

# GCSE English Literature

## Course details

### English Literature curriculum

We study literature to **explore the human condition**, to develop empathy and understanding of cultures and contexts that differ from our own. The English department aspires to cultivate a culture of reading for pleasure, of life long readers who are inspired to become writers.

We strive to create critical and creative thinkers who can **communicate their opinions and ideas with confidence**. We work towards instilling in our learners a passion for literature and to allow them to use their study of literature as an avenue for further learning.

### **Paper 1 Shakespeare and the 19th-century novel**

**Section A Shakespeare:** students will answer one question on their play of choice. They will be required to write in detail about an extract from the play and then to write about the play as a whole.

**Section B The 19th-century novel:** students will answer one question on their novel of choice. They will be required to write in detail about an extract from the novel and then to write about the novel as a whole.

### **Paper 2 Modern Texts and Poetry**

**Section A Modern texts:** students will answer one essay question from a choice of two on their studied modern prose or drama text.

**Section B Poetry:** students will answer one comparative question on one named poem printed on the paper and one other poem from their chosen anthology cluster.

**Section C Unseen poetry:** Students will answer one question on one unseen poem and one question comparing this poem with a second unseen poem.

## Units covered

### **Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th-century novel**

- Shakespeare play – **Macbeth**
- The 19th-century novel – **A Christmas Carol**

Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes  
64 marks 40% of GCSE

### **Paper 2: Modern texts and poetry**

- Modern prose or drama texts – **An Inspector Calls**
- The poetry anthology – **Power and Conflict**
- Unseen poetry

Written exam: 2 hour 15 minutes  
96 marks - 60% of GCSE

