Southend High School for Girls
Sixth FORM

Course outline

Head of subject:
Ms L Wilkins

Minimum entry requirements:
Grade 6 in GCSE English Literature and English Language

English Literature

What will you study in Year 12?

Unit 1: Love through the ages

You will study the central literary theme of love, as seen over time. You will study drama, poetry and prose. Our set texts are Shakespeare's Othello, an anthology of pre-1900 poetry, and Daphne du Maurier's Rebecca. Additionally, you will develop your understanding of poetry through analysis of unseen poems. You will learn to compare texts which are thematically linked – specifically Rebecca and the AQA Love through the Ages poetry anthology – and gain confidence in your use of literary and critical concepts. In addition, you will be given the tools to enable you to respond with assurance to poems which are previously unseen.

Independent critical study: texts across time

Towards the end of Year 12 you will begin your coursework: an independent comparative study. You are required to select two texts and to decide on the theme you want to explore through them. The coursework element of the course will develop your research skills and you will foster an appreciation of cultural and contextual influences upon readers and writers.

What will you study in Year 13?

Unit 2: Texts in shared contexts: WW1 and its aftermath

Where Year 12 focusses on a literary theme, Year 13 is centred on exploring aspects of literature connected through a period of time. The set drama text is R.C. Sherriff's Journey's End. The prose text is Ben Elton's The First Casualty, which is compared with a collection of Wilfred Owen's poetry. You will also practise independent analysis through engagement with unseen prose extracts taken from writing about WW1.

Your coursework is completed by the second term of Year 13.

How will you be assessed during the course?

In school

Alongside consolidating and developing your understanding of our set and unseen texts, classwork prepares you for assessment. You will frequently have the opportunity in class to write exam style answers to develop your skills. Your PPE at the end of Year 12 is an example of an A level Paper 1. Your PPE in Year 13 follows the format of an A level Paper 2.

External

Paper 1: Love through the ages –
40% – written examination (3 hours)

Paper 2: Texts in shared contexts –
40% – written examination (2 hours 30 minutes)

Non-exam assessment: independent critical study: texts across time – 20% - coursework

Where will this course lead?

An A level in English Literature is a prestigious A level as it proves an ability to communicate clearly and concisely as well as select evidence and information to create original arguments. As such, the A level is valued in numerous degrees and professions where intelligent communication and deductions are needed: medicine, law, teaching, personnel, administration, the creative arts, the media and public relations to name but a few.

Extra curricular

We run theatre trips when available to enable you to see the plays you are studying in performance. We also run study days to Education in Action conferences. There are extension and support session that run on a Wednesday lunchtime.

Super curricular

We encourage you to enter competitions such as the Gould prize for essays, Trinity College Cambridge and Penguin's Writing prizes. You will also be expected to read independently throughout the course.

Further information

AQA English Literature Specification A:
https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/a-level/english-7712/specification/subject-content