

Curriculum Intent

OCR's A Level English Literature qualification encourages students to develop their interest in and enjoyment of a broad range of English literature. It allows them to effectively apply their knowledge of literary analysis and evaluation to engage critically and creatively with both set texts and others of their own choosing. This course allows learners to undertake independent and sustained studies to deepen their appreciation and understanding of literature, including its changing traditions.

What do students *do* with this knowledge or these skills?

Students will develop their interest in and enjoyment of literature and literary studies as they: read widely and independently both set texts and others that they have selected for themselves, engage critically and creatively with a substantial body of texts and ways of responding to them, develop and effectively apply their knowledge of literary analysis and evaluation in writing, explore the contexts of the texts they are reading and others' interpretations of them.

How does the KS5 curriculum build on that from KS4?

Students are introduced to skills of language and structure analysis in all KS4 units. This equips them with a foundational knowledge of linguistic and structural features, as well as the forms in which these are conventionally applied. This is developed at KS5 as students expand their technical vocabulary to include more precise terminology, allowing for more in-depth analysis. Students will have studied Shakespeare at KS4, and this is developed in their study of Hamlet at KS5. There is an increasing level of challenge as students consider different interpretations of the play through different critical lenses. Poetry, prose and drama are all included in the KS4 curriculum, and we maintain this breadth at A Level. Students are able to draw upon their canonical knowledge of these forms while being challenged to draw comparisons between forms and evaluate their impact. Students at DMA have access to Critical Reading Lists as an extension of their GCSE studies. This introduces them to critical literature and the style of academic writing they will need to read and produce at A Level study.

What new knowledge or skills are students taught?

Term	Year 12	Year 13
Autumn	Component 1: Hamlet Component 1: A Doll's House	Component 2: Genre Study: Dystopia Component 3: NEA: Final drafts and submissions
Spring	Component 1: The Merchant's Prologue and Tale Component 2: The Handmaid's Tale	Revision Programme Final Exams
Summer	Component 3: NEA Revision Programme and Mock Exams	
Rationale for this sequencing	<p>The course begins with Component 1, 'Drama and Poetry Pre-1900', and Shakespeare's Hamlet. Developing students' ability to read closely and explore different interpretations of a text, this unit builds upon the knowledge students acquired studying Shakespeare at KS4. In Autumn 2, students develop their GCSE knowledge of 19th-century literature by studying Ibsen's A Doll's House. They will explore the cultural and contextual influences that shaped the play and its relationship with literary movements and genres.</p> <p>Having honed their critical and analytical writing skills during the Autumn term, the level of challenge will increase in Spring 1 as students study their first medieval text, Chaucer's 'The Merchant's Prologue and Tale'. Whilst medieval literature will be new to students, they will build on comparative analysis skills they developed in KS4, exploring contrasts, connections and comparisons between Chaucer and Ibsen's writing. In Spring 2, we introduce Component 2, 'Comparative and Contextual Study' in which students will study the Dystopian genre through the lens of Atwood's The Handmaid's Tale. Students will explore the attitudes and values expressed in the novel, the context in which it was written and received, and the ways in which Atwood uses language to shape meaning.</p> <p>In Summer 1, students begin to write their NEA essays on a poetry, prose and drama text of their choice (one of which must be post-2000). For their first essay, students may choose to write a close analysis or a re-creative piece. For their second essay, students will compare two texts, building on</p>	<p>Component 2 continues into Year 13, with students developing their expertise in Dystopian fiction. By reading a wide range of Dystopian texts – from H. G. Wells' The Time Machine to Octavia Butler's The Parable of the Sower – students will chart contrasts, connections and comparisons within the genre. They will also develop their close reading skills, using their wider knowledge of the Dystopian genre and literary critical concepts to confidently analyse unseen texts.</p> <p>Having continually worked on their NEA since the Summer term of Year 12, students will conclude their projects by the end of the Autumn term. By this stage, students will have covered all strands of the course and will be best placed to collate this knowledge and apply it to their final drafts.</p> <p>A generous amount of time is built into the course to consolidate understanding from all previous units. This ensures students are left with no gaps in their knowledge and gives an opportunity for them to summarise the different strands of their learning and consider how each unit informs and is informed by others.</p>

	the skills developed in Component 1. In Summer 2, students will consolidate their learning by revising for their Year 12 mock exams.	
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Additional support at home

<p>Additional reading for enjoyment, enhancement and extension</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dystopia: H G Wells: The Time Machine, Aldous Huxley: Brave New World, Ray Bradbury: Fahrenheit 451, Anthony Burgess: A Clockwork Orange, Cormac McCarthy: The Road. • Half of a Yellow Sun Chimamanda Adichie • Death of a Salesman Arthur Miller • The History Boys Alan Bennett • Revolutionary Road Richard Yates
<p>Online resources to practice, consolidate and revise</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Level English Literature Contextual Information Teacher guide H472/02 Dystopia (ocr.org.uk)
<p>Workbooks & revision guides to practice, consolidate and revise</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hamlet: York Notes for AS & A2 (York Notes Advanced) • The Handmaid's Tale: York Notes • The Merchant's Prologue and Tale: York Notes • 1984 Nineteen Eighty-Four: York Notes • A Doll's House: York Notes for A-level: