



# STUDYING A LEVELS

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# **A Levels: *an overview***

- **Advanced Level Qualifications**
- **Subject-based**
- **You would study 3+ A Levels**
- **In-depth study into the subjects**
- **All A Level have entry requirements**
- **Usually assessed by a series of examinations**
- **Lead to university, further study, training or work**

# A Level Subjects

- Progression from GCSE
- Same subjects
- New subjects
- Approx. 30 A Level subjects



# CONSIDERING A LEVELS?

## Who are they for?



- **If you're thinking about going to university**, most higher education courses require specific A levels or combinations of A levels (or alternative level 3 qualifications).
- **If you're not sure what career or job you want to do**, studying a selection of A levels can be a good way of keeping your options open.



# CHOOSING A LEVEL SUBJECTS

## Choosing A level subjects

The most important criteria for choosing A levels subjects are:



- 1 Looking at what you are likely to enjoy and be good at. If you enjoy a subject or have an ability in it already, you are more likely to do well.
- 2 Are there any particular subjects and/or grades you may need? If you have a particular career, job, or further study in mind, you may need to choose specific A levels in order to meet entry requirements.
- 3 How open you want to keep your future study and career choices?



# IN-DEPTH STUDY

**For each A Level...**

Lessons: 5 hours per week

Independent study: 5 hours per week

Homework - directed  
Essays  
Textbook exercises  
Exam papers  
Wider reading  
Pre-reading  
Making revision materials

**ENSURE YOU ARE  
STUDYING  
SUBJECTS YOU ARE  
INTERESTED IN!**



# Research A Levels carefully

## A Level English Literature

### Exam Board/Specification

AQA A Level English Literature (Specification B)

### Course Content

The course offers opportunities for students to develop analytical expertise by engaging critically with a wide range of literary texts. Students will analyse and reflect critically on a wide variety of literary texts and critical theories, as well as assessing and reflecting on their own processes of essay production.

A Level English Literature focuses on:

- Aspects of Comedy with a focus on drama (particularly Shakespeare) and prose fiction
- Genre Elements of Crime through a variety of unseen and studied texts, both prose and poetry, 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Century texts will be studied
- Critical Theory - Marxist, Feminist, Post-Colonial and Narrative theory can all be studied

### How Will I Be Assessed?

#### Paper 1 - 40%

- Extract-based question on a Shakespearean comedy text
- Essay on aspects of comedy in a Shakespearean comedy text
- Comparative study of two other comedy texts relating to aspects of comedy

#### Paper 2 - 40%

- Essay on an unseen crime text
- Detailed exploration of a studied crime text

- Comparative study of two crime texts with relation to an aspect of the genre

#### Non-Exam Assessment (Coursework) - 20%

- Narrative investigation of a novel for independent study
- Critical response to a collection of poems for independent study

### Skills and Prospects

Studying English Literature allows students to develop their ability to express themselves with increasing competence, sophistication and independence, whilst encouraging analytical literary study of a wide variety of highly sophisticated literary texts. Students will undertake a varied programme of reading and develop skills of responding critically and perceptively to them. They will learn to analyse texts in detail, investigate literary concepts and develop skills of independent study. These are skills highly valued in the job market and essential in higher education.

A Level English Literature complements essay based A Levels including Sociology, English Language and History. It also has clear connections with Politics and Classical Civilisation. As a discipline which demands thorough and perceptive analysis of texts, it enhances all programmes of study. The course leads to a qualification which not only facilitates access to all higher education establishments, but also a wide range of career opportunities, including Teaching, Writing and Journalism.

### What Do I Need?

- High Storrs entry requirements (page 3)
- Course specific requirements (page 38)



# ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- Minimum of 5 GCSEs
  - 9-4 passes
  - Including English Language & Maths
- PLUS**
- Subject specific entry-requirements
  - Arts: 5+ passes
  - Sciences: 6+ passes





# A LEVELS = LINEAR

- Exams at the end of 2 years
- 2-3 exams per subject
- Could be 2-3 hour exams
- Some coursework (NEA) ... but small % of grade
- Every lesson is important
- So: consistent approach is important
- Marathon (not a rest then a sprint!)

# PROGRESSION



**UNIVERSITY**



**FURTHER  
STUDY**



**FURTHER  
TRAINING**



**EMPLOYMENT**