

AQA GCSE English Literature (Spec: 8702)

This course allows students to study how writers communicate their ideas about the world, and how readers might respond to these ideas. It gives students the opportunity to explore a range of literature which displays recognisable literary qualities and, although shaped by particular contexts, transcends them and speaks about the universality of the human condition.

Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th-century novel

External Examination – 1 hour 45 minutes (40% of the total GCSE marks)

Section A Shakespeare: Students will answer one question on Macbeth. They will be required to write in detail about an extract from the play and then to write about the play as a whole.

Section B The 19th-century novel: Students will answer one question on A Christmas Carol. They will be required to write in detail about an extract from the novel and then to write about the novel as a whole.

Paper 2: Modern Texts and Poetry

External Examination – 2 hours 15 minutes (60% of the total GCSE)

Section A Modern Texts: Students will answer one essay question from a choice of two on short stories from the Telling Tales Anthology.

Section B Poetry: Students will answer one comparative question on one named poem printed on the paper and one other poem from the Power and Conflict cluster.

Section C Unseen Poetry: Students will answer one question on one unseen poem and one question comparing this poem with a second unseen poem.

Texts for study:

Macbeth

A Christmas Carol

Telling Tales Anthology

Poetry Anthology – Power and Conflict cluster

