)

- Written exam: 3 hours;
- closed book except for prose text.
- Othello
- Unseen poetry comparisons
- Tess of the D'Urbervilles and Pre-1900 love poetry anthology

*"If thou must love me  
let it be for nought  
Except for love's sake only"*

Elizabeth Barrett Browning



### Paper 2: Texts in shared contexts (40% of A Level)

- Written exam open book: 2 hours 30 minutes. This exam will include an unseen extract.
- Regeneration
- Unseen WW1 prose extract
- The Wipers Times drama text and Up the Line to Death WW1 poetry anthology

#### Or: Modern Times:

- A Streetcar Named Desire
- Unseen Prose Extract
- One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest compared with Carol Ann Duffy's Feminine Gospels poetry collection

### Non-exam assessment: Independent critical study of texts across time (20% of A Level)

- One extended essay of two texts at least one of which must have been written pre-1900.



# KS5 READING LIST

## FICTION:

Delia Owens: *'Where the Crawdads Sing'*

Angela Carter: *'The Passion of New Eve'*

A. S. Byatt: *'Elementals'*

Thomas Hardy: *poetry available online and 'Far from the Madding Crowd'*

Joseph Conrad: *'Heart of Darkness'*

E. M. Forster: *'A Room with a View'*

Toni Morrison: *'Beloved'*

Jeanette Winterson: *'Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit'; 'The Passion'*

Charlotte Perkins Gilman: *'The Yellow Wallpaper'*

Sylvia Plath: *'The Bell Jar'*

Irvine Welsh: *'Trainspotting'*

Kazuo Ishiguro: *'Remains Of The Day'*

Ian McEwan: *'Atonement'*

D. H. Lawrence: *'The Virgin and the Gypsy'*

Chinua Achebe: *'Things Fall Apart'*

Margaret Atwood: *'The Handmaid's Tale'*

Ken Kesey: *'One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest'*

Jonathan Swift: *'Gulliver's Travels'*

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie: *'Half a Yellow Sun'*

Stephen Fry: *'Heroes'; 'Mythos'*

Elizabeth Strout: *'Olive Kitteridge'*

George Eliot: *'The Mill on the Floss'*

## NON-FICTION:

David Crystal: *'Let's Talk: How English Conversation Works'*

Sigmund Freud: *'The Interpretation of Dreams'*

Carl Jung: *'The Archetypes and the Collective Unconscious'*

## POETRY:

Carol Ann Duffy: *'The World's Wife'*

Any Bloodaxe Poetry Anthology e.g.: *'Making for Planet Alice'*

Sylvia Plath: *'Ariel'*

Kae Tempest: *'Let Them Eat Chaos';*

*'Running Upon the Wires'*

Allen Ginsberg: *'Howl'*

William Shakespeare: *collected sonnets*

Geoffrey Chaucer: *'The Canterbury Tales'*

Owen Sheers: *'Skirrid Hill'*

Samuel Taylor Coleridge: *'The Rime of the Ancient Mariner'*

John Keats: *'Lamia'; 'Isabella' or 'The Pot of Basil';*

*'The Eve of St Agnes'*

## DRAMA:

Martin McDonagh: *'The Pillowman'; 'The Leenane Trilogy'*

Tennessee Williams: *'A Streetcar Named Desire';*

*'The Rose Tattoo'*

Henrik Ibsen: *'A Doll's House'*

William Shakespeare: *'Much Ado About Nothing'; 'Othello';*

*'Hamlet'*

Christopher Marlowe: *'Dr Faustus'*

Anton Chekhov: *'The Cherry Orchard'*

Bertolt Brecht: *'The Caucasian Chalk Circle'*

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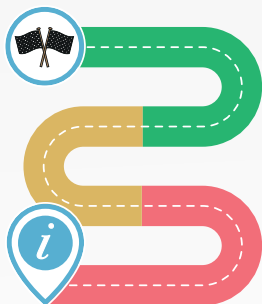
## CONTACT DETAILS

**Head of Department**  
Mr P Berry  
[pberry@gordons.school](mailto:pberry@gordons.school)

**Exam Board**  
AQA Specification A

**Specification**  
7712

## CURRICULUM MAP



## COURSE DETAILS

### EXAMINATION

The course is examined at the end of Year 13.

### Unit 1: Love Through the Ages

Study of a variety of texts: one Shakespeare play, one prose text and one AQA anthology of love poetry through the ages (pre-1900). Unseen love poetry.

### Unit 2: Texts in a Shared Context

For this unit students will study either the literature of WW1 and its aftermath or texts from Modern Times: literature from 1945 to the present day. Study of three texts: one prose, one poetry, and one drama, of which one must be written post-2000. Examination will include an unseen prose extract.

### Unit 3: Non-Exam Assessment: Independent Critical Study on Texts Across Time

Students are required to produce a 2,500 word extended critical essay on texts of their choice.

## HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

| EXAM PAPERS<br>YEAR 13                          | % OF<br>GCE | DETAILS                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|-------------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Paper 1:</b><br>Love through the<br>ages     | 40%         | Students are assessed on their knowledge and understanding of various texts on the theme of 'Love through the ages': one play, two unseen love poems, and one prose text compared with some set text poems. |
| <b>Paper 2:</b><br>Texts in shared<br>contexts  | 40%         | Students are assessed on their knowledge and understanding of the literature of WW1 and its aftermath or Modern Times.                                                                                      |
| <b>Paper 3:</b><br>Non-Exam<br>Assessment Essay | 20%         | Students produce a 2,500 word extended critical essay on texts of their choice.                                                                                                                             |



### WIDER READING

- Thomas Hardy, *Tess of the d'Urbervilles*
- At least one title from the 'Wider Reading List'
- Oscar Wilde, *The Picture of Dorian Gray*



GORDON'S SCHOOL  
WEST END, SURREY  
GU24 9PT

[WWW.GORDONS.SCHOOL](http://WWW.GORDONS.SCHOOL)