

English Literature

Examination board: Pearson Edexcel (9ET0)

Overview

The course is exciting and challenging, demanding engagement and scholarship.

Over the course of the two years, pupils will study units in drama, novels and poetry, all of which are assessed by written examination.

The drama course begins with modern American drama: *A Streetcar Named Desire* by Tennessee Williams; this is followed by Shakespeare's *Hamlet* in the second year of study. The novels course involves the study of two Victorian novels from a synoptic and contextual point of view: Hardy's *Tess of the D'Urbervilles* and Brontë's *Wuthering Heights*. The poetry unit begins with contemporary poetry, both seen and unseen, complemented by the study of a selection of poems by the Romantic poet John Keats.

The most challenging and exciting part of the course, undertaken in the Upper Sixth, is the independently produced coursework essay; both texts and titles are chosen by the pupils to reflect their particular interests. The focus is very clearly on producing an informed and thoughtful response to literature of all kinds.

The course suits all pupils interested in literature of any period or provenance; we welcome pupils who approach the subject with enthusiasm and commitment.

Assessment

Component One: Drama

Written examination: 2h 15m.

- William Shakespeare, *Hamlet*
- Tennessee Williams, *A Streetcar Named Desire*

Component Two: Prose

Written examination: 1h 15m.

- Thomas Hardy, *Tess of the D'Urbervilles*
- Emily Brontë, *Wuthering Heights*

Component Three: Poetry

Written examination: 2h 15m.

- Post-2000 Poetry: comparison of named poem from collection with an unseen poem.
- Selection of poetry by John Keats.

Non-examined assessment

Pupils have a free choice of two texts to study towards a 2500-3000 word essay.

Chosen texts must be complete texts, different from those studied in Components 1, 2 and 3; they may be linked by theme, movement, author or period. Pupils are free to select from poetry, drama, prose or literary non-fiction.