

Candidate Guide

GCE English Literature

OCR Advanced Subsidiary GCE in English Literature H071

OCR Advanced GCE in English Literature H471

Studying for these qualifications will enable you to develop:

- **your interests in and enjoyment of reading and discussing literary texts;**
- **your knowledge and understanding of a wide range of English literature texts;**
- **your skills of literary analysis.**

This qualification gives you the opportunity to study literature across the genres of prose, poetry and drama, and to read around concepts of literature and literary analysis.

To get the AS qualification, you'll need to cover six texts and then another six texts to get the A level qualification, and it is possible to choose texts that link together or contrast with each other.

Before you start this qualification

It is usual to have a GCSE in English or English Literature, at least at Grade C, but you could have an equivalent qualification. The emphasis is on progression from GCSE to the AS qualification and progression from the full A level towards study in Higher Education.

English Literature combines well with many other subjects. History, Classics and Modern Foreign Languages are particularly suitable, but it can also be a valuable contrast to scientific, technological and economics-based subjects.

If you are considering going on to Higher Education, the English Literature qualification provides a wide range of opportunities for degree courses in the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences. The English Literature qualification is also welcomed for many different careers because it emphasises creativity, disciplined thought and communication, plus an ability to synthesise and contextualise ideas.

Requirements of the qualifications

To get a certificate for **Advanced Subsidiary GCE**, you will need to have studied for and been assessed on the two mandatory AS units (F661 and F662).

For these units, you need to study a minimum of six texts, which may in some cases be extracts from texts, and must include:

- post-1900 literature, including at least one text published or performed after 1990;
- poetry 1800-1945;
- prose 1800-1945;
- a literary-critical text.

The literary-critical text is used as a reference to support understanding of the 1800-1945 prose texts and it is expected that selected sections or chapters will be read, not the whole text.

To get a certificate for **Advanced GCE A level**, you will need to have studied for and been assessed on the two mandatory A2 units (F663 and F664), in addition to the two AS units.

You will need to study another six texts. For the examined unit (F663), these must include:

- a Shakespeare play
- one drama and one poetry text from pre-1800

For the coursework unit (F664), this must include three texts which can be from any period, or across periods, and must include one prose and one poetry text.

Assessment Units

AS Unit F661: Poetry and Prose 1800-1945 (closed text examination)

This is a two-hour examination, divided into Section A (poetry) and Section B (prose). You have to answer two essay-style questions, one from Section A and one from Section B, based on the set texts you have studied.

Section A - you answer **one** question on **one** poem, written by a poet you have studied, and you are expected to make appropriate reference to other poems by the same poet.

This is a closed text examination, so you do not take any books or copies of the poem into the examination room with you. The poems on which the questions are set will be printed in the examination paper.

Section B - there is a choice of **two** questions on each set text and you answer **one** question.

You will need to:

- respond to the proposition in the question and discuss how themes and issues are presented;
- demonstrate an understanding of literary-critical concepts and approaches, which you will have studied from the complementary literary-critical text.

AS Unit F662: Literature post-1900 (coursework)

In this unit you complete **two** pieces of writing based on **three** texts chosen by you or your school/college.

First piece of writing: this must be either a close, critical analysis of a section of one chosen text or poem, or an item of re-creative writing based on a selected passage. If you choose the re-creative writing option then you will also need to do a commentary which explains the link between

your own writing and the original passage selected. We recommend that this should be approximately 1000 words.

Second piece of writing: this must be an essay considering two texts, exploring contrasts and comparisons between them, informed by interpretations of other readers. We recommend that this should be approximately 2000 words.

The work submitted cannot be any longer than 3,000 words in total. It is assessed by your teacher(s) and moderated by OCR.

A2 Unit F663: Drama and Poetry pre-1800 (closed text examination)

This is a two-hour examination. You have to answer two essay-style questions, one from Section A and one from Section B, based on the set texts you will have studied.

Section A (Shakespeare) – there are two questions on each set text and you answer **one** question. Each question presents a view of the play and you must respond to this.

Section B (Drama and Poetry pre-1800) - there is a choice of six questions, each with a different focus. You select **one** question and your answer should compare the drama and poetry texts you have studied for this unit in relation to the question.

This is a closed text examination, so you do not take any books or copies of the poems into the examination room with you.

A2 Unit F664: Texts in Time (coursework)

In this unit you complete one extended essay of a maximum of 3,000 words, based on three texts chosen by you or your school/college. The texts must include at least one prose and one poetry text, and these can be from any one period of writing, or across different periods.

You will be able to develop the research skills already used for the AS coursework unit, and bring together the knowledge and understanding you will have gained from your studies of English literature.

Like Unit F662, the coursework is assessed by your teacher(s) and moderated by OCR.

For more information, have a look at the documents for English Literature on the OCR website at www.ocr.org.uk