



FORMBY HIGH SCHOOL  
Determined to Achieve

# English Courses at A Level

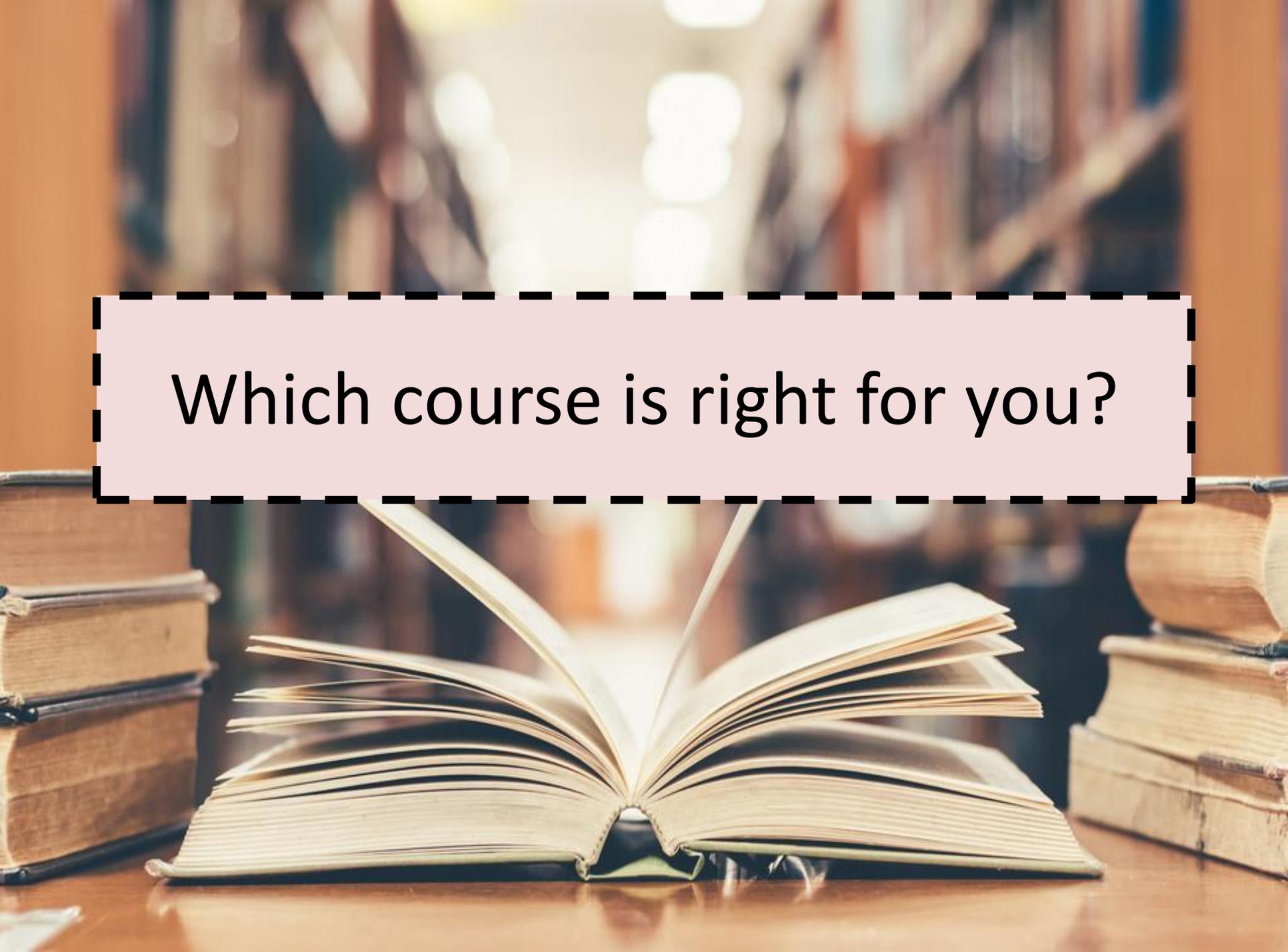


# What English courses do we offer?

- **English Language and Literature A Level**
- **English Literature A Level**

Both courses have the same entry requirements: a Grade 6 or above in both English Language and English Literature at GCSE

In the department we also offer **Film Studies** at A Level- if you are interested in this course, please see the separate PowerPoint.



Which course is right for you?





# A Level English Language and Literature

## **Specification**

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Pearson Edexcel Level 3 Advanced GCE in English Language and Literature  
(9ELO)

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*First teaching from September 2015*

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*First certification from 2017*

| Issue 4

English  
Language and  
Literature

# Is Pearson Edexcel English Language and Literature right for me?



## Overview

- A range of fiction and non-fiction texts
- Covers the genres of prose and drama
- Coursework allows you to produce your own creative pieces and analyse them
- Focus on the close analysis of texts: how writers achieve effects

# A Level English Literature



## Specification

Pearson Edexcel Level 3 Advanced GCE in English Literature (9ET0)

*First teaching from September 2015*

*First certification from 2017*

Issue 6

English  
Literature

# Is Pearson Edexcel A level English Literature right for me?



## Overview

- A range of fiction texts from a broad time span
- Covers the genres of drama, prose and poetry
- Coursework allows you to write an extended essay on two texts- one of these is your own choice
- Focus is on the analysis of a broad range of texts and evaluating different interpretations

# Which texts will you study?



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A Level English Language and Literature

## **Component 1: Voices in Speech and Writing 40%**

Examination: 2 hours and 30 minutes

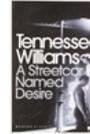
### **Section A:**

Anthology of non-literary and digital texts from the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries.  
One comparative essay question on an unseen extract selected from 20<sup>th</sup> or 21<sup>st</sup> century sources and one text from the Anthology.

### **Section B:**

One extract based essay question on the drama text.

Drama text: *A Streetcar Named Desire*



## **Component 2: Varieties in Language and Literature 40%**

Examination: 2 hours and 30 minutes

One compulsory prose text (anchor text) plus one other text.

Texts are linked by theme.

Society and the Individual:

*The Great Gatsby*

*Othello*



### **Section A:**

One essay question on an unseen prose non-fiction extract.

The unseen extract is linked to the studied theme.

### **Section B:**

One essay question on the studied prose texts.

## **Component 3: Coursework 20%**

Based on the study of two texts. One must be fiction and one non-fiction.

Assignment 1: one piece of fiction writing

Assignment 2: one piece of creative non-fiction writing

Assignment 3: one analytical commentary reflecting on the two pieces produced.

# Which texts will you study?



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A Level English Literature

## **Component 1: Drama 30%**

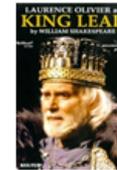
Examination: 2 hours and 15 minutes

### **Section A:**

Shakespeare: *King Lear*

Shakespeare critical anthology

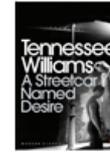
Essay from a choice of two questions



### **Section B:**

Other drama: *A Streetcar Named Desire*

Essay from a choice of two questions



## **Component 2: Prose 20%**

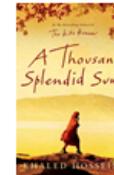
Examination: 1 hour 15 mins

Two prose texts (one pre 1900) Texts are linked by theme.

Women and Society:

*Wuthering Heights* / *A Thousand Splendid Suns*

Essay from a choice of two questions on the texts



## **Component 3: Poetry 30%**

Examination: 2 hours and 15 minutes

### **Section A:**

Contemporary Poetry

A selection of poetry from a post 2000 collection (Anthology)

A choice of two questions on an unseen poem in comparison with a named poem from the anthology.

### **Section B:**

Victorian Poetry

Essay from a choice of two questions

## **Component 4: Coursework 20%**

A free choice of two texts linked by theme, movement, author or period.

Any genre

One comparative essay 2500-3000 words

# How can you prepare?

## MOOCs

Massive Online Open Courses are free to access and will provide a great starting point for getting to grips with some A Level subject knowledge and developing your skills. *Future Learn* has a number of free courses you can complete. *The Open University* also has courses which might prove useful as a 'way into' more advanced study. For English Language and Literature there is a course to develop your own creative writing skills: 'Start Writing Fiction' and for English Literature there is a course to help develop unseen poetry analysis. The other two courses on approaching prose and plays and the Shakespeare context introduction would be suitable for both A Level courses.



The Open University  
**Start Writing Fiction**



University of York  
**Poetry: How to Read a Poem**



King's College London  
**Shakespeare: Context and Stagecraft**



History & The Arts

### **Approaching prose fiction**

Do you want to get more out of your reading? This free course, *Approaching prose fiction*, is designed to develop the analytical skills you need for a more...



History & The Arts

### **Approaching plays**

Do you want to get more out of drama? This free course, *Approaching plays*, is designed to develop the analytical skills you need for a more in-depth study of...

# How can you prepare?

## WHAT TO WATCH?

English Language and Literature

Ted Talk on Shakespeare

<https://youtu.be/khVubNIgS0o>



Ted Talk on How not to hate Shakespeare <https://youtu.be/Kh3gMcOUFao>

Emma Smith's introduction to Othello

<http://writersinspire.podcasts.ox.ac.uk/content/othello>

Interview with Margaret Atwood <https://youtu.be/rn2pq3SiqHc>

Watch any of the RSC Shakespeare adaptations available on BBC iPlayer

**English Literature**

Sheila Hancock BBC Documentary on The Brontes Preparation for *Wuthering Heights* and Coursework Text – *Jane Eyre*

<https://youtu.be/dLI1Bm6rNuc>

Interview with Khaled Hosseini on becoming a writer

<https://youtu.be/2oWstZMSMVo>

# How can you prepare?

## WHAT TO READ?

### Wider Reading

#### English Language and Literature

David Crystal 'Rediscover Grammar'

Frank Kermode 'The Age of Shakespeare'

Antonia Fraser 'The Weaker Vessel: The Woman's Lot in Seventeenth Century England' Introduction and chapter one 'How Weak?'

F. Scott Fitzgerald *The Beautiful and the Damned*  
and *Tender is the Night*

#### English Literature

British Library

Preparation for *Wuthering Heights* <https://www.bl.uk/romantics-and-victorians/articles/walking-the-landscape-of-wuthering-heights>

Khaled Hosseini *The Kite Runner* and *The Mountains Echoed*

Tennessee Williams, *Memoirs*

Tennessee Williams, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*

S.McEvoy, 'Tragedy: A Student Handbook'



# How can you prepare?

## FURTHER IDEAS

### Preparing for Coursework in Year 13



#### English Language and Literature

The overall title of the coursework is 'Entrapment' – you will create fiction and non-fiction pieces on this theme. Begin to gather articles from newspapers, online journals etc. on any aspect of entrapment. Perhaps look at issues surrounding mental health, age, illness, gender entrapment etc. Also consider biographies of people who have been entrapped by childhood or events that have 'frozen' their lives etc.

#### English Literature

You will study *Jane Eyre* and then you link to a text of your choice, this could be a great time to start reading texts that could be used: *Wide Sargasso Sea*; *Pride and Prejudice*; *Great Expectations*; *Rebecca*; *The Bloody Chamber* – all of the short stories, not just the title one; *A Handful of Dust*.

## HAVE A GO!

### Bingo!

Have a go at some of these tasks

|   |  |  |   |
|---|--|--|---|
| 14. Dive into the world of short stories, listen to interview and discussion about it <input type="checkbox"/>  | 12. Investigate what an essay actually is, read some great examples and write one of your own about any subject you want <input type="checkbox"/>                              | 24. Immerse yourself in a university lecture <input type="checkbox"/>  | 7. Try exploratory writing <input type="checkbox"/>   |
| 18. Write a graphic novel version of one of your GCSE texts. How well can you get across what is most important and distinctive? What gets lost? <input type="checkbox"/> | 19. Put together a short anthology of poems and write the introduction to the collection <input type="checkbox"/>  | 20. Listen to literature (audio books) <input type="checkbox"/>  | 2. Read an <i>emagazine</i> article and select 3 interesting points to share <input type="checkbox"/>                             |
| 11. Read a prize-winning novel – just for pleasure <input type="checkbox"/>   | 15. Visit a virtual library – the British Library's Discovering Literature website <input type="checkbox"/>  | 16. Take a risk by sharing an idea you're not sure about <input type="checkbox"/>  | 1. Let a poem brew over time <input type="checkbox"/>   |
| 22. Collate a taster anthology of your favourite books to tempt another reader into giving them a try <input type="checkbox"/>  | 4. Watch a play online and write the script for a podcast/online discussion reviewing it <input type="checkbox"/>  | 3. Watch a film or TV adaptation of a novel you know. Then write a pitch for a novel you think would make a great film adaptation. Explain why! <input type="checkbox"/> | 13. Listen to a literature podcast and share what you found interesting with a classmate/your teacher <input type="checkbox"/>    |
| 10. Play with a text, messing about and transforming it in 2 or 3 different ways. What do you learn about the original? <input type="checkbox"/>                          | 5. Experts in the spotlight – watch a selection of <i>emagClips</i> <input type="checkbox"/>   | 21. Take part in a 'Critics' Conference' role play <input type="checkbox"/>  | 17. Create a 'Five Books' list and publish your list <input type="checkbox"/>   |
| 8. Read the opening pages of 2 or 3 books about literature and explain which you'd most like to go on to read <input type="checkbox"/>                                    | 23. Explore the art of the review – read 3 or 4 online reviews for a novel you enjoyed, then either write your own or write a response to one of them <input type="checkbox"/> | 9. Write a poem in response to a poem <input type="checkbox"/>   | 6. Take a risk with your reading and read a novel outside your comfort zone and write or record a review <input type="checkbox"/> |

