

GCSE English Literature

Course content and overview

English Literature studies texts across a range of historical and cultural contexts. There are two novels, two plays (including Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*) and a range of poetry by contemporary Welsh poets.

The texts, whilst challenging, provide pupils with the opportunity to engage with and discuss important issues still relevant today.

The highest marks are awarded to those who form well-reasoned opinions supported by apt evidence from the text, whilst showing an understanding of the contexts in which the novels were written or set. All assessments will involve the writing of essays, a skill which will be explicitly taught in lessons but should be practised at home in preparation for examinations.

Assessment Details

Exam Board: WJEC

Assessment: 3 units

Unit 1: Year 10 – January

- **Examination 40%:** *Of Mice and Men*, by John Steinbeck and Unseen poetry.

Unit 2b: Year 10 - June

- **Examination (40%):** *An Inspector Calls* by J. B. Priestley and *Heroes* by Robert Cormier

Unit 3: Non-examination Assessment (NEA)

Poetry comparison: 10%

Both poems 'Daylight Robbery' and 'The Student House' are about parent and child relationships. With close reference to the poems, compare and contrast the way the poets represent these relationships.

Shakespeare: 10%

'The romance between *Romeo and Juliet* is not very convincing'. To what extent do you agree with this statement?

Useful Revision Guides, resources and websites

The English Literature GCSE specification can be found at: <http://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/english/r-english-literature-gcse-wales/>

Revision materials can be found at BBC Bitesize: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/zr9d7ty>

Additional revision information is available here: <https://padlet.com/redwardseflc/of-mice-and-men-eflc-v5793yp9ibdz23>

Supporting Home Learning

- Independent reading is crucial to improve both reading and writing skills.
- Completion of home study and regular revision of teaching notes will enable pupils to embed their knowledge and ensure familiarity with the key skills and different question types.

- Revision of key quotations and knowledge organisers provided throughout the year will support active recall in examinations.

Progression Routes & Careers

English Literature can play a pivotal role in pupils access further studies in any subject as at its core, it teaches the ability to read and interpret information. Pupils learn to infer meaning and confidently handle texts with increasing complexity. In particular, jobs in the media, teaching, advertising, law, local and national government, marketing and public relations all value this subject as one that develops the reading and analytical skills needed to be successful.

Contact for help: You can speak to any of your English teachers for additional help.

Alternatively contact:

Mr R Edwards (Head of English): Robert.Edwards@brotaf.cymru