

KS5 English Literature at Norbury High School for Girls

Students will sit OCR A Level English Literature exams at the end of year 13. The A level courses provide pupils with access to a broad range of texts from the literary canon, building on their knowledge from Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4.

Year 12

Component 1: Comparative and Contextual Study: Students are required to demonstrate close reading skills in analysing unseen prose extracts and entire novels, identifying and considering how attitudes and values are expressed. They must communicate fluently, accurately and effectively their knowledge, understanding and judgement. Additionally, students must read widely and independently in their chosen topic of study. As a centre, we choose either Dystopian or Gothic literature, studying pairings of *The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood and *1984* by George Orwell or *Dracula* by Bram Stoker and *The Picture of Dorian Gray* by Oscar Wilde, respectively. (*1984* or *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, however, are not studied until Year 13.)

Component 2: Drama and Poetry: Students are required to explore contrasts, connections and comparisons between literary texts and explore ways in which texts relate to each other and to literary traditions, movements and genres. They must understand the significance of cultural and contextual influences on readers and writers and identify and consider how attitudes and values are expressed in their chosen texts. As a centre, we study pairings of *A Doll's House* by Henrik Ibsen with either *The Merchant's Prologue and Tale* by Geoffrey Chaucer or Selected Poetry of Christina Rossetti.

Component 3: Non-exam assessment (NEA): Students are required to show an appreciation of how writers shape meanings in texts through use of language, imagery, form and structure. They must demonstrate an understanding of texts informed by an appreciation of different interpretations. They must also show an ability to explore connections across texts, such as stylistic, thematic or contextual. As a centre for NEA 1, we study the play *A Streetcar Named Desire* by Tennessee Williams and students write a 1000 word essay from a selection of four questions. For NEA 2, we study the prose text *A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hosseini and *The World's Wife Poetry Anthology* by Carol Ann Duffy and students write a 2000 word comparative essay from a selection of four questions.

Year 13

Component 1: Comparative and Contextual Study- Shakespeare: Students are required to analyse our chosen Shakespeare play, *Hamlet*, in close detail, exploring Shakespeare's use of language and dramatic effects. They must consider issues raised in a specific extract in relation to their understanding of the play as a whole. Also, students need to explore ways in

which the chosen play is/has been interpreted by different audiences, including over time. The Shakespeare play is studied throughout the year.

Component 1: Comparative and Contextual Study: See above for description. Student read *1984* by George Orwell or *The Picture of Dorian Gray* by Oscar Wilde in comparison to the respective text mentioned before. This is completed in the Autumn Term only.

Revision of all components: From January onwards, students revise all aforementioned content up to their exams.