ENGLISH LITERATURE GCSE

Exam Board: AQA

Course Overview

The examination board to be used from September 2015 is AQA. At the time of publication, all exam boards are awaiting accreditation of new specifications, therefore the information below is subject to change.

Course Breakdown Paper 1: Shakespeare

Section A – Shakespeare

Section B – 19th Century Novel

One question on a play

- Write about an extract
- Write about the play as a whole

One question on a novel

- Write about an extract
- Write about the novel as a whole

Paper 2: Modern prose/drama, poetry selection and unseen poetry

Section A – Modern prose or drama

Section B – Poetry anthology

Section C - Unseen poetry

One essay question from choice of two on their studied prose or drama text

One comparative question on a named poem and one other

poem from their chosen anthology

One question on each of two unseen poems and one

comparative question

Assessment

Paper 1 is a written exam of 1 hour, 45 minutes and represents 40% of the total exam mark. Paper 2 is a written exam of 2 hours, 15 minutes and represents 60% of the total exam mark. All exams are set externally and sat at the end of the course in Summer 2017.

Qualities needed for success in the course:

To do well you need to be able to listen carefully to instructions and always work to the best of your ability. An interest in reading different types of texts (novels, plays and poetry) and being curious about different cultures and experiences, as well as a creative, flexible approach to learning will give you the best opportunities to do well.

Possible Post 16 /career paths:

English is an essential grounding for all A level subjects, college courses or apprenticeships.

There are clear progression routes into English Literature, English Language & Literature, and Media at A'Level.

