

ENGLISH LITERATURE

Exam Board: Edexcel IGCSE (4ET1)

Assessment method

- 60% examination: Paper 1- Poetry and Modern Prose
- 40% coursework: Modern Drama (20%); Literary Heritage (20%)

Length of examination

- Paper 1: 2 hours

Breakdown of units

Paper 1 Examination

The Paper 1 English Literature examination (60%) requires analysis of unseen poetry, poetry from section 3 of the anthology and a response to the modern prose text studied, 'Of Mice and Men', by John Steinbeck. It is a closed book examination.

The other examination paper for this syllabus (i.e. Paper 2) is not relevant to our cohort as we pursue all coursework routes instead.

Paper 3 Coursework

The Edexcel IGCSE syllabus for English Literature requires one coursework response to a modern drama text, J.B. Priestley's 'An Inspector Calls' or Arthur Miller's 'A View from the Bridge' and one coursework response to a literary heritage text, 'Romeo and Juliet', or in some cases, 'Macbeth' by William Shakespeare. Each task is around 650-800 words and worth 20%.

Overlap with other subjects

Essay writing is an integral part of the subject, thus consolidating skills necessary in other disciplines such as History, Film Studies and Drama. Poems prescribed for the Paper 1 examination in section 3 of the anthology encompass a diverse range of topics that extend students' cultural and geographical awareness with texts alluding to countries such as Lebanon and featuring works by writers of Indian and Guyanan descent amongst others. As with other sections of the Edexcel IGCSE anthology, texts address ethical, social and spiritual issues such as compassion, love, death, childhood, parenthood and prejudice. Historical aspects are broached in the study of the poems' contexts and influences and as such, discussions are focused on a range of eras such as the Industrial Revolution and the periods of different wars. The analysis of the set prose text for the Paper 1 examination, 'Of Mice and Men' entails the specific historical study of the Great Depression era of the USA. The Paper 3 coursework not only prescribes the study of two dramatic works (thus reinforcing concepts broached in Drama), but much like the examination, has a focus upon the historical and social contexts of each text's setting and production.

Homework is an integral part of the course and should be regarded as such. It will be set via Google Classrooms and will be assessed throughout the duration of the course. Homework will enable students to consolidate work done in class, including Coursework, but also provides effective preparation for forthcoming topics.

Lower School Teaching Staff

Bob Simpson
Leighton Bright
Susan Goodsell
Gemma Sanchez

