

A Level in English Literature

Location	Altrincham Campus
Course Type	College 16-18
Department	A Levels
Start Date	Monday 1st September 2025
Course Code	AFQ-AL3L-1117

Course Overview

Story telling has been around for centuries and our understanding of life is often based on what we have read. Drawing on a love of all things fictional, this course examines how Literature is created through the author's choice of themes, characters, plot development and language. Over the course of two years, we will explore the books themselves and consider the impact of the time periods and contexts in which they were written.

If you love reading, writing and class discussions that reflect on the meaning and impact a text can have, then this course is for you.

Students follow the Pearson Edexcel A Level English Literature specification.

Course Requirements

PLEASE NOTE - YOU MUST APPLY FOR 3 A LEVELS

Standard A Level entry requirements: 5 x GCSE grade 5's or above (must include Maths and English Language).

What You Will Learn

A level English Literature is the perfect course for students that enjoy all aspects of reading and debating possible meanings within texts. A range of areas will be covered, including plays, novels, and poetry from different periods in time.

Assessment

3 exam papers and 1 piece of non-exam assessment at the end of 2 years:

Exams:

Paper 1 - Drama - 2hrs 15 mins - 30%

Paper 2 - Prose - 1 hour 15 - 20%

Paper 3 - Poetry - 2 hrs 15 mins - 30%

Non-exam assessment - Comparative 3000-word extended essay - 20%

Progression

Once you have finished English Literature you will have acquired a range of useful skills including the ability to analyse and evaluate literature. You will be able to articulate independent opinions and judgements and express these effectively. These skills will be really useful if you decide to study English Literature, or any other subject, at university.

You can progress onto careers in Law, PR, Marketing, and Education to name but a few.

Career Options

Possible careers following A level English could include: journalist, teacher, lexicographer, and editor.

Mandatory Units

The key topics of focus are as follows:

Prose:

Studying *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley and *The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood.

These will be compared in the exam and the focus is on 'Science and Society'. Both will be studied in the first year.

Poetry:

Exam board selected anthology of Modern Poetry - studied in the first year.

A selection of poetry that will explore the Romanticism movement - studied in the second year.

Drama:

A Streetcar Named Desire by Tennessee Williams - studied in the first year.

Othello by William Shakespeare - studied in the second year - only Shakespeare on course.

Non-Exam Assessment Texts:

The Picture of Dorian Gray by Oscar Wilde and *Wuthering Heights* by Emily Brontë. These will both be studied in the second year and will be connected in order to form a 3000-word coursework essay.

Contact Details

For further information please contact T: 0161 886 7070 or E: info@trafford.ac.uk

Disclaimer

Although every care has been taken to ensure that the information contained within this document is accurate, there may be changes to this programme and provision. We will endeavour to keep prospective and current students updated where appropriate and when the information becomes available.