

Switching to OCR from AQA B

Introduction

The key content and skills to be covered by all new AS and A Level English Literature specifications mean it's straightforward to move to a different exam board.

We've developed our specifications to encourage learners' interest in and enjoyment of English literature and literary studies. The specifications motivate learners to read widely and independently. Learners will develop their knowledge of literary analysis and evaluation to engage critically and creatively with a broad range of texts. So why choose OCR's AS/A Level English Literature?

- The variety and breadth of texts on offer means that there are many opportunities for a personal, tailored approach. We have chosen both familiar and fresh topic areas for study, including American Literature and The Immigrant Experience.
- The topics are structured to underpin the knowledge and understanding needed for the next generation of thoughtful and passionate critical readers.
- We offer clear, well balanced exam papers within a flexible assessment model.
- Learners develop the essentials for related higher education courses as well as many transferable, marketable skills.
- A comprehensive range of creative, well researched resources to cover every aspect of the course, from candidate exemplars to handy set text guides.

How do I find out more?

- Visit our [AS and A Level English Literature subject webpage](#) to access the specifications, specimen assessment materials and a wide range of free support materials, from scheme of work planners to guides to delivery, lesson activities and more.
- We've structured the AS to maximise opportunities for co-teaching with the A Level, and you can find out more about co-teachability in our [guide](#).
- Join our conversation on the [OCR English Community](#) and [@ocr_english](#) to talk about and share good practice.

Key differences

OCR AS and A Level English Literature	AQA AS and A Level English Literature B
We have created a straightforward assessment structure so you can focus on teaching the texts, rather than spending time coaching learners in how to navigate the exam. Both papers in each qualification are of similar length, format and structure .	The assessment structure differs . At A Level, Paper 2 is a longer exam in which learners need to ensure they select the right texts to write about in Sections B and C to ensure they cover the right combinations of texts across the A level as a whole – choosing the wrong combination would constitute a rubric infringement.
We offer a greater variety and breadth of text choice meaning that there are many opportunities for a personal approach tailored to learners' and teachers' interests .	Text choice is more limited in any given area. Learners focus on one genre from a choice of two in each examined component.
At A Level, we offer five topic areas for study. We have chosen both familiar and fresh topic areas, including American Literature, Dystopia and The Immigrant Experience.	At A Level, there are two topic areas for study, either Crime Writing of Political and social protest writing.
There is a choice of six Shakespeare texts for study for AS and A level.	Having chosen either tragedy or comedy as a theme, there is a choice of two Shakespeare texts for study at AS and A level.
When exploring different interpretations of texts, we don't privilege one particular critical approach .	The AQA B specification privileges an approach to include named critics and provides a critical anthology as a required text .
There is optional task choice for the NEA. There is no anthology of critical material which must be covered; instead, learners focus on exploring the literary texts in their comparative task, informed by different interpretations, so the focus remains solely on their chosen texts.	There are two tasks for the NEA. Both tasks must link to the AQA Critical Anthology .

AS ENGLISH LITERATURE

Content

OCR AS Level English Literature	AQA AS Level English Literature B
<p>Learners study 4 texts in total:</p> <p>Drama</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One Shakespeare set text (Exam) One post-1900 set text (Exam) <p>Poetry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One pre-1900 set text (Exam) <p>Prose</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One post-1900 set text (Exam) <p>Learners will also respond to an unseen prose extract that is linked to their set prose text.</p>	<p>Learners study 4 texts in total:</p> <p>Drama</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One Shakespeare set text (Exam) One set text (Exam) <p>Poetry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One set text (Exam) <p>Prose</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One set text (Exam)
<p>In Paper 1 you choose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One Shakespeare text from a choice of 6 One pre-1900 poetry text from a choice of 5 <p>Shakespeare choices: <i>Coriolanus – Hamlet – Measure for Measure – Richard III – The Tempest – Twelfth Night</i></p> <p>Pre-1900 poetry choices: <i>The Merchant’s Prologue and Tale – Paradise Lost Books 9 & 10 – Samuel Taylor Coleridge: Selected poems – Alfred, Lord Tennyson: Maud – Christina Rossetti: Selected poems</i></p>	<p>In Paper 1 you choose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One literary genre: either Tragedy or Comedy <p>THEN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One Shakespeare text from a choice of 2 One drama text from a choice of 3 <p>Tragedy choices: Shakespeare: <i>Othello – King Lear</i></p> <p>Drama: <i>Death of a Salesman – Richard II – A Streetcar Named Desire</i></p> <p>Comedy choices: Shakespeare: <i>The Taming of the Shrew – Twelfth Night</i> Drama: <i>She Stoops to Conquer – Educating Rita – The Importance of Being Earnest</i></p>

OCR AS Level English Literature	AQA AS Level English Literature B
<p>In Paper 2 you choose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One post-1900 drama text from a choice of 6 One post-1900 prose text from a choice of 5 <p>Drama choices:</p> <p><i>Private Lives – A Streetcar Named Desire – The Homecoming – The History Boys – That Face - Jerusalem</i></p> <p>Prose choices:</p> <p><i>The Great Gatsby - The Bloody Chamber & Other Stories - Nineteen Eighty-Four – Mrs Dalloway – The Reluctant Fundamentalist</i></p>	<p>In Paper 2 you choose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One literary genre: either Tragedy or Comedy <p>THEN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One poetry text from a choice of 3 One prose text from a choice of 3 <p>Tragedy choices:</p> <p>Poetry: <i>Thomas Hardy (specified poems) – John Keats (specified poems) – AQA English Literature Poetry B anthology</i></p> <p>Prose: <i>The Great Gatsby – Tess of the D’Urbervilles – The Remains of the Day</i></p> <p>Comedy choices:</p> <p>Poetry: <i>John Betjeman (specified poems) – The Nun’s Priest’s Tale – AQA English Literature B Poetry anthology</i></p> <p>Prose: <i>Emma – Wise Children – Small Island</i></p>

Assessment

OCR AS English Literature	AQA AS English Literature B
<p>Paper 1: Shakespeare and poetry pre-1900</p> <p>50% of AS</p> <p>Written paper: 1 hour 30 minutes (closed text)</p> <p>60 marks</p> <p>Section 1 - Shakespeare:</p> <p>One essay question from a choice of two. (30 marks)</p> <p>Section 2 – Poetry pre-1900:</p>	<p>Paper 1: Literary genres: drama</p> <p>50% of AS</p> <p>Written paper: 1 hour 30 minutes (closed text)</p> <p>50 marks</p> <p>Section A - Shakespeare:</p> <p>One passage-based question on set text (25 marks)</p> <p>Section B - Drama:</p> <p>One essay question on set text (25 marks)</p>

<p>One extract-based question – one poem or section of poetry from set text printed in the exam paper, relating to the wider text. (30 marks)</p>	
<p>Paper 2: Drama and prose post-1900 50% of AS Written paper: 1 hour 45 minutes (closed text) 60 marks</p> <p>Section 1 - Drama: One essay question from a choice of two. (30 marks)</p> <p>Section 2 - Prose: One essay question on set text, making links with a thematically linked unseen prose extract. (30 marks)</p>	<p>Paper 2: Literary genres: prose and poetry 50% of AS Written paper: 1 hour 30 minutes (open text) 50 marks</p> <p>Section A - Poetry: One essay question on set extract (25 marks)</p> <p>Section B - Prose: One essay question on set text (25 marks)</p>

A LEVEL ENGLISH LITERATURE

Content

OCR A Level English Literature	AQA A Level English Literature B
<p>Learners study 8 texts in total:</p> <p>Drama</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One Shakespeare set text (Exam) One pre-1900 set text (Exam) One post-1900 or post-2000 text of own choosing (NEA) <p>Poetry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One pre-1900 set text (Exam) One post-1900 or post-2000 text of own choosing (NEA) <p>Prose</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two set texts from chosen topic area (Exam) One post-1900 or post-2000 text of own choosing (NEA) <p>Five texts are assessed in the exams.</p> <p>Three texts are assessed in the non-examined assessment.</p>	<p>Learners study 8 texts in total, plus the critical anthology</p> <p>Drama</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One Shakespeare set text (Exam) One set text (Exam) <p>Poetry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One set text (Exam) One text of own choosing (NEA) <p>Prose</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One post-2000 set text (Exam) One text of own choosing (NEA) <p>AND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any set text: drama, poetry or prose (Exam) Pre-1900 set text: drama, poetry or prose (Exam) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Critical anthology set by AQA (NEA) <p>Six texts are assessed in the exams</p> <p>Two texts plus the critical anthology are assessed in the non-examined assessment.</p>

OCR A Level English Literature	AQA A Level English Literature B
<p>In Paper 1 you choose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One Shakespeare text from a choice of 6 One pre-1900 drama text from a choice of 5 One pre-1900 poetry text from a choice of 5 <p>Shakespeare choices: <i>Coriolanus – Hamlet – Measure for Measure – Richard III – The Tempest – Twelfth Night</i></p> <p>Pre-1900 drama choices: <i>Edward II – The Duchess of Malfi – She Stoops to Conquer – A Doll’s House – An Ideal Husband</i></p> <p>Pre-1900 poetry choices: <i>The Merchant’s Prologue and Tale – Paradise Lost Books 9 & 10 – Samuel Taylor Coleridge: Selected poems – Alfred, Lord Tennyson: Maud – Christina Rossetti: Selected poems</i></p>	<p>In Paper 1 you choose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One literary genre: either Tragedy or Comedy <p>THEN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One Shakespeare text from a choice of 2 One drama text from a choice of 2 One text from any genre (drama, poetry or prose) from a choice of 4 <p>Either the drama or any genre text must be pre-1900.</p> <p>Tragedy choices: Shakespeare: <i>Othello – King Lear</i></p> <p>Drama: <i>Death of a Salesman – Richard II</i></p> <p>Any genre: <i>The Great Gatsby – Tess of the D’Urbervilles – John Keats (specified poems) – AQA B poetry anthology</i></p> <p>Comedy choices: Shakespeare: <i>The Taming of the Shrew – Twelfth Night</i></p> <p>Drama: <i>She Stoops to Conquer – The Importance of Being Earnest</i></p> <p>Any genre: <i>Emma – The Nun’s Priest’s Tales – Small Island – AQA B poetry anthology</i></p>

OCR A Level English Literature	AQA A Level English Literature B
<p>In Paper 2 you choose one topic area from a choice of 5:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> American Literature 1880-1940 The Gothic Dystopia Women in Literature The Immigrant Experience <p>From your chosen topic area you choose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One core text from a choice of 2 One other text from a choice of 9 <p>Core text choices:</p> <p>American Literature 1880-1940 <i>The Great Gatsby</i> – <i>The Grapes of Wrath</i></p> <p>The Gothic <i>Dracula</i> – <i>The Bloody Chamber & Other Stories</i></p> <p>Dystopia <i>Nineteen Eighty-Four</i> – <i>The Handmaid's Tale</i></p> <p>Women in Literature <i>Mrs Dalloway</i> – <i>Sense and Sensibility</i></p> <p>The Immigrant Experience <i>The Reluctant Fundamentalist</i> – <i>Call It Sleep</i></p> <p>The list of other texts to choose from for each topic area can be found in the specification.</p>	<p>In Paper 2 you choose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One modern genre: either Crime writing or Political and social protest writing <p>THEN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One post-2000 prose text from a choice of 2 One pre-1900 poetry text from a choice of 2 One text from any genre (drama, poetry or prose) from a choice of 4 <p>Learners also respond to one unseen passage.</p> <p>Crime writing choices:</p> <p>Post-2000 prose: <i>When Will There Be Good News</i> – <i>Atonement</i></p> <p>Pre-1900 poetry: <i>George Crabbe</i>, <i>Robert Browning</i> and <i>Oscar Wilde</i> (specified poems) – <i>The Rime of the Ancient Mariner</i></p> <p>Any genre: <i>The Murder of Roger Ackroyd</i> – <i>Oliver Twist</i> – <i>Brighton Rock</i> – <i>Hamlet</i></p> <p>Political and social protest writing choices:</p> <p>Post-2000 prose: <i>Harvest</i> – <i>The Kite Runner</i></p> <p>Pre-1900 poetry: <i>William Blake: Songs of Innocence and of Experience</i> – <i>Tony Harrison</i> (specified poems)</p> <p>Any genre: <i>The Handmaid's Tale</i> – <i>Hard Times</i> – <i>A Doll's House</i> – <i>Henry IV Part 1</i></p>

OCR A Level English Literature	AQA A Level English Literature B
<p>For the NEA you choose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One drama text of your own choosing One poetry text of your own choosing One prose text of your own choosing <p>All texts must be post-1900. At least one text must be post-2000.</p>	<p>For the NEA you choose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One poetry text of your own choosing One prose text of your own choosing <p>AND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AQA Critical Anthology

Assessment

OCR A Level English Literature	AQA A Level English Literature B
<p>Paper 1: Drama and poetry pre-1900</p> <p>40% of A level</p> <p>Written paper: 2 hours 30 minutes (closed text) 60 marks</p> <p>Section 1 - Shakespeare:</p> <p>One two-part question:</p> <p>a) close analysis of an extract (15 marks)</p> <p>b) discursive essay considering a given proposition (15 marks)</p> <p>Section 2 - Drama and poetry pre-1900:</p> <p>One comparative essay question from a choice of six, comparing a set drama text with a set poetry text. (30 marks)</p>	<p>Paper 1: Literary genres</p> <p>40% of A level</p> <p>Written paper: 2 hours 30 minutes (closed text) 75 marks</p> <p>Section A - Shakespeare:</p> <p>One passage-based question on set text (25 marks)</p> <p>Section B - Shakespeare:</p> <p>One essay question on set text (25 marks)</p> <p>Section C - Comparing texts:</p> <p>One essay question linking two texts (25 marks)</p>
<p>Paper 2: Comparative and contextual study 40% of A level</p> <p>Written paper: 2 hours 30 minutes (closed text) 60 marks</p> <p>Two questions based on chosen topic area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Close reading: one unseen prose task based on the topic area studied. (30 marks) Comparative essay: one essay task from a choice of three (depending on texts studied) comparing two studied texts. (30 marks) 	<p>Paper 2: Texts and genres</p> <p>40% of A level</p> <p>Written paper: 3 hours (open text) 75 marks</p> <p>Section A – Unseen texts:</p> <p>One compulsory question on an unseen passage (25 marks)</p> <p>Section B – Set texts:</p> <p>One essay question on a set text (25 marks)</p> <p>Section C – Contextual linking:</p> <p>One essay question linking two texts (25 marks)</p>

Component 3: Literature post-1900; 20% of A level Non-examined assessment 40 marks Learners complete two tasks on chosen texts: Task 1: Close reading or re-creative writing piece with commentary (15 marks) Task 2: Comparative essay (25 marks)	Component 3: Theory and independence 20% of A level Non-examined assessment 50 marks Two essays responding to two different texts and linking to the Critical anthology. One essay can be a re-creative piece with commentary.
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Want to switch to OCR?

If you're an OCR-approved centre, all you need to do is download the specification and start teaching.

Your exams officer can complete an [intention to teach form](#) which enables us to provide appropriate support. When you're ready to enter your learners, you just need to speak to your exams officer to make estimated entries then final entries by the specified deadline ahead of the examination session.

If you are not already an OCR-approved centre, please refer your exams officer to the [centre approval](#) section of our website.

Next steps

1. Familiarise yourself with the specification, sample assessment materials and teaching resources on the [AS/A Level English Literature](#) qualification page of the OCR website.
2. Get in touch if you'd like specific advice, guidance or support – email english@ocr.org.uk or telephone 01223 553 998.
3. Get a login for our secure site, [Interchange](#) – allows you to access the latest past/practice papers and use our results analysis service, Active Results.
4. Sign up to receive [subject updates](#) by email.

5. Sign up to attend a [training event](#) or take part in webinars on specific topics running throughout the year and / or our Q&A drop-in webinar sessions every half term.
6. Attend one of our free regional [teacher network events](#).