

English Literature

English Literature has been quite a popular AS course at Foyle College and those who have pleasure in reading can develop their skills through engaging with a wide and challenging range of texts, providing students with a solid basis for future studies. Many students have enjoyed outstanding results and gone on to achieve excellent grades in A2. What follows explains how the Revised CCEA course is structured, the skills developed, the units' content, as well as where a qualification in this subject might lead.

This course will appeal to students who:

- ideally have obtained Grade B or better in GCSE English Literature
- have an interest in reading a wide variety of literature from the past and present, whilst exploring literary, social and historical background
- enjoy expressing their opinions and justifying their comments on texts
- enjoy studying a subject which is relevant to their own lives and experiences
- wish to keep their options open — students of English Literature will acquire skills that are valued in further and higher education, as well as in the workplace

AS 1: The Study of Poetry 1900 – present and Drama 1900 - present

- Section A – The Study of Poetry 1900 – present day
- Section B – The Study of a Play 1900 – present day

External Assessment – 2 hour exam.

Section A will be open book; Section B will be closed book.

60% of AS Level, 25% of actual A-Level.

AS 2: The Study of Prose Pre 1900

- Students answer one question.

External Assessment – 1 hour exam. Closed Book.

40% of AS Level, 15% of actual A-Level.

Students can take AS as a stand-alone qualification. However, to obtain the full A Level qualification students in Year 14 must take the second part of the course, referred to as A2.

A2 1: Shakespearean Genres

- Students answer one question.

External Assessment – 1 hour 30 minute exam.

Closed book: extract provided as a basis for answering on play as a whole.

20% of A-Level.

A2 2: The Study of Poetry Pre 1900 and Unseen Poetry

- Section A – The Study of Poetry Pre 1900
- Section B – Unseen Poetry

External Assessment – 2 hour exam.

Section A is closed book.

20% of A-Level.

A2 3: Internal Assessment

Students complete a 2500-word comparative essay having selected a pair of prose texts on a certain theme, one of which is a twenty-first century novel. In this unit, students have the opportunity to pursue their own areas of interest and develop their interpersonal and independent learning skills.

Internal Assessment

20% of A-Level.

What can students do with a qualification in English Literature?

English Literature is one of the main subjects in the Arts and Humanities family and complements subjects such as Languages, History and Politics. It also is a particularly good choice as a fourth subject for those wishing to specialise in Science or Medicine as it portrays the student as having a range of interests and excellent communication skills. A qualification in GCE English Literature could lead students into a degree course in the Arts, Humanities and Communication. Armed with GCE English Literature, they could even go straight into employment. The skills acquired during this course are in high demand from employers as well as universities and colleges and include: advanced study skills, analysis, independent research, and higher order thinking skills. If young people are interested in a career in journalism, the media or law, then a qualification in GCE English Literature is a good basis for further training in these areas amongst others. Visit www.ccea.org.uk and see!