

English
Literature



Exam Board
Edexcel

Syllabus number:
Advanced GCE – 9ET0



King's
School

*“It is what you read when
you don’t have to, that determines what you will
be when you can’t help it.”*

Oscar Wilde

Course entry requirements

Grade 6 in both GCSE English Language and English Literature, as well as a genuine passion for the written word.

Why should I study English?

English Literature is without doubt the premier written A Level subject and sits alongside further mathematics in terms of its credibility. No other subject compares to literature in terms of developing your skills of interpretation, analysis, and evaluation. Literature teaches us about ourselves and our place in the universe, time and space and everything in between. Studying literature is perfect for anyone with a passion for reading literary texts from any era or movement. It allows you to develop your understanding of the intricacies of language and identify waves of meaning, both above and below the surface.

You will develop a wider appreciation of the importance of context, exploring the factors that shape a text, whether that is when it was written or why, or how diverse eras have interpreted the same text differently. You will be able to engage in dynamic class discussions, learning to explore through debate and critical questioning.

What does the course look like?

Shakespeare, drama and poetry pre-1900 Drama, poetry and prose post-1900 Comparative and contextual study Literature post-1900 coursework A selection of texts in preparation for coursework Critical reading to support analysis of main texts.

How will I learn?

The course features a wide range of teaching and learning approaches and methods, including interactive classroom study, lectures, group tasks, private study and research. Outside of lessons there are opportunities to visit the theatre and make use of the wide variety of other enrichment activities offered within Brighton and London.

What kind of things might the subject lead me to?

As a facilitating subject, English Literature is welcomed by universities and employers. It shows that you are reflective, considerate, and capable of intense analytical thought. It provides access to a wide range of degree courses.

It is also useful in applying to enter the world of media and journalism, or other interpretative or creative fields.