

The **GCE A-Level in English Literature (AQA)** is an engaging and thought-provoking course that fosters a deep appreciation of literature and develops students' analytical, interpretative, and critical skills. Through the study of a wide range of texts, students explore themes, contexts, and authorial methods, preparing them for further education and careers requiring advanced communication and analytical abilities.

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### Key Features

1. **Qualification Level:** A-Level (Level 3).
  2. **Assessment:**
    - Two written exams (worth 80% of the qualification).
    - One non-exam assessment (worth 20%).
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### Content of Study

The course is divided into components that cover a diverse range of literary texts, including prose, poetry, and drama.

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### Component 1: Love Through the Ages (40% of A-Level)

Explores the theme of love as it has been represented in literature over time:

1. **Set Texts:**
    - **Shakespeare:** A key play (e.g., *Othello*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, or *Measure for Measure*).
    - **Prose:** A comparative study of two prose texts (one pre-1900).
    - **Poetry:** A selection of poems, either from an anthology or a specific period.
  2. **Assessment:**
    - Written exam (3 hours).
    - Section A: Close analysis of an extract from the Shakespeare text.
    - Section B: Comparative essay on two prose texts.
    - Section C: Thematic essay on poetry.
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### Component 2: Texts in Shared Contexts (40% of A-Level)

Focuses on literature produced in a specific historical context, offering two options:

1. **Option A: World War I and Its Aftermath:**
  - Study of texts reflecting experiences and perspectives on war.
2. **Option B: Modern Times: Literature from 1945 to the Present Day:**
  - Exploration of texts that address contemporary social, political, and cultural issues.
3. **Set Texts:**
  - A mixture of prose, poetry, and drama.
  - One text must be post-2000.
4. **Assessment:**

- Written exam (2 hours 30 minutes).
  - Section A: Essay on a set text.
  - Section B: Comparative analysis of two texts.
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### **Non-Exam Assessment (NEA): Independent Critical Study (20% of A-Level)**

An independent research project focused on comparative literary analysis:

**1. Task:**

- Write a 2,500-word essay comparing two texts of the student's choice.
- Texts must be linked thematically but from different authors and periods.

**2. Themes:**

- Students explore a theme of personal interest, such as identity, power, or conflict.

**3. Assessment:**

- Internally assessed and externally moderated.
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### **Skills Developed**

- **Textual Analysis:** Identifying themes, techniques, and underlying meanings in literature.
  - **Critical Thinking:** Evaluating interpretations and forming reasoned arguments.
  - **Research Skills:** Conducting independent study and engaging with secondary sources.
  - **Contextual Understanding:** Exploring how historical, social, and cultural factors shape texts.
  - **Written Communication:** Developing coherent, persuasive essays and analysis.
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### **Assessment Overview**

1. **Component 1:** Love Through the Ages (40%).
  2. **Component 2:** Texts in Shared Contexts (40%).
  3. **NEA:** Independent Critical Study (20%).
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### **Career Pathways**

This qualification provides a foundation for:

1. **Higher Education:** Degrees in English literature, creative writing, journalism, law, or history.
  2. **Professional Training:** Careers in teaching, publishing, content writing, or editing.
  3. **Employment:** Roles in marketing, public relations, communications, or media.
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### **Who Is It For?**

- Students with a passion for literature and an interest in exploring how texts reflect and shape society.

- Those who enjoy reading, debating, and analyzing literary works.
- Learners aiming for careers in writing, analysis, or any field requiring advanced critical and interpretative skills.