



Bideford College

Part of the Athena Learning Trust

English Literature

**Subject Information
For admissions in September**

English Literature

Exam Board: AQA

Qualification Title: English literature A-Level

Specification Link:

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/as-and-a-level/english-literature-a-7711-7712/scheme-of-assessment>

With a grade 6 in both English language and literature a requirement at GCSE, this course genuinely helps students see the world in a different way as long as they are prepared to read widely, and be ready for a range of challenges. Through the study of modern poetry and novels as well as classical drama and Shakespeare, students engage in discussion, debate, and analysis. History, philosophy and the arts all contribute to the study of English literature making this a wholesome and challenging course widely recognised by top universities.

"It takes a great deal of history to produce a little literature."
- Henry James

What the students have said in the past:

"What I think makes English literature so good is the fact it is so interesting - it broadens your mind to a much wider range of ideas and makes you feel more confident."

Unit Descriptions:

Paper 1:

Love through the ages – written examination 40% of qualification

Study of three texts: one poetry and one prose text, of which one must be written pre-1900, and one Shakespeare play. Examination will include two unseen poems

Section A: Shakespeare: one passage-based question with linked essay (25 marks)

Section B: Unseen poetry: compulsory essay question on two unseen poems (25 marks)

Section C: Comparing texts: one essay question linking two texts (25 marks)

Paper 2:

Texts in shared contexts – written examination 40% of qualification

Study of three texts: one prose, one poetry, and one drama, of which one must be written post-2000 Examination will include an unseen prose extract

Section A: Set texts. One essay question on set text (25 marks)

Section B: Contextual linking:

- one compulsory question on an unseen extract (25 marks)
- one essay question linking two texts (25 marks)

Unit Descriptions Continued:

Non-exam assessment: Independent critical study: texts across time

Comparative critical study of two texts, at least one of which must have been written pre-1900.

One extended essay (2500 words) and a bibliography

Career/progression:

Have a look at this link for some inspiration:
www.prospects.ac.uk/options_english.htm

Law, journalism, creative writing and teaching are just some of the career paths open to you with an A Level in English literature.

Subject Contact:

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