

Subject Information 2010

Subject: English Literature

What the subject is about:

English Literature will give you the opportunity to study not only a wide range of literature written by Irish writers but also literature from outside the UK and literature in translation. This course will give you the opportunity to explore an important part of your cultural heritage. The wide range of novels, poems and plays studied will enable you to deepen your understanding of your own history and society and also gain an insight into others. Through independent and critical reading you will develop your interest and enjoyment in literacy studies and become an accomplished, discerning reader.

Course content and assessment schedule:

Unit	Duration	Season when first taken	Brief outline of main content
1	N/A	Summer	<p><u>The Study of Drama</u> For this unit you must submit 2 pieces of coursework.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One critical assignment based on Section A – The Study of <u>Shakespeare’s <i>The Tempest</i></u>. • One creative assignment based on Section B – The Study of a Twentieth Century Dramatist (Alan Bennett or Arthur Miller or Sean O’Casey).
2	2 hours	January	<p><u>The Study of Poetry Written after 1800 and The Study of Prose 1800-1945</u> For this unit you must answer 2 questions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One question from Section A on a set of paired poets (W B Yeats & Patrick Kavanagh or Edward Thomas & Robert Frost). • One question from Section B on F Scott Fitzgerald’s <i>The Great Gatsby</i>. For this section a choice of 2 questions will be set.
3	2 hours	January	<p><u>The Study of Poetry 1300-1800 and Drama</u> This is a closed book examination. You will answer 2 questions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One question from Section A on a poetry text (Chaucer’s <i>The Pardoner’s Tale</i> or Pope’s <i>The Rape of the Lock</i>). For this section a choice of 2 questions will be set on each poetry text. • One question from Section B on a pair of drama texts (<i>Satire: Jonson’s <i>Volpone</i> & Sheridan’s <i>The School for Scandal</i> or <i>Tragedy: Shakespeare’s <i>King Lear</i> & Heaney’s <i>Burial at Thebes</i></i>).</i>
4	2 hours	Summer	<p><u>The Study of Prose – theme-based</u> (<i>Women in society or The outsider</i>) You will answer 2 questions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One question from Section A requiring close analysis of an extract from a post-1990 novel (Jennifer Johnson’s <i>The Illusionist</i> or Patrick McCabe’s <i>The Butcher Boy</i>). • One question from Section B requiring comparison of 2 novels on the same theme as that chosen for Section A (Charlotte Brontë’s <i>Jane Eyre</i> & Jean Rhys’ <i>Wide Sargasso Sea</i> or Albert Camus’ <i>The Outsider</i> & J D Salinger’s <i>Catcher in the Rye</i>).

Entry requirements:

Compulsory GCSE subjects	Grade	Desirable subjects	Grade
English Literature	A		
English Language	A		

Qualities/skills needed to succeed in the course:

- a passion for reading and discussing literature
- a willingness to study independently
- the ability to articulate creative, informed and relevant responses to questions on literary texts using appropriate terminology
- the ability to explore connections and comparisons between characters, themes or issues
- the ability to identify and examine a range of methods employed by the author i.e. tone, form, structure and how these methods shape meaning
- the ability to demonstrate understanding of the context in which texts are written by drawing on appropriate information from outside the text