



Wakefield Girls' High 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 01	Examination	40%
Component 02	Examination	40%
Component 03	Coursework	20%

WGHS Senior School

(Girls 11-18 years)
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Course Guide

A-level English Literature

English Literature

Background Knowledge and Qualifications

You need to have achieved a good grade in your English Literature GCSE (Grade 6 or above) and have a genuine interest in and enjoyment of reading. This will mean that you read regularly and extensively and enjoy exploring and talking about what it is that you have been reading.

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

Broadly speaking English Literature can be combined with any other A-level subjects whether these are Science, Arts or Humanities based.

You can apply to university to study English Literature or related subjects such as American Studies, Comparative Literature or Literature and Linguistics as well as Media, Drama and Film Studies courses. All university faculties such as Medicine, Law, Psychology, Anthropology, welcome English Literature as a qualification which indicates a candidate who has high level communication skills, both oral and written and who is able to think independently, analytically and rigorously and who has the capacity to interpret, argue and debate.

These same skills are also recognised as valuable assets by employers.



Student Testimonial

Year 13 student
Proposed University
Course: English Literature

I find the lack of boundary between 'right' and 'wrong' in the study of English Literature very liberating as it provides me with the opportunity to express my own interpretations and opinions. I enjoy analysing key ideas, concepts and each writer's craft; this study, in turn, provokes intrigue and raises questions for me. I feel inspired to think deeply.