



# English Literature A-level

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS- 8 IN ENGLISH LITERATURE.  
AN ENTHUSIASTIC 7 WOULD STILL BE ACCEPTED!

# Core English

Three lessons a week with one teacher.

Two examinations and two qualifications by the end of the year.

The first is the ESB Level 3 examination  
- a speaking exam equivalent to Grade 8 in Music.

A Distinction is worth more UCAS points than an EPQ.

The second exam is the AP English Language and Composition exam in May.

This exam includes a multiple choice section and an argumentative writing section - you debate topical issues in writing.

Ideal for anyone considering studying Law or Journalism.  
Or anyone intending on studying in the US as AP is a recognised qualification.

It has also resulted in reduced offers in the UK.

# A-level: The Course

- Edexcel English Literature A Level (9ET0)
- 3 examinations (2hrs 15mins, 1hr, 2hr 15mins)  
All open book – clean texts
- One non-examination assessment
- Component 1: Drama (incl. Shakespeare) (30%)
- Component 2: Prose (incl. 1 pre-1900 text) (20%)
- Component 3: Poetry (incl. unseen and post 2000 poetry) (30%)
- Component 4: Coursework (2,500-3,000 word comparative essay) (20%)

# Component 1: Drama (tragedy or comedy)

| Component 1: Drama   | *Paper code: 9ET0/01                  |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Externally assessed</li><li>Availability: May/June</li><li>First assessment: 2017</li></ul>  | <b>30% of the total qualification</b> |
| <b>Overview of content</b><br>Students study: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>one Shakespeare play and one other drama from either tragedy or comedy – both texts may be selected from one or both of these categories.</li><li>critical essays related to their selected Shakespeare play. Students' preparation is supported by <i>Shakespeare: A Critical Anthology – Tragedy</i> or <i>Shakespeare: A Critical Anthology – Comedy</i>.</li></ul>   |                                       |
| <b>Overview of assessment</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Written examination, lasting 2 hours and 15 minutes.</li><li>Open book – clean copies of the drama texts can be taken into the examination. The Critical Anthology <b>must not</b> be taken into the examination.</li><li>Total of 60 marks available – 35 marks for Section A and 25 marks for Section B.</li><li>Two sections: students answer <b>one</b> question from a choice of <b>two</b> on their studied text for both Section A and Section B.</li><li>Section A – Shakespeare: <b>one</b> essay question, incorporating ideas from wider critical reading (AO1, AO2, AO3, AO5 assessed).</li><li>Section B – Other Drama: <b>one</b> essay question (AO1, AO2, AO3 assessed).</li></ul> |                                       |

| Component 1: Drama  |
|---|
| <b>Drama (Tragedy or Comedy)</b><br><b>Provided texts:</b> the free-of-charge <i>Shakespeare Critical Anthology</i> ; a collection of critical essays on either the theme of tragedy or comedy that will enrich the study of students' selected Shakespeare play. Students explore the essays that relate to their chosen genre and play.           |
| <b>Tragedy</b><br>William Shakespeare: <i>Antony and Cleopatra, Hamlet, King Lear, Othello</i><br>Other drama:<br>pre-1900: <i>Doctor Faustus</i> , Christopher Marlowe; <i>The Duchess of Malfi</i> , John Webster<br>post-1900: <i>The Home Place</i> , Brian Friel; <i>A Streetcar Named Desire</i> , Tennessee Williams                         |
| <b>OR</b>   |
| <b>Comedy</b><br>William Shakespeare: <i>A Midsummer Night's Dream, Measure for Measure, The Taming of the Shrew, Twelfth Night</i><br>Other drama:<br>pre-1900: <i>The Importance of Being Earnest</i> , Oscar Wilde; <i>The Rover</i> , Aphra Behn<br>post-1900: <i>The Pitmen Painters</i> , Lee Hall; <i>Waiting for Godot</i> , Samuel Beckett |
| <b>The Shakespeare and other drama text may be selected from within or across sub-categories, i.e. one tragedy/comedy or two comedies/tragedies.</b>  |

# Component 2: Prose

## Component 2: Prose

\*Paper code: 9ET0/02

- Externally assessed
- Availability: May/June
- First assessment: 2017

20% of the  
total  
qualification

### Overview of content

Students study:

- two prose texts from a chosen theme. At least **one** of the prose texts must be pre-1900.

### Overview of assessment

- Written examination, lasting 1 hour.
- Open book – clean copies of the prose texts can be taken into the examination.
- Total of 40 marks available.
- Students answer **one** comparative essay question from a choice of **two** on their studied theme (AO1, AO2, AO3, AO4 assessed).

## Component 2: Prose

Selection of two prose texts (including **at least one** pre-1900) on a chosen theme.

### Childhood

Pre-1900: *What Maisie Knew*, Henry James; *Hard Times*, Charles Dickens

Post-1900: *Atonement*, Ian McEwan; *The Color Purple*, Alice Walker

### Colonisation and its Aftermath

Pre-1900: *Heart of Darkness*, Joseph Conrad; *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, Mark Twain

Post-1900: *A Passage to India*, E M Forster; *The Lonely Londoners*, Sam Selvon

### Crime and Detection

Pre-1900: *Lady Audley's Secret*, Mary Elizabeth Braddon; *The Moonstone*, Wilkie Collins

Post-1900: *In Cold Blood*, Truman Capote; *The Murder Room*, P D James

### Science and Society

Pre-1900: *Frankenstein*, Mary Shelley; *The War of the Worlds*, H G Wells

Post-1900: *Never Let Me Go*, Kazuo Ishiguro; *The Handmaid's Tale*, Margaret Atwood

### The Supernatural

Pre-1900: *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, Oscar Wilde; *Dracula*, Bram Stoker

Post-1900: *The Little Stranger*, Sarah Waters; *Beloved*, Toni Morrison

### Women and Society

Pre-1900: *Wuthering Heights*, Emily Brontë; *Tess of the D'Urbervilles*, Thomas Hardy

Post-1900: *Mrs Dalloway*, Virginia Woolf; *A Thousand Splendid Suns*, Khaled Hosseini



**Component 3: Poetry**

\*Paper code: 9ET0/03

- Externally assessed
- Availability: May/June
- First assessment: 2017

**30% of the total qualification****Overview of content**

Students study:

- poetic form, meaning and language
- a selection of post-2000 specified poetry

and

- a specified range of poetry from:

*either*

- a literary period (either pre- or post-1900)

*or*

- a named poet from within a literary period.

**Overview of assessment**

- Written examination, lasting 2 hours and 15 minutes.
- Open book – clean copies of the poetry texts can be taken into the examination.
- Total of 60 marks available – 30 marks for Section A and 30 marks for Section B.
- Two sections: students answer **one** question from a choice of **two**, comparing an unseen poem with a named poem from their studied contemporary text and **one** question from a choice of **two** on their studied movement/poet.
- Section A – Post-2000 Specified Poetry: **one** comparative essay question on an unseen modern poem written post-2000 and one named poem from the studied contemporary text (AO1, AO2, AO4 assessed).
- Section B – Specified Poetry Pre- or Post-1900: **one** essay question (AO1, AO2, AO3 assessed).

# Component 3: Poetry

**Component 3: Poetry****Post-2000 Specified Poetry**

Selection of modern poetry from *Poems of the Decade: An Anthology of the Forward Books of Poetry 2002–2011*.

**Specified Poetry Pre- or Post-1900**

**EITHER** selected poems from the named text **OR** the named poet from the tables below.

A list of all prescribed poems is provided in *Appendix 5: Prescribed texts*.

**ANTHOLOGY POETRY – PRE-1900 CHOICES****The Medieval Period**

|                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| <b>Medieval Poetic Drama</b> | <i>Everyman and Medieval Miracle Plays</i> , editor A C Cawley (Everyman, 1993). This edition has normalised spelling.<br><br>These poetic dramas can also be read with the original spelling: <i>English Mystery Plays: A Selection</i> , editor Peter Happe (Penguin Classics, 1975).<br><br>Either edition is permissible. |
|------------------------------|---|

**OR**

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Medieval Poet:<br/>Geoffrey Chaucer</b> | <i>The Wife of Bath's Prologue and Tale</i> , editor James Winny (Cambridge, 1994) |
|--|--|

**Metaphysical Poetry**

|                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| <b>The Metaphysical Poets</b> | <i>Metaphysical Poetry</i> , editor Colin Burrow (Penguin, 2006) |
|-------------------------------|--|

**OR**

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Metaphysical Poet:<br/>John Donne</b> | <i>John Donne Selected Poems</i> (Penguin Classics, 2006) |
|--|---|

# Component 3: Poetry

## The Romantic Period

|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| <b>The Romantics</b> | <i>English Romantic Verse</i> , editor David Wright (Penguin Classics, 1973) |
|----------------------|--|

OR

|                                      |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Romantic Poet:<br/>John Keats</b> | <i>Selected Poems: John Keats</i> , editor John Barnard (Penguin Classics, 2007) |
|--------------------------------------|--|

## The Victorian Period

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| <b>The Victorians</b> | <i>The New Oxford Book of Victorian Verse</i> , editor Christopher Ricks (OUP, 2008) |
|-----------------------|--|

OR

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Victorian Poet:<br/>Christina Rossetti</b> | <i>Christina Rossetti Selected Poems</i> , editor Dinah Roe (Penguin, 2008) |
|---|---|

## ANTHOLOGY POETRY – POST-1900 CHOICES

### The Modernism Period

|                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| <b>Modernist Period</b> | <i>The Great Modern Poets</i> , editor Michael Schmidt (Quercus, 2014) |
|-------------------------|--|

OR

|                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Modernist Poet:<br/>T S Eliot</b> | <i>T S Eliot Selected Poems</i> (Faber, 2009) |
|--------------------------------------|---|

### The Movement

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| <b>The Movement</b> | <i>The Oxford Book of Twentieth Century English Verse</i> , editor Philip Larkin with foreword by Andrew Motion (OUP, 1973) |
|---------------------|---|

OR

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>The Movement Poet:<br/>Philip Larkin</b> | <i>The Less Deceived</i> (Faber, 2011) |
|---|--|

# Component 4: Coursework

| Non-examination assessment   |                                       | *Code: 9ET0/04 |
|--|---------------------------------------|----------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Internally assessed, externally moderated</li><li>Availability: May/June</li><li>First moderation: 2017</li></ul>  | <b>20% of the total qualification</b> |                |
| <b>Overview of content</b>   |                                       |                |
| Students have a free choice of two texts to study.   |                                       |                |
| Chosen texts:  |                                       |                |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>must be different from those studied in Components 1, 2 and 3</li><li>must be complete texts and may be linked by theme, movement, author or period</li><li>may be selected from poetry, drama, prose or literary non-fiction.</li></ul> |                                       |                |
| <b>Overview of assessment</b>  |                                       |                |
| Students produce one assignment:   |                                       |                |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>one</b> extended comparative essay referring to two texts (AO1, AO2, AO3, AO4, AO5 assessed)</li><li>advisory total word count is 2500–3000 words</li><li>total of 60 marks available.</li></ul>                                      |                                       |                |

- Students and teachers have free choice of two texts which may be linked by theme, author, movement or period
- Students must select different texts from those studied in Component 1
- Advisory word count is 2500-3000 words, with the upper word limit recommended
- Teachers should provide students with a short course on referencing, researching and proof-reading
- Teachers will mark one draft to give general guidance and ensure students' work is their own
- Teachers mark the final work using the provided assessment criteria.



# Enrichment: Theatre Trips

*frantic assembly*

SHAKESPEARE'S

# OTHELLO



15 OCT 2018 - 18 JAN 2019

**RSC**  
ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY

15 OCT 2018 - 18 JAN 2019



# MACBETH

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

barbican

ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND



TOBY JONES      STEPHEN MANGAN      ZOË WANAMAKER

# THE BIRTHDAY PARTY

BY HAROLD PINTER

DIRECTED BY IAN RICKSON

HAROLD PINTER THEATRE 9 JANUARY - 14 APRIL



SIENNA MILLER      JACK O'CONNELL      COLM MEANEY

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Young Vic  
in the West End

# Enrichment: Residential Trip

## Venice





# Combinations and Possibilities

Humanities subjects (e.g. History,  
Government and Politics, R.S.)  
Languages (including Latin)  
University Courses (English,  
History, Law, Journalism, Modern  
Languages, Classics, Art History,  
Psychology)

EPQ and Core English are the best  
Core options to support English  
Literature- you can do both A  
Level and English Core!



*Any* Questions?