



AS/A Level English Literature

(Available for teaching from September 2008)

This new specification aims to develop skills of literary analysis through creative engagement with a range of prose, poetry and drama texts. At the same time, candidates gain a deeper understanding of the heritage and changing traditions of literature in English.



What are the benefits to me and my students of delivering these OCR specifications?

- Diverse texts ranging from work first published and performed since 1300 to post-1990, including Shakespearean classics.
- A strong focus on critical literary skills, contexts and interpretations by other 'readers'.
- A four unit format equally split between external and internal assessment. The fewer examined units reduces the burden of assessment for learners.
- The choice of set texts has been refreshed and the format of assessment simplified in response to centre feedback.

AS Level

| Mandatory/Optional? | Unit title and description | Assessment method and weighting |
|---------------------|--|--|
| Mandatory | F661: Poetry and Prose 1800-1945 Works of poetry and prose ranging from Robert Frost to Edith Wharton are examined with a view to developing critical literary skills and greater understanding of the contexts in which texts are produced together with the variety of possible interpretations. | 2 hour exam AS Level – 60% A Level – 30% |
| Mandatory | F662: Literature post-1900 Through this study of modern literature, including a work published or performed after 1990, candidates learn to compare texts and gain confidence in their use of literary critical concepts and terminology. Candidates have the opportunity to follow areas of individual interest and enjoyment. | Coursework AS Level – 40% A Level – 20% |

A2 Level

| Mandatory/Optional? | Unit title and description | Assessment method and weighting |
|---------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| Mandatory | F663: Drama and Poetry pre-1800 The study of Shakespeare is a key focus as is the study of a heritage literary text, involving critical analysis of structure, form and meaning, and consideration of others' interpretations. Candidates are encouraged to compare and contrast texts, across the works of 1300 – 1800 authors. | 2 hour exam A Level – 30% |
| Mandatory | F664: Texts in Time This unit allows learners to fully develop research skills and synthesise their knowledge and understanding in an extended individual study of literary texts across genres. It gives candidates an appreciation of the cultural and contextual influences upon readers and writers and the ways in which texts relate to literary traditions, movements and genres. | Coursework A Level – 20% |

How is this qualification assessed?

AS Level

Poetry and Prose 1800-1945 – externally-assessed written paper

Literature post-1900 – internally-assessed coursework

A Level

Drama and Poetry pre-1800 – externally-assessed written paper

Texts in Time – internally-assessed coursework

Dates of first examinations

AS

First examination will be available in January 2009.

A2

First examination will be available in January 2010.

What support will I receive?

Training

A series of OCR courses to introduce the new specification will be available as well as an annual INSET programme to support teachers and provide feedback on recent examinations.

Publishers

Developed in close consultation with OCR, Oxford University Press is publishing materials for the 2008 English Language A Level specification.

Resources

You will be able to download all the following resources from the OCR website – www.ocr.org.uk

- Schemes of Work
- Sample Assessment Materials.

For more information please contact the OCR Customer Contact Centre on **01223 553998**, or visit www.ocr.org.uk to join the English e-community.