



Queen Elizabeth Grammar School  
**Wakefield**

### Technical Information

#### A-level

A-level Course Title	Unit Code	Awarding Body
English Literature	H472	OCR

#### A-level Examinations:

Name	Method of Assessment	Marks
Component 1	Examination	40%
Component 2	Examination	40%
Component 3	Coursework	20%

#### QEGS Senior School

(Boys 11-18 years)  
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### Course Guide

# A-level English Literature

# English Literature

## Background Knowledge and Qualifications

All students taking English Literature at A-level will already have both English and English Literature at GCSE, preferably at grade 6 or above.

You should be prepared to read widely in prose, poetry and drama, and to make close studies of unprepared texts as well as set books.

You will need to be able to make comparisons between short passages and whole texts, and to analyse what you have read.

You will certainly need to be able to write competent essays, and to express your understanding of texts in written and spoken form.

## Course Description

This A-level is a reformed A-level. For your A-level you will be studying the following areas:

### Component 1

Students are required to study one play by Shakespeare which will be assessed in Section 1 of component 1 by two questions: one on language and the other on wider themes. In addition, students are required to study one pre-1900 drama text and one pre-1900 poetry text which will both be assessed in Section 2, in a choice of theme-based, comparative essay questions. These questions might involve commenting on both the poetry and the prose texts in terms of core themes such as 'love' or 'society'. For instance, you might have to compare both texts in terms of a question like: 'Conflict in literature generally arises from misunderstanding.'

### Component 2

We will study a topic – for instance, The Gothic. Students must study at least two whole texts in their chosen topic area from the core set-text list. For instance, for The Gothic, two of the set texts are: "The Bloody Chamber" by Angela Carter and "Frankenstein" by Mary Shelley. In the exam, students are required to respond to an unseen text on the theme of The Gothic, followed by a comparative essay on at least two set texts. Questions might run along the lines of: "The conflict between reason and emotion is characteristically Gothic."

### Component 3

Coursework – worth 20% of the final grade. Two pieces are required: one is a close reading or re-creative task (1000 words); the other is a comparative essay (2000 words). Students are required to study three literary texts. The three texts must include one prose text, one poetry text and one drama text and there is a requirement that: the texts must have been first published or performed in 1900 or later; and at least one of these texts must have been first published or performed in 2000 or later.

## Use of Course and Qualification

Many QEGS English students have gone on to study English at University or related subjects in the areas of Media, Drama and Film Studies. English is also a very good support for other arts subjects, such as History, and is regarded as a welcome change for students of subjects such as Medicine who wish to broaden their experience. English students also pursue non-school subjects, such as Law, PPE and Philosophy.

## Student Testimonial

**Year 13 student**  
Proposed University  
Course: Law

Studying English Literature in the Sixth Form has really added new dimension to my study and skills. The small group forum of ideas that English creates, and the ability to write concise, pertinent, reasoned arguments have stood me in excellent stead for almost any degree that requires eloquence, analysis, and clarity of expression.

