



English Literature

IGCSE English Literature



KS4: YEARS 10 AND 11

CURRICULUM: 2025 - 2026

Subject: English Literature

Course Title: Cambridge IGCSE English Literature

Why study this subject:

The course allows students to:

- Read, interpret and evaluate texts through the study of literature in English;
- Develop an understanding of literal and implicit meaning, relevant contexts and of the deeper themes or attitudes that may be expressed;
- Recognise and appreciate the ways in which writers use English to achieve a range of effects;
- Present an informed, personal response to materials they have studied;
- Explore wider and universal issues, promoting students' better understanding of themselves and of the world around them

Aims of this subject:

- to enjoy the experience of reading literature;
- to understand and respond to literary texts in different forms and from different periods and cultures;
- to communicate an informed personal response appropriately and effectively;
- to appreciate different ways in which writers achieve their effects;
- to experience literature's contribution to aesthetic, imaginative and intellectual growth;
- to explore the contribution of literature to an understanding of areas of human concern

Assessment at a glance:

Component 1

Poetry and Prose *1 hour 30 minutes*

Candidates answer two questions on two texts: one poetry and one prose.

There is a choice of two questions (one passage-based and one essay) on each text.

50 marks

Externally marked

Component 2

Drama *1 hour 30 minutes*

Candidates answer two questions on two texts.

There is a choice of two questions on each text: (one passage-based and one essay) on each text.

50 marks

Externally marked

Curriculum content:

Paper 1: Poetry and Prose – Closed Books

There are four Assessment Objectives (AOs) and candidates are assessed on their ability to:

AO1: Show detailed knowledge of the content of literary texts in the three main forms (Drama, Poetry, Prose);

AO2: Understand the meanings of literary texts and their contexts, and explore texts beyond surface meanings to show deeper awareness of ideas and attitudes;

AO3: Recognise and appreciate ways in which writers use language, structure, and form to create and shape meanings and effects;

AO4: Communicate a sensitive and informed personal response to literary texts.

Set Texts:

Poetry: *Selected Poems*

Prose: *Short stories or novel*

Paper 2: Drama – Closed books

Drama: *2 texts from a set list*

Students are NOT allowed to take their set texts into the examination.

A full list of set texts is available on the CIE website.

Careers – see First Language English

In addition to the points mentioned in the FLE section, IGCSE English Literature will also tell any prospective employer you have acquired the kind of reasoning and analytical skills that will be useful in any employment.