A LEVEL ENGLISH LITERATURE

By studying English Literature, you will develop essential transferable skills such as close textual analysis, evaluation of different viewpoints, critical thinking and communication which are highly valued by employers in a range of professions. You will compare and contrast a range of exciting, challenging and stimulating works from 16th century to -21st century, while considering the historical and cultural contexts.

Level 3 · A Level (or equivalent) · Penwith College

TOP COURSE HIGHLIGHTS

SUBJECT SPECIALISTS | ENGAGING LECTURES | VARIETY OF TEXTS | INDEPENDENCE FOSTERED | FOCUS ON CONTEXT

VARIETY OF TEXTS

We ensure that the course offers you the opportunity to study texts from a range of genres, from the traditional works of Shakespeare to more modern texts; these will challenge the way you view literature and the world around you.

INDEPENDENCE FOSTERED

We encourage all students to read widely beyond the course and we aim to foster independence. We want you to leave the course with both an enhanced understanding of literature and a love of reading.

FOCUS ON CONTEXT

You will be encouraged to explore texts in their socio-historical and political contexts; from Renaissance attitudes to magic to the recent political upheavals of the 20th and 21st centuries, you will learn to appreciate Margaret Atwood's statement that 'context is all'.

WHY CHOOSE THIS COURSE?

If you enjoy reading, analysing, and comparing literary texts, then this is the course for you. You will be introduced to Gothic fiction, which explores the dark extremes of human consciousness, and is used by writers to comment on and criticise the society in which they write. You will study texts such as Angela Carter's The Bloody Chamber, a series of creative reinterpretations of traditional folk tales, Mary Shelley's Frankenstein which explores the dangers of attempting to control the natural world, or Bram Stoker's Dracula, the original vampire novel. You will also study a play such as Tennessee Williams' 1940s drama A Streetcar Named Desire or Tom Stoppard's Arcadia, great poetry by Christina Rossetti, Milton, or Coleridge.

Additionally, you will explore a Shakespeare play such as Hamlet through close textual analysis and by comparing a variety of productions and interpretations of the play. You will also study John Webster's 17th century tragedy The Duchess of Malfi, which dramatizes a notorious contemporary murder story. You will also write two pieces of coursework based on the genres of drama, poetry and the novel. You will have a large degree of independence in your choice of texts and tasks (with guidance from your teacher).

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

Drama and Poetry pre-1900 (examined unit - 2 hr 30) 40%r Section A: exploration of Shakespeare's 'Hamlet' Section B: comparative study of poetry and drama: 'Selected Poems', Coleridge, or Christina Rossetti or Milton Paradise Lost **Comparative and Contextual Study** (examined unit – 2 hr 30) 40% Section A: analysis of an unseen Gothic extract Section B: comparative study of texts such as 'The Bloody Chamber' and 'Frankenstein' **Content of Literature post 1900** (coursework) 20% Assignment A: close reading of a poetry collection such as Philip Larkin's Whitsun Wedding (1000 words). Assignment B: comparative essay on two texts, one prose (novel or short stories) and one work of play (2000 words).

WHERE WILL IT TAKE ME?

English graduates go on to work in many sectors including the civil service and academia, teaching, publishing, journalism, media and communications, marketing, arts, law, and heritage. A qualification in English Literature is highly valued by universities and employers as it develops your critical thinking and writing skills.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

For all A levels a minimum of five GCSEs at Grade 4 or above in appropriate subjects, to include English Language or Literature and/or Maths at grade 5 or above is required. To study English at a higher level a minimum of grade 6 or above in English Literature and a minimum of grade 5 or above in English Language. You must also enjoy reading. An interest in analysis and studying texts in their historical context is essential. You also need to be highly motivated and capable of carrying out independent research and wider reading.

IMPORTANT

Course information can change. Please use the QR code below for the current assessment arrangements, entry requirements and start dates.

FOR THE LATEST COURSE INFORMATION

Scan for assessment arrangements, learner support, confirmed start dates and how to apply.