Course Description

Pearson English Literature

In English Literature, students will sit both the AS and A2 qualification. Here are the details of the units covered:

AS:

Paper 1 – Post 2000 poetry and A Streetcar Named Desire

The Post-2000 collection comprises of a range of modern poems covering a plethora of themes including power, identity, family and place. Students will compare the poems and the poetic techniques used. 'A Streetcar Named Desire' is a play written by Tennessee Williams in 1947. This renowned drama follows troubled former schoolteacher Blanche Dubois as she leaves small-town Mississippi and moves in with her sister, Stella Kowalski and her husband Stanley in New Orleans. Students will study the dramatic methods used by Williams, as well as consider the social and historical context in which the play was written.

Paper 2 – The Handmaid's Tale and Frankenstein

This unit comprises a comparison of two texts: one modern and one pre-1900. These texts come under the heading of 'Science and Society'. Students will study both texts and draw comparisons, culminating in a comparative essay on a theme or topic as stipulated by the exam board.

A Level:

Paper 1 – Drama – Othello and A Streetcar Named Desire

Students will carry forward their prior knowledge of 'A Streetcar Named Desire' from AS, as well as studying the Shakespeare play 'Othello'. Students will add to their knowledge of dramatic techniques and explore themes such as love, betrayal, power and violence during their study of the play.

Paper 2 – Prose – The Handmaid's Tale and Frankenstein

Students will carry forward their AS knowledge for this unit.

Paper 3 – Poetry – Post 2000 poetry and Rossetti

Students will carry forward their knowledge of the Post 2000 collection and study a range of unseen modern poems to compare to. Students will also study a range of poetry by Victorian poet, Christina Rossetti, as well as studying the context of the Victorian era and details of her life to understand her poetry in greater depth.

NEA coursework – students will study the Jazz-Era tragedy of 'The Great Gatsby' and a text of their choice. The NEA comprises of a 2500-3000 word independent investigation whereby students will compare the two texts in depth, evaluating writers' methods and using relevant critical theory to support their analysis.

Entry Criteria

GCSE Grade 6 or above in English Literature, but recommended Grade 7.

Exam Board: PEARSON EDEXCEL
Full A level Specification link:
https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/A%20Level/English%20Literature/2015/S