AS and A LEVEL ENGLISH LITERATURE

Switching to OCR from Eduqas

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	Eduqas AS and A Level English Literature
At A Level, there are **two examined components with a total of 5 hours' exam time**. Both papers in each qualification are of **similar length, format and structure**.	At A Level, there are **three examined components with a total of 6 hours' exam time**. The **weighting and marks vary** across the three exams.
Learners respond to one **unseen text from within their chosen topic area** for Paper 2. This means that learners can **use their knowledge and understanding of the chosen topic area to support them** with analysis of the unseen extract.	Learners must **tackle two unseen texts** in the exam. First they complete an **analysis of an unseen prose passage**, then an **analysis of an unseen poem** or extract.
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. The **variety and breadth of text choice** means that there are **many opportunities for a personal approach tailored to learners' and teachers' interests**.	Learners **focus on one genre** for examined components.
The **same Shakespeare text choices are given at AS and A level**. Learners that go on to A level 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 A level will need to **study a new Shakespeare text in one year**.
There is **optional task choice** for the NEA.	There is **one task** for the NEA.

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Content

OCR AS Level English Literature	Eduqas AS Level English Literature
Learners study 4 texts in total: **Drama** • One Shakespeare set text (Exam) • One post-1900 set text (Exam) **Poetry** • One pre-1900 set text (Exam) **Prose** • One post-1900 set text (Exam) Learners will also respond to an unseen prose extract that is linked to their set prose text.	Learners study 4 texts in total: **Drama** • One set text (Exam) **Poetry** • One set text (Exam) **Prose** • One pre-1900 set text (Exam) • One post-1900 set text (Exam)
In Paper 1 you choose: • One Shakespeare text from **a choice of 6** • One pre-1900 poetry text from **a choice of 5** **Shakespeare choices:** *Coriolanus – Hamlet – Measure for Measure – Richard III – The Tempest – Twelfth Night* **Pre-1900 poetry choices:** *The Merchant's Prologue and Tale – Paradise Lost Books 9 & 10 – Samuel Taylor Coleridge: Selected poems – Alfred, Lord Tennyson: Maud – Christina Rossetti: Selected poems*	In Paper 1 you choose: • One pre-1900 prose text from **a choice of 5** • One post-1900 prose text from **a choice of 5** **Pre-1900 prose choices:** *Sense and Sensibility – Jane Eyre – North and South – David Copperfield – The Mayor of Casterbridge* **Post-1900 prose choices:** *The Secret Agent – A Room with a View – A Toy Epic – Wide Sargasso Sea – The Remains of the Day*

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In Paper 2 you choose: • One post-1900 drama text from **a choice of 6** • One post-1900 prose text from **a choice of 5** **Drama choices:** *Private Lives – A Streetcar Named Desire – The Homecoming – The History Boys – That Face - Jerusalem* **Prose choices:** *The Great Gatsby - The Bloody Chamber & Other Stories - Nineteen Eighty-Four – Mrs Dalloway – The Reluctant Fundamentalist*	In Paper 2 you choose: • One poetry text from **a choice of 5** • One drama text from **a choice of 5** **Poetry choices:** Thomas Hardy: *Poems selected by Tom Paulin* – Ted Hughes: *Poems selected by Simon Armitage* – Seamus Heaney: *Field Work* – Gillian Clarke: *Making the Beds for the Dead* – Carol Ann Duffy: Mean Time **Drama choices:** *Doctor Faustus* – *Lady Windermere's Fan* – *A Streetcar Named Desire* – *Murmuring Judges* – *Loot*

Assessment

OCR AS English Literature	EDUQAS AS English Literature
Paper 1: Shakespeare and poetry pre-1900 50% of AS Written paper: 1 hour 30 minutes (closed text) 60 marks **Section 1 - Shakespeare:** One discursive essay question from a choice of two. (30 marks) **Section 2 – Poetry pre-1900:** 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)	**Paper 1: Prose** 50% of AS Written paper: 2 hours (closed text) 100 marks **Section A: Prose fiction pre-1900:** One two-part question: a) close analysis of an extract b) discursive essay considering the whole novel. **Section B: Prose fiction post-1900:** One essay question from a choice of two.

OCR AS English Literature	EDUQAS AS English Literature
Paper 2: Drama and prose post-1900 50% of AS Written paper: 1 hour 45 minutes (closed text) 60 marks **Section 1 - Drama:** One essay question from a choice of two. (30 marks) **Section 2 - Prose:** One essay question on set text, making links with a thematically linked unseen prose extract. (30 marks)	**Paper 2: Poetry and drama** 50% of AS Written paper: 2 hours 100 marks **Section A: Poetry** (open text, clean copy) : One essay question from a choice of two. **Section B: Drama** (closed text): One two-part question: a) close analysis of an extract b) discursive essay considering the whole play.

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OCR A Level English Literature	Eduqas A Level English Literature
Learners study 8 texts in total: **Drama** • One Shakespeare set text (Exam) • One pre-1900 set text (Exam) • One post-1900 or post-2000 text of own choosing (NEA) **Poetry** • One pre-1900 set text (Exam) • One post-1900 or post-2000 text of own choosing (NEA) **Prose** • Two set texts from chosen topic area (Exam) • One post-1900 or post-2000 text of own choosing (NEA) **Five** texts are assessed in the exams. **Three** texts are assessed in the non-examined assessment.	Learners study 8 texts in total: **Drama** • One Shakespeare set text (Exam) • Two paired set texts: one pre-1900 and one post-1900 (Exam) **Poetry** • One pre-1900 set text (Exam) • Two post-1900 paired set texts (Exam) • One unseen poem or extract (Exam) **Prose** • One unseen prose passage (Exam) • One pre-2000 text of own choosing (NEA) • One post-2000 text of own choosing (NEA) **Six** texts are assessed in the exams **Two** texts are assessed in the non-examined assessment.
In Paper 1 you choose: • 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**	In Paper 1 you choose: • One pre-1900 poetry text from **a choice of 5** • Two post-1900 paired poetry texts from **a choice of 5 pairings**

OCR A Level English Literature	Eduqas A Level English Literature
Shakespeare choices: *Coriolanus – Hamlet – Measure for Measure – Richard III – The Tempest – Twelfth Night* **Pre-1900 drama choices:** *Edward II – The Duchess of Malfi – She Stoops to Conquer – A Doll's House – An Ideal Husband* **Pre-1900 poetry choices:** *The Merchant's Prologue and Tale – Paradise Lost Books 9 & 10 – Samuel Taylor Coleridge: Selected poems – Alfred, Lord Tennyson: Maud – Christina Rossetti: Selected poems*	**Pre- 1900 poetry choices:** *The Merchant's Prologue and Tale – John Donne: Selected Poems – Paradise Lost Book 9 – John Keats: Selected Poems – Christina Rossetti: Selected Poems* **Post-1900 poetry pairings:** Thomas Hardy: *Poems selected by Tom Paulin* T S Eliot: *Selected Poems* D H Lawrence: *Selected Poems* Gillian Clarke: *Making the Beds for the Dead* Ted Hughes: *Poems selected by Simon Armitage* Sylvia Plath: *Poems selected by Ted Hughes* Philip Larkin: *The Whitsun Weddings* Carol Ann Duffy: *Mean Time* Seamus Heaney: *Field Work* Owen Sheers: *Skirrid Hill*
In Paper 2 you choose one topic area from **a choice of 5:** • American Literature 1880-1940 • The Gothic • Dystopia • Women in Literature • The Immigrant Experience From your chosen topic area you choose: • One core text from **a choice of 2** • One other text from **a choice of 9**	In Paper 2 you choose: • One Shakespeare play from **a choice of 5** • Two paired drama texts, one pre-1900 and one post-1900, from **a choice of 5 pairings** **Shakespeare choices:** *King Lear – Antony and Cleopatra – Hamlet – Henry IV Part 1 – The Tempest*

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Core text choices: American Literature 1880-1940 *The Great Gatsby – The Grape of Wrath* The Gothic *Dracula – The Bloody Chamber & Other Stories* Dystopia *Nineteen Eighty-Four – The Handmaid's Tale* Women in Literature *Mrs Dalloway – Sense and Sensibility* The Immigrant Experience *The Reluctant Fundamentalist – Call It Sleep* The list of other texts to choose from for each topic area can be found in the specification.	**Drama pairings:** *Doctor Faustus* *Enron* *The Duchess of Malfi* *A Streetcar Named Desire* *The Revenger's Tragedy* *Loot* *Lady Windermere's Fan* *Betrayal* Measure *for Measure* *Murmuring Judges*
For the NEA you choose: - One drama text of **your own choosing** - One poetry text of **your own choosing** - One prose text of **your own choosing** All texts must be post-1900. At least one text must be post-2000.	In Paper 3 you study: - One **unseen prose passage** from 1880 - 1910 OR one **unseen prose passage** from 1918 -1939 - One **unseen poem or extract**
	For the NEA you choose: Two texts **of your choosing**: one published pre-2000 and one published post-2000

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Assessment

OCR A Level English Literature	Eduqas A Level English Literature
Paper 1: Drama and poetry pre-1900	**Paper 1: Poetry**
40% of A level	30% of A level
Written paper: 2 hours 30 minutes (closed text)	Written paper: 2 hours (open text, clean copies)
60 marks	120 marks
Section 1 - Shakespeare:	**Section A - Poetry pre-1900:**
One two-part question:	One two-part question:
a) close analysis of an extract (15 marks)	a) close analysis of a poem or extract
b) discursive essay considering a given proposition (15 marks)	b) discursive essay on wider poetry text
Section 2 - Drama and poetry pre-1900:	**Section B - Poetry post-1900:**
One comparative essay question from a choice of six, comparing a set drama text with a set poetry text. (30 marks)	One question from a choice of two based chosen text pairing.
Paper 2: Comparative and contextual study 40% of A level	**Paper 2: Drama**
	30% of A level
Written paper: 2 hours 30 minutes (closed text)	Written paper: 2 hours (closed text)
60 marks	120 marks
Two questions based on chosen topic area:	
• Close reading: one unseen prose task based on the topic area studied. (30 marks)	**Section A – Shakespeare:**
	a) close analysis of a extract
	b) discursive essay on wider play
• Comparative essay: one essay task from a choice of three (depending on texts studied) comparing two studied texts. (30 marks)	**Section B – Drama:**
	One comparative essay from a choice of two.

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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)	**Paper 3: Unseen texts** 20% of A level Written paper: 2 hours 80 marks **Section A - Unseen prose:** One question from a choice of two requiring close analysis of an unseen passage **Section B – Unseen poetry:** One question from a choice of 2 requiring close analysis of an unseen poem or extract
	Component 4: Prose study 20% of A level Non-examined assessment Learner complete one extended comparative essay task on chosen texts.

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.