

Switching to OCR from Edexcel

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	Edexcel AS and A Level English Literature
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 there are three exams with different weightings, marks, timings and formats . At AS, the paper format, weighting and timing also differs across the two exams.
At A Level, there are two examined components with a total of 5 hours' exam time .	At A Level, there are three examined components with a total of 5 hours 30 minutes' exam time .
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.
At AS and A level, we offer a choice of five poetry texts .	At AS and A level, learners must study a specified poetry text .
The same Shakespeare text choices are given at AS and A level . Learners that go on to the A level course can study the same Shakespeare text across two years .	There is no Shakespeare text for study at AS . This means that learners that go on to an A level course will need to study a new Shakespeare text in one year .
When exploring different interpretations of texts, we don't privilege one particular critical approach .	The Edexcel specification privileges a critical approach and provides a Shakespeare Critical Anthology as a required text for study.
There is optional task choice for the NEA.	There is one task for the NEA.



AS ENGLISH LITERATURE

Content

OCR AS Level English Literature	Edexcel AS Level English Literature
<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 pre-1900 or post-1900 set text (Exam) <p>Poetry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One specified post-2000 text (Exam) <p>Prose</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two texts, including at least one pre-1900 text on a chosen theme (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 study:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One specified post-2000 poetry text • Either one pre-1900 or one post-1900 drama text from a choice of 4 <p>Specified post-2000 poetry text: <i>Poems of the Decade: An Anthology of the Forward Books of Poetry 2002-2011</i></p> <p>Drama choices: Pre-1900 Tragedy <i>Dr Faustus – The Duchess of Malfi</i> Pre-1900 Comedy <i>The Importance of Being Earnest – The Rover</i></p>



OCR AS Level English Literature	Edexcel AS Level English Literature
	Post-1900 Tragedy <i>The Home Place – A Streetcar Named Desire</i> Post-1900 Comedy <i>The Pitmen Painters – Waiting for Godot</i>
<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: <i>Private Lives – A Streetcar Named Desire – The Homecoming – The History Boys – That Face - Jerusalem</i></p> <p>Prose choices: <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 one theme from a choice of 6:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Childhood Colonisation and its Aftermath Crime and Detection Science and Society The Supernatural Women and Society <p>From your chosen theme you choose two texts from a choice of 4. One text must be pre-1900.</p> <p>Childhood Pre-1900: <i>What Maisie Knew - Hard Times</i> Post-1900: <i>Atonement - The Color Purple</i></p> <p>Colonisation and its Aftermath Pre-1900: <i>Heart of Darkness - The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn</i> Post-1900: <i>A Passage to India - The Lonely Londoners</i></p> <p>Crime and Detection Pre-1900: <i>Lady Audley’s Secret - The Moonstone</i> Post-1900: <i>In Cold Blood - The Murder Room</i></p> <p>Science and Society Pre-1900: <i>Frankenstein - The War of the Worlds</i></p>



OCR AS Level English Literature	Edexcel AS Level English Literature
	<p>Post-1900: <i>Never Let Me Go - The Handmaid's Tale</i></p> <p>The Supernatural</p> <p>Pre-1900: <i>The Picture of Dorian Gray - Dracula</i></p> <p>Post-1900: <i>The Little Stranger - Beloved</i></p> <p>Women and Society</p> <p>Pre-1900: <i>Wuthering Heights - Tess of the D'Urbervilles</i></p> <p>Post-1900: <i>Mrs Dalloway - A Thousand Splendid Suns</i></p>

Assessment

OCR AS English Literature	Edexcel AS English Literature
<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>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 1: Poetry and drama</p> <p>60% of AS</p> <p>Written paper: 2 hours (open text)</p> <p>72 marks</p> <p>Section A – Poetry</p> <p>One comparative essay from a choice of two. (24 marks)</p> <p>Section B – Drama</p> <p>One essay question from a choice of two. (48 marks)</p>



OCR AS English Literature	Edexcel AS English Literature
<p>Paper 2: Drama and prose post-1900</p> <p>50% of AS</p> <p>Written paper: 1 hour 45 minutes (closed text)</p> <p>60 marks</p> <p>Section 1 - Drama:</p> <p>One essay question from a choice of two. (30 marks)</p> <p>Section 2 - Prose:</p> <p>One essay question on set text, making links with a thematically linked unseen prose extract. (30 marks)</p>	<p>Paper 2: Prose</p> <p>40% of AS</p> <p>Written paper: 1 hour (open text)</p> <p>44 marks</p> <p>One comparative essay question from a choice of two on their studied theme. (44 marks)</p>



A LEVEL ENGLISH LITERATURE

Content

OCR A Level English Literature	Edexcel A Level English Literature
<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 a critical anthology:</p> <p>Drama</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One Shakespeare set text (Exam) • One pre-1900 or post-1900 set text (Exam) <p>Poetry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One specified post-2000 text (Exam) • One pre-1900 or post-1900 set text (Exam) <p>Prose</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two texts, including at least one pre-1900 text on a chosen theme (Exam) <p>AND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two texts of own choosing: drama, poetry or prose (NEA) • Shakespeare: A Critical Anthology (Exam) <p>Six texts are assessed in the exams, plus a critical anthology.</p> <p>Two texts are assessed in the non-examined assessment.</p>
<p>In Paper 1 you choose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One Shakespeare text from a choice of 6 	<p>In Paper 1 you choose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One literary genre: either Tragedy or Comedy



OCR A Level English Literature	Edexcel A Level English Literature
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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>THEN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One Shakespeare text from a choice of 4 • Either one pre-1900 or one post-1900 drama text from a choice of 4 <p>Tragedy choices:</p> <p>Shakespeare: <i>Antony and Cleopatra – Hamlet – King Lear – Othello</i></p> <p>Drama pre-1900: <i>Dr Faustus – The Duchess of Malfi</i></p> <p>Drama post-1900: <i>The Home Place – A Streetcar Named Desire</i></p> <p>Comedy choices:</p> <p>Shakespeare: <i>A Midsummer Night’s Dream – Measure for Measure – The Taming of the Shrew – Twelfth Night</i></p> <p>Drama pre-1900: <i>The Importance of Being Earnest – The Rover</i></p> <p>Drama post-1900: <i>The Pitmen Painters – Waiting for Godot</i></p>
<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>In Paper 2 you choose one theme from a choice of 6:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Childhood • Colonisation and its Aftermath • Crime and Detection • Science and Society • The Supernatural • Women and Society



OCR A Level English Literature	Edexcel A Level English Literature
<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 – The Grapes of Wrath</i></p> <p>The Gothic <i>Dracula – The Bloody Chamber & Other Stories</i></p> <p>Dystopia <i>Nineteen Eighty-Four – The Handmaid's Tale</i></p> <p>Women in Literature <i>Mrs Dalloway – Sense and Sensibility</i></p> <p>The Immigrant Experience <i>The Reluctant Fundamentalist – 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>From your chosen theme you choose two texts from a choice of 4. One text must be pre-1900.</p> <p>Childhood Pre-1900: <i>What Maisie Knew - Hard Times</i> Post-1900: <i>Atonement - The Color Purple</i></p> <p>Colonisation and its Aftermath Pre-1900: <i>Heart of Darkness - The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn</i> Post-1900: <i>A Passage to India - The Lonely Londoners</i></p> <p>Crime and Detection Pre-1900: <i>Lady Audley's Secret - The Moonstone</i> Post-1900: <i>In Cold Blood - The Murder Room</i></p> <p>Science and Society Pre-1900: <i>Frankenstein - The War of the Worlds</i> Post-1900: <i>Never Let Me Go - The Handmaid's Tale</i></p> <p>The Supernatural Pre-1900: <i>The Picture of Dorian Gray - Dracula</i> Post-1900: <i>The Little Stranger - Beloved</i></p> <p>Women and Society Pre-1900: <i>Wuthering Heights - Tess of the D'Urbervilles</i> Post-1900: <i>Mrs Dalloway - A Thousand Splendid Suns</i></p>



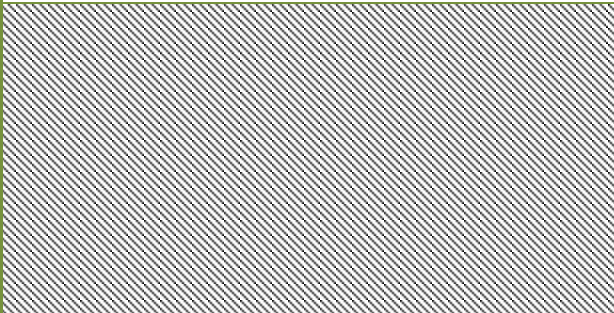
OCR A Level English Literature	Edexcel A Level English Literature
<p>For the NEA you choose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One drama text of your own choosing • One poetry text of your own choosing • One prose text of your own choosing <p>All texts must be post-1900. At least one text must be post-2000.</p>	<p>In Paper 3 you study:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One specified post-2000 poetry text • One pre-1900 or post-1900 poetry text from a choice of 6 <p>Specified post-2000 text: <i>Poems of the Decade: An Anthology of the Forward Books of Poetry 2002–2011</i></p> <p>Pre-1900 choices:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medieval Poetic Drama OR Medieval Poet: Geoffrey Chaucer • Metaphysical Poetry The Metaphysical Poets OR Metaphysical Poet: John Donne • The Romantic Period The Romantics OR Romantic Poet: John Keats • The Victorian Period The Victorians OR Victorian Poet: Christina Rossetti <p>Post-1900 choices:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modernism OR Modernist Poet: T S Eliot • The Movement OR The Movement Poet: Philip Larkin
	<p>For the NEA you choose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two texts of your choosing from the genres of drama, poetry or prose



Assessment

OCR A Level English Literature	EDEXCEL A Level English Literature
<p>Paper 1: Drama and poetry pre-1900 40% of A level Written paper: 2 hours 30 minutes (closed text) 60 marks</p> <p>Section 1 - Shakespeare: One two-part question: a) close analysis of an extract (15 marks) b) discursive essay considering a given proposition (15 marks)</p> <p>Section 2 - Drama and poetry pre-1900: 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: Drama 30% of A level Written paper: 2 hours 15 minutes (open text) 60 marks</p> <p>Section A – Shakespeare One discursive essay question from a choice of two. (35 marks)</p> <p>Section B - Other drama One discursive essay question from a choice of two. (25 marks)</p>
<p>Paper 2: Comparative and contextual study 40% of A level 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: Prose 20% of A level Written paper: 1 hour (open text) 40 marks</p> <p>One comparative essay question from a choice of two based on chosen theme.</p>



<p>Component 3: Literature post-1900;</p> <p>20% of A level</p> <p>Non-examined assessment</p> <p>40 marks</p> <p>Learners complete two tasks on chosen texts:</p> <p>Task 1: Close reading or re-creative writing piece with commentary (15 marks)</p> <p>Task 2: Comparative essay (25 marks)</p>	<p>Paper 3: Poetry</p> <p>30% of A level</p> <p>Written paper: 2 hours 15 minutes (open text)</p> <p>60 marks</p> <p>Section A – Post-2000 poetry</p> <p>One comparative essay question from a choice of two on an unseen modern poem written post-2000 and one named poem from the studied contemporary text. (30 marks)</p> <p>Section B - Specified Poetry Pre- or Post-1900</p> <p>One essay question from a choice of two on the studied text. (30 marks)</p>
	<p>Component 4: Coursework</p> <p>20% of A level</p> <p>Non-examined assessment</p> <p>60 marks</p> <p>Learner complete one extended comparative essay task.</p>



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. Browse the teaching and learning resources including [online delivery guides](#) for teaching ideas and use the [Scheme of Work builder](#) to create your personal scheme of work.
3. Get in touch if you'd like specific advice, guidance or support – email english@ocr.org.uk or telephone 01223 553 998.
4. 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.
5. Sign up to receive [subject updates](#) by email.
6. 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.
7. Attend one of our free regional [teacher network events](#).

