

# ENGLISH LITERATURE

(AQA Specification B)

## What do I learn?

- You get to know major works of literature (novels, poems and plays) that have influenced our culture and are part of the general knowledge of well-educated adults. This includes developing a general knowledge of European history and social issues as you set the works in context.
- You learn to write critical and analytical essays that include overview as well as reference to precise detail – the kind of thinking needed for effective managerial work.
- You develop social skills through discussion of literature and find that, not only is reading a pleasure, but the pleasure of reading increases when thoughts, opinions and personal theories are shared with like-minded, cultured and intelligent friends.

## What future does it give me?

- You get credibility on your CV by having a qualification that is traditional and well-understood by employers and universities.
- You get analytical skills that are valuable in any job that requires criticising the effectiveness of something, especially if this involves writing reports; i.e. any managerial role.
- You get deeper access to an interest for life that can both personal and social and a training in exploring how others think, accelerating your experience of life by seeing it through other people's eyes.

## Is it for me?

- You will have C grade GCSE English Literature?
- You read books for pleasure?
- You are prepared to think outside your own life?
- You have an interest in culture, history and getting “quality” experiences?
- You can write essays to deadlines?
- You have strong opinions and like to talk about them?

## What would I have to do in Y12?

- One coursework task exploring tragedy in a Shakespeare play attitudes (20%)
- One coursework task exploring tragedy in a modern play (20%)
  - One of these can be creative, writing in the style of the playwright.
- One exam (2 hours) with two essay questions (60%):
  - Explore how the story is told in two novels and two collections of poetry, with the texts to refer to in the exam.