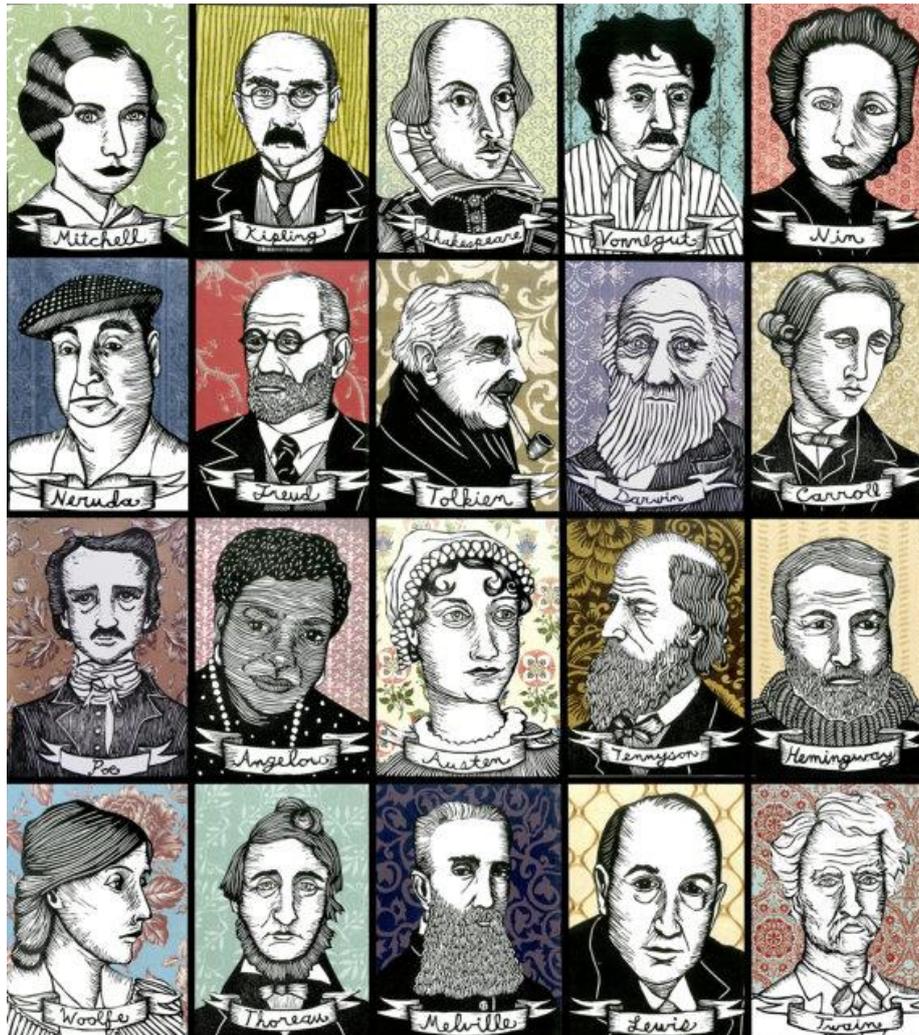




A-level English Literature



Good Choice!

Students of literature go on to study at top universities, and succeed in careers as diverse as law, politics, journalism, charitable professions, education and arts administration.

What is Literature?

Literature is the study of texts. These include fiction, drama, poetry and prose other than fiction (memoir or essays). Though you might read materials closely in other subjects, the language in which something is written becomes especially important in literature. Rather than simply understanding something, you will be required to over-stand it! That is, respond to everything it offers both superficially and at deeper levels. You will also be required to approach texts from different perspectives including feminism, Marxism, psychoanalysis and historicism. Indeed, you will also be required to understand literary texts as part of broader contexts of production and reception. That is, *Othello* is a different text today than it was in Shakespeare's time, when the world was seen and experienced very differently; we need to grasp what it meant in 1606 and what it means to us now.

The Course

A-level in English literature consists of three externally examined exams and one coursework component. You will study eight literary texts plus unseen poetry. This is a two year course and examinations will be taken at the end of two years.

It is expected that you will purchase your own copies of the set texts to use throughout the course. There will be a great deal of reading as preparation for discussion work in lessons, so you must have constant access to the texts.

You will need to have read the set texts before the course begins and possibly other works of the period, author and theme. Please bring all summer preparation work with you to your first lesson in September.

If you have any questions please contact Mr Patterson:
r_patterson@taverhamhigh.org

What do current students of literature say about it?

"Facilitates a broader view of life – I never knew how many other subjects related to literature"

"Opens up your mind to hundreds of new perspectives, ideas and theories; these come from all over the world and across time"

"The depth you go into is incredible, looking beyond the surface level of literature can seem intimidating at first, but it fuels your curiosity to a point where you will not be able to stop asking questions and explore further"

Course Summary

Teacher	Starting with...	Following with...
Mr Patterson	<i>The Great Modern Poets</i>	<i>Decades Anthology</i>
Miss Hollis	<i>Heart of Darkness</i> Joseph Conrad	<i>The Lonely Londoners</i> Sam Selvon
	<i>Othello</i> William Shakespeare	<i>The Importance of Being Earnest</i> Oscar Wilde

Coursework	
Across all teachers	<i>The Handmaid's Tale</i> by Margaret Atwood, compared to a text of your choice (thematically or contextually linked)

Component 1: Drama: externally assessed

(weighting – 30% of entire A-level)

- one Shakespeare play and one other drama from either tragedy or comedy
- critical essays related to the Shakespeare play
- assessment: external exam 2 hours and 15 minutes
- clean copies of the drama texts can be taken into the exam
- total 60 marks available/30% of total qualification
 - 35 marks for section A (Shakespeare)
 - 25 marks for section B (other drama)
- texts: *Othello* with *Critical Anthology* and *The Importance of Being Earnest*

Component 2: Prose: externally assessed

(weighting - 20% of entire A-level)

- two prose texts from a chosen theme, at least one pre-1900
- assessment: external exam 1 hour
- clean copies of the texts can be taken into the examination
- total 40 marks available/20% of total qualification
- texts: *The Heart of Darkness* and *The Lonely Londoners*

Component 3: Poetry: externally assessed

(weighting – 30% of entire A-level)

- you will study:
 - poetic form, meaning and language
 - a selection of post-2000 specified poetry
 - a specific range of poetry from **either** a literary period (either pre or post 1900) **or** a named poet from a literary period
- assessment: external exam 2 hours and 15 minutes
- clean copies of the texts can be taken into the examination
- two sections to the exam:
 - Section A: post 2000 specified poetry
 - one comparative essay question on an unseen modern poem written post 2000
 - one named poem from the studied contemporary text
 - Section B – specified poetry
 - one essay question on either the poet or period studied
- total 60 marks available/30% of total qualification
- texts: *Forward Anthology Poems of the Decade* and *The Great Modern Poets*

Component 4: Coursework: internally assessed

(weighting 20% of entire A level)

You will choose a text to study next to Margaret Atwood's *The Handmaid's Tale* which must be different from those studied in components 1, 2 and 3. They are to be linked by theme, movement, author or period and may be selected from poetry, prose, drama or literary non-fiction. Choice to be made by May 2020 and approved by your teacher.

- one extended comparative essay
- word count 2500-3000 words
- total 60 marks available/20% of total qualification
- internally assessed, externally moderated

Summer Holiday Preparation Work

Preparation for studying Prose (*Heart of Darkness* and *The Lonely Londoners*)

- 1) Research colonialism/post-colonialism in relation to Africa (*The Scramble for Africa*).
- 2) Research HMS Windrush and the current political climate/argument surrounding immigration/deportation.
- 3) Think about the purpose of literature as historical documentation i.e. how does fiction teach us about the past?
- 4) Research 'fin de siècle' (literature, art, essays).
 - What was the movement?
 - Why was it important?
 - What was its significance in terms of bridging the gap between the sensationalism/realism of the Victorian novel and modernism?
 - How did literature reflect attitudes to gender, sexuality, immigration, class and scientific discovery?
 - Are there any common themes/outcomes?

Preparation for studying Drama (*Othello*)

- 1) Identify what themes you consider to be central to the play. Justify your choices.
- 2) Research tragedy and revenge tragedy as a form of drama. Consider how it has changed over time and significant plays to make use of this.
- 3) Research the historical and literary contexts that influenced Shakespeare's *Othello*.
- 4) Research 17th century attitudes to colonialism and race.

Purchase information

You will be expected to buy all texts we study during A-level literature. The ISBN numbers are below for each text (via Amazon).

Heart of Darkness (J Conrad)	ISBN-10: 0141441674
The Lonely Londoners (S Selvon)	ISBN-10: 9780141188
Othello (W Shakespeare)	ISBN-10: 1107615593
Importance of Being Earnest (O Wilde)	ISBN-10: 9780199535
The Great Modern Poets (M Schmidt)	ISBN-10: 184866866X
Decades Anthology (various)	ISBN-10: 0571325408
The Handmaid's Tale (M Atwood)	ISBN-10: 1784873187
Your text choice to compare to THT	You do not know this yet!