ENGLISH LITERATURE

Exam Board: AQA (B)
Entry Requirements: Grade 6 in English Language and English Literature

COURSE SUMMARY

Students will cover two units, tragedy and crime, in preparation for their examinations. For both units, students will conduct a close study of genre-specific texts, such as Othello, Death of a Salesman and Tess of the d'Urbervilles for tragedy in year 12, and Hamlet, The Rime of the Ancient Mariner and Atonement. in year 13. Students will be expected to support their close study in class with a wider reading of appropriate and challenging texts. This further reading will help inform the coursework unit, where students write responses to poetry and prose through the lens of a relevant critical theory.

COURSE STRUCTURE

Paper 1 Literary Genres
40% of A level- Written paper. 2hrs 30mins. Closed book
Students will study one Shakespeare tragedy, a drama text and one further text (of which one must be written pre-1900). A range of texts that are tragic will be addressed throughout the course.

Section A: one passage-based question on set Shakespeare text (25 marks)
Section B: one essay question on set Shakespeare text (25 marks)
Section C: one essay question linking two texts (25 marks)

Paper 2 Texts and Genres
40% of A level. Written paper. 3hrs. Open book.
Study of three texts: one post-2000 prose text; one poetry and one further text (of which one must be written pre-1900). The exam will include an unseen passage.

Section A: one compulsory question on an unseen passage (25 marks)
Section B: one essay question on set text (25 marks)
Section C: one essay question which connects two texts (25 marks)

NEA—Theory and Independence
20% of total A Level. Assessed by teachers.
Study of two texts: one poetry and one prose text, informed by study of the Critical Anthology

Two essays of 1,250-1,500 words, each responding to a different text and linking to a different aspect of the Critical anthology. One essay can be re-creative. The re-creative piece will be accompanied by a commentary.

CAREER CHOICES

This course allows students to develop vital skills in reading and communication, both of which are important to any career. The qualification prepares students well for an English or Creative Writing degree. Furthermore, it is a useful subject for students interested in going onto Law, Analysis, Media and Education.