



A-level English Literature

A-level English Literature at Shottery is a well-established, challenging and hugely successful course. Over the past five years, twenty-seven girls have gone on to achieve A* at A-level and every year we have exceeded 68% of our students gaining A* to B grades at A2, with 2015 seeing record results of 100% A*-B. This is an exciting time for A-level Literature here at Shottery as we have recently made the transition to the new Edexcel specification, a course which we believe, opens up a huge amount of opportunity for the girls.

What does the course involve?

For A-level English Literature, girls will study eight texts from across the genres of prose, poetry and drama, three of which will be pre-1900 (including one Shakespeare play). In addition, the girls are encouraged to undertake a comprehensive programme of wider reading.

In summary, girls will study:

- a Shakespeare play alongside a Critical Anthology
- at least two prose texts, including one published pre-1900
- at least one play from the genres of either Tragedy or Comedy
- a range of unseen modern poetry alongside a prescribed pre-1900 poet
- wider reading to inform the coursework study

Modules will be taught through teacher instruction, class discussion, group discussions, student presentations, essays (including feedback), and independent research and study, as well as private tutorials for coursework.

What do the girls say about English Literature?

“You get to read some amazing texts and the skills learnt are transferable across all subjects”

‘It’s great preparation for University, not only is it interesting but you get an insight into how Literature has developed’

‘If you enjoy Literature, it is very easy to embrace.’

Texts the girls could be studying:

Prose

Childhood

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

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

Crime and Detection

Pre-1900: *A Study in Scarlet*, Arthur Conan Doyle; *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

Drama

Tragedy

William Shakespeare: *Antony and Cleopatra*, *Hamlet*, *King Lear*, *Othello*

Other drama: *A Doll's House*, Henrik Ibsen; *A Streetcar Named Desire*, Tennessee

Williams; *Doctor Faustus*, Christopher Marlowe; *The Home Place*, Brian Friel

Comedy

William Shakespeare: *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Measure for Measure*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, *Twelfth Night*

Other drama: *The Importance of Being Earnest*, Oscar Wilde; *The Pitmen Painters*, Lee Hall; *The Rover*, Aphra Behn; *Waiting for Godot*, Samuel Beckett

Poetry

Medieval Poetry: Geoffrey Chaucer

Metaphysical Poetry: John Donne

Romantic Poetry: John Keats

Victorian Poetry: Christina Rossetti

Modernist Poetry: T.S Eliot

Movement Poetry: Philip Larkin



Summary of Assessment:

A-level

Component	Level	Name	Mode of assessment	Duration	Weighting
					GCE
1	GCE	Drama	Written examination	2 hours	30%
2	GCE	Prose	Written examination	1 hour	20%
3	GCE	Poetry	Written examination	2 hours	30%
4	GCE	Coursework	Comparative essay	-	20%

Scheme of Assessment: Linear

A-level students will be entered for three exam components in the June of Y13 worth a total of 80% of A-level course. Coursework will be completed in the autumn term and assessed internally early in the Spring term and is worth 20% of the A-level course

Stratford Girls' success stories

Since 2005, twenty students have achieved full marks for A2 coursework

Twenty-six students have achieved full marks on the challenging final exams, testing unseen criticism skills

What do our students go on to do next?

Over the last few years, AS and A2 English Literature students have gone on to a huge range of different courses:

Accounting and Finance
Accounting and Information Systems

Ancient History and Archaeology

American Studies
Archaeology and Anthropology
Art and Design
Art Foundation
Audiology
Biological Sciences
Biochemistry
Broadcasting
Business
Business Administration and

Fashion and Retail
Fine Art

French

French and Drama
French and English
French and Italian Studies
French and Politics
French and Russian
French, German and Arabic
German and Spanish
Geography
Geology
Geography and Science
Communication

Midwifery
Modern and Medieval Languages

Modern European Languages and EU Studies

Modern History
Modern Languages
Music
Nursing
Occupational Therapy
Performing Arts
Pharmacy
Philosophy
Photography
Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE)

Psychology

Business Management
Chinese and French
Classics
Criminal Justice and
Criminology

History
History and Ancient History
History and Politics
History and International
Relations

Physical and Human Geography
Politics
Politics & International Study
Primary Teaching

Drama

History with Contemporary
Chinese Studies

Psychology

Drama and Theatre Studies
Economics
Economics and Management

History with Italian
History of Art
Hospitality and Marketing
Management

Quantity Surveying
Religious Studies
Sociology

Economics and Social Studies

Industrial Design and
Technology

Spanish and Portuguese

English and Classical
Civilisation

International Business

Speech Therapy

English and Drama
English Language and
Literature

Law
Law and Business

Theatre and Drama
Tourism with French

English Literature
English Literature and Spanish
English and Philosophy
English, Writing and
Performance

Linguistics
Management and IT
Marketing
Maths

Veterinary Science

Events Management

Medicine

What have the Exam Board said about our work in recent years?

“very interesting and individual questions”

“impressive fluency”

“I was particularly impressed...as all folders...displayed a very full engagement with the given novel”

Teachers’ marking “very thorough; each folder was well annotated and focused on the positive aspects of candidates’ work”.

“A very good submission in all respects”

“Candidates combined a scholarly approach with personal engagement...
The responses to the selected passages were particularly impressive.”

“...candidates had tackled challenging texts with enthusiasm and appreciation...thoughtful and well-informed responses.”

“Those at the top end wrote with real fluency and sophistication”

“were a genuine pleasure to read”

“Analysis of language and form often sharply perceptive”

“careful thought and consideration”

“very thoughtful & well-expressed answers...cogent & intelligent critical judgment”

“All involved in the teaching, assessment and administration of this work should be congratulated on their achievement”

For further information please email Mr J Cooper - Head of English - cooper.j@sggs.org.uk

Or visit: www.whystudyenglish.ac.uk