

Why should I study English Literature?

English Literature may not lead directly to courses such as Engineering or Medicine but in addition to furthering knowledge of the works of great thinkers, poets and philosophers, the study of English develops skills which are highly valued by universities and employers.

Universities like students who can think critically and analytically. They want students who can think creatively, use their judgement to weigh up alternative perspectives and convey effective arguments and opinions. Above all, they want students who are able to articulate their knowledge and understanding of texts, concepts or theories and communicate them effectively to others.

English Literature is valued by university courses such as Law. A level English students often go on to the legal profession or the civil service. Their ability to communicate also makes them desirable applicants for jobs in public relations, retail or marketing. Other options include publishing, journalism, advertising, performing arts or diplomacy as well as teaching or private tutoring. In short, while English Literature may not open any doors directly, it does not close any either.

What are the A-level combinations for some of our current students?

Student	A	B	C	D	E	F
Subjects	History English Classics	English Business Psychology	English R.S. Geography	DT Business English	English R.S. Psychology	English German History Politics

Why English at Bootham School?

- Smaller, seminar-style classes
- One-to-one support both inside and outside of the classroom
- A wide ranging curriculum that explores a wide range of places, voices and experiences
- A foundation in Literary theory, such as Feminism, Marxism, Freudianism
- A wide range of enrichment, such as residential trips to Dublin and America, regular trips to the theatre, visiting drama professionals

What is the structure of the course?

- A linear course with two examined components and one coursework component. All of which are assessed at the end of the course.
- The study of Shakespeare is mandatory
- A minimum of eight texts will be studied

Component 1	Component 2	Component 3
Exam 40 % of total A-Level grade Shakespeare Drama and Poetry Pre 1900	Exam 40 % of total A Level grade Comparative and contextual study American Literature 1880 – 1940	Coursework Two separate essays (1000 and 200 words respectively) Three literary texts which must include poetry, prose and drama

What texts will I study?

- Hamlet (1599): William Shakespeare
- A Doll’s House (1879): Henrik Ibsen
- The Great Gatsby (1925): F. Scott. Fitzgerald
- The Age of Innocence (1920): Edith Wharton
- A collection of poetry by Christina Rossetti (1830 – 1894) or The Merchant’s Prologue and Tale (1387 – 1400): Geoffrey Chaucer
- The History Boys (2004): Alan Bennett
- Atonement (2001): Ian McEwan
- A Collection of poetry by W. H. Auden
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What do we look for in our students?

- We want people who enjoy reading and by that, we mean they go beyond the set text in the classroom. We want people who read for pleasure and read widely.
- We want people who enjoy film and theatre –who love stories.
- We want people who are curious about the worlds which inspired the writer in the first place.
- We want people who respond strongly to the things they read and are able to express their enthusiasm with others.
- We want people to think carefully about the implications of what they read.
- We want people who enjoy thinking about and exploring two sides to an argument.
- We want people who are critical readers, able to evaluate not only what is said but how it is said.