

# WHGS Sixth Form



**William Hulme's Grammar School**  
The best in everyone™  
Part of United Learning

## English Literature

*Engage*

*Endeavour*

*Excel*



**Entry Requirements:** Grade 6 or more in English Literature and English language

**Pass Rate:** 100%

**Exam Board:** AQA

### Year 12 and Year 13

Study of texts within the chosen literary and cultural genres in the examined topic areas is enhanced by the study of critical theory in the non-exam assessment. In this way, students can gain a solid understanding of how texts can be connected and how they can be interpreted in multiple ways so that students can arrive at their own interpretations and become confident independent readers. Students are then not only equipped with the knowledge and skills needed for both exams and non-exam assessment, but also experience a rich, challenging and coherent approach to English literature that provides an excellent basis for studying the subject at university.

The specification encourages the exploration of texts in a number of different ways:

- the study of texts within specific genres
- the study of texts through engagement with a range of theoretical ideas
- writing about texts in a number of different ways.



# A Level English Literature AQA Specification

## Content

### Examples of texts that you could study:

Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini, The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood, Henry the IV Part 1 by William Shakespeare, Pre – 1900 poets such as Robert Browning and Oscar Wilde. You will learn critical theory which will inform your reading of texts i.e. Marxist Theory and Feminist theory, narrative theory, eco-critical theory, post-colonial theory and literary value and the canon.

## A-Level Assessment

### Paper 1: Literary genres

Choice of two options

- **Option 1A:** Aspects of tragedy
- **Option 1B:** Aspects of comedy

Study of three texts: one Shakespeare text; a second drama text and one further text, of which one must be written pre-1900.

2 hours 30 minutes/Closed book

- Worth 40% of A-level

### Questions

- **Section A:** one passage-based question on set Shakespeare text (25 marks)
- **Section B:** one essay question on set Shakespeare text (25 marks)
- **Section C:** one essay question linking two texts (25 marks)

### Paper 2: Texts and Genres

Choice of two options

- **Option 2A:** Elements of crime writing
- **Option 2B:** Elements of political and social protest writing

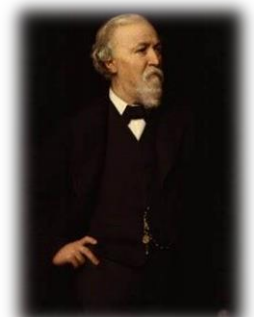
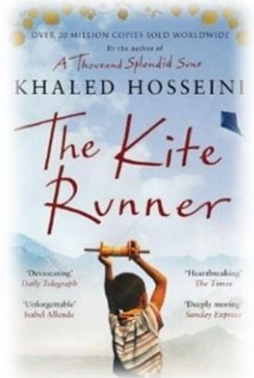
Study of three texts: one post-2000 prose text; one poetry and one further text, one of which must be written pre-1900

Examination will include an unseen passage. Written exam: 3 hours / open book

- Worth 40% of A-level

### Questions

- **Section A:** one compulsory question on an unseen passage (25 marks)
- **Section B:** one essay question on set text (25 marks)
- **Section C:** one essay question which connects two texts (25 marks)



## Non-Exam Assessment: Theory and Independence

### What's Assessed

Study of two texts: one poetry and one prose text, informed by study of the Critical Anthology

Two essays of 1250–1500 words, each responding to a different text and linking to a different aspect of the Critical anthology. One essay can be re-creative. The re-creative piece will be accompanied by a commentary. Worth 20% of grade.

### Beyond A-Levels: Future Career Aspirations

There are many areas of further study which English Literature study can open for you. As a core subject and essay-based subject it is accepted by many top tier universities in the country for a range of courses. You will learn many important skills throughout the course such as critical thinking. Literature is the study of the human condition. Through its study you can better understand yourself and the people around you. You will read a range of texts which may not have been available to you otherwise. You will enjoy discussions where you will share your interpretations of texts. You will strengthen communication skills and emerge an independent learner that is ready for further education or the world of work.

