IGCSE English Literature

Students of English Literature will explore a range of literary texts identifying the skills and methods authors use to construct meaning. They will be expected to appraise literary texts from a number of perspectives, not merely to discern literal meaning but to appreciate the issues and attitudes that inform them. They will be taught to recognise and appreciate the means by which writers use language to create narrative and descriptive effect as well as that of characterisation, form and structure. In writing about the texts, they should be able to communicate an informed and, it is hoped, personal response to what they have read.

Subject Content

Students will study a range of prescribed texts as set by University of Cambridge International Examinations. These will include the following:

Prose

The Great Gatsby by F Scott Fitzgerald

Poetry

Three Victorian Poets, ed. Jane Ogborn (Cambridge University)

Poems studied will include:
Tennyson (all)  
‘Mariana’  
‘The Lady of Shalott’  
‘Ulysses’  
extract from ‘Maud’ final section of Part II: from ‘Dead, long dead’ to ‘Is enough to drive one mad’  
from ‘In Memoriam A.H.H’:
VII (‘Dark house, by which once more I stand’)  
XXIV (‘And was the day of my delight’)  
L (‘Be near me when my light is low’)  
LXVII (‘When on my bed the moonlight falls’)  
CVI (‘Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky’)  
CXV (‘Now fades the long last streak of snow’)  
‘Crossing the Bar’
Drama

Death of a Salesman by Arthur Miller

Resources and Texts

A range of materials will be selected to encourage students to explore the many different aspects of theme, setting, character and style. Where possible film versions of the texts may be used and the social and historical context may also be considered. Additional texts and other materials will also be provided to assist in this.

Assessment

Throughout the course student progress and achievement will be assessed in a variety of ways, including debates, discussions, essays and various other written responses to the texts.

The final assessment takes the form of two externally assessed exams at the end of Year 11:

1 Paper 1: English Texts 2 hours, 15 mins
2 Paper 3: Alternative to Coursework (Unseen) 1 hour, 20 mins

The first of these papers will consist of a variety of passage-based, discursive and empathetic essay questions on a whole range of prescribed texts. Our students will be expected to respond to tasks centred around the poetry, prose and drama they have studied during the course. This will take the form of an open-text exam. The second paper will present Literature students with a previously unseen extract, which they will be invited to comment on.