

# English Literature A Level (Edexcel)



## Subject Overview

English Literature is all about the exploration and analysis of literature that has shaped and continues to shape society. Over the two year course you will study a range of novels, poetry, and plays and learn how to form critical opinions on these texts. See below for an overview of the course:

### Year 12

Frankenstein and Never Let Me Go – Science and society

The Handmaid’s Tale and The Road – Dystopia

Poetry – Christina Rossetti and Poems of the Decade

### Year 13

A Streetcar Named Desire and Othello - Tragedy

## Subject Information

Exam	Weighting	Title	Details
Paper 1	30%	Drama	Written examination, lasting 2 hours and 15 minutes. Two sections: - Section A – Othello: one essay question, incorporating ideas from wider critical reading - Section B – A Streetcar Named Desire: one essay question
Paper 2	20%	Prose	Written examination, lasting 1 hour and 15 minutes. Students answer one comparative essay question from a choice of two on Frankenstein and Never Let Me Go, exploring the theme of Science and Society
Paper 3	30%	Poetry	Written examination, lasting 2 hours and 15 minutes. Two sections: - Section A – Post-2000 Specified Poetry: one comparative essay question on an unseen modern poem written post-2000 and one from Poems of the Decade. - Section B – Specified Poetry Pre- or Post-1900: one essay question on Rossetti
Coursework	20%		Students produce one assignment: - one extended comparative essay referring to two texts - advisory total word count is 2500–3000 words

## What opportunities this course could lead to:

Studying English develops your written and verbal communications skills, your ability to use words to your advantage and to think and respond analytically. These skills have helped secure students places at LSE, Kings College London, and the University of Warwick studying a diverse range of subjects such as Law, History, Philosophy and, of course, English Literature!

**Course requirements:**

Students must have 5 or more GCSE passes, including English and Mathematics, grade 5 or B to study A levels.  
Grade 5 in English Literature.

**Useful websites:**

*<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/english-literature-2015.html>*