



New A Level English Literature

H071 and H471 replacing 3828 and 7828

Information for OCR centres transferring to the **new specification for first teaching in 2008**

This document maps the current A Level English Literature specification to the new specification for first teaching in September 2008. It includes information on the changes, support available and an outline of the new specification. It is intended to help ease the transition for Heads of Department and teachers involved in the teaching of English Literature.

The full specification is available online along with a short questionnaire enabling you to share your comments on the specification and help shape the materials developed to support it. For more information including answers to frequently asked questions visit

www.ocr.org.uk/14-19alevels

Current specification – mapping the changes

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Outline specification for first teaching September 2008

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QCA have stipulated that:

- The number of units required to achieve GCE A Level is to be reduced from 6 to 4
- Specifications should encourage students to develop their interest in and enjoyment of literature and literary studies as they:
 - Read widely and independently both set texts and others that they have selected for themselves
 - Engage creatively with a substantial body of texts and ways of responding to them
 - Develop and effectively apply knowledge of literary analysis and evaluation in speech and writing
 - Explore the contexts of the texts they are reading and others' interpretation of them
 - Deepen their understanding of the changing traditions of literature in English
- Specifications should require candidates to use detailed knowledge and understanding of individual works to explore relationships between texts and appreciate the significance of cultural and contextual influences
- Specifications should require candidates to show knowledge and understanding of a range of literary texts including at least 2 examples of each of the genres of poetry, prose and drama
- A minimum of 6 texts should be covered at AS and a minimum of 6 texts at A2. Texts should be chosen so that they illuminate one another
- Learners should experience a range of reading to include:
 - At least one play by Shakespeare
 - Work by at least one author writing between 1300 and 1800
 - At least one work first published or performed after 1990
 - At AS, work by at least one author published between 1800 and 1945
- AS specifications should require students to show knowledge and understanding of:
 - The functions and effects of structure, form and language in texts
 - Some of the ways in which individual texts are interpreted by different readers
 - Some of the ways in which individual texts relate to one another and to the contexts in which they are written and read
- A2 specifications should require students to show knowledge and understanding of the significance of:
 - The ways in which writers use and adapt language, form and structure in texts
 - The interpretation of texts by different readers, over time
 - How texts relate to literary traditions, movements and genres
 - Cultural and contextual influences on readers and writers
- Internal Assessment must be included and weighting can be up to 40%
- Stretch and Challenge style questions to be introduced into A2 assessment

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Existing specification					
Current unit title	Unit code	What remains the same?	What is changing?	Why is it changing?	Guidance
AS Drama: Shakespeare	2707 Mandatory 30% AS 15% A Level 1.5 hr Exam (Closed book)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The study of Shakespeare Closed book exam Essay style questions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shakespeare now assessed at A2 Shakespeare combined in a unit testing knowledge of 'Drama and Poetry pre-1800' Plays added to set texts include Twelfth Night, Henry Fourth Part I Passage based assessment removed New unit code F663 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gives learners an opportunity to return to study of Shakespeare at A2 with more advanced literary skills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See specification for full list of set texts
AS Poetry & Prose	2708 Mandatory 40% AS 20% A Level 1.5 hr Exam (Open book)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Study of poetry remains Discussion of set poem and effects of writing and its relation to other poems of the author Continues to be assessed at AS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Works studied fall between 1800 and 1945, in unit titled 'Poetry and Prose 1800-1945' New poets include Rossetti, Owen, Frost New authors include Hardy, Warton, Fitzgerald, Waugh New unit code F661 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1800-1945 period is a QCA requirement for AS study Texts have been selected in response to this requirement and in line with centre feedback. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See full specification for details of individual works to be studied
AS Literature Complementary Study	2709 Mandatory 30% AS 15% A Level Coursework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coursework remains a feature of AS study Maximum word limit is 3,000 Coursework folder contains two tasks: 1) Close reading and critical analysis or re-creative writing and commentary and 2) an essay on linked texts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coursework unit called 'Literature post-1900' Works chosen must be post-1900 and must include 1 work published or performed after 1990 Candidates choose 3 texts within the same genre or across the genres of prose, drama and poetry Essay on linked texts Assessment based on specific range of criteria New unit code F662 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changes in line with QCA requirements for AS study QCA requirement to retain coursework QCA requirement to study a post-1990 work and show knowledge and understanding of how texts relate to one another Tasks in line with centre feedback on types most suited to coursework. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coursework guidance will be available for teachers See specification for details of the specific assessment criteria
A2 Poetry & Drama pre-1900	2710 Mandatory 15% A Level 2hr Exam (Closed book)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus on poetry and drama Evaluation of poetry/play in relation to interpretation of other readers and in relation to the contextual influences. Study of Chaucer, Milton, and Behn Closed book assessment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Combined in new unit testing knowledge of 'Drama and Poetry pre 1800' Following playwrights and poets added: Pope, J Donne, Sheridan. Stretch and Challenge style assessment New unit code F663 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> QCA requirement to study work pre-1800 Set text changes in line with centre feedback 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See specification for full list of set texts and assessment objective selection and weighting.

Existing specification					
Current unit title	Unit code	What remains the same?	What is changing?	Why is it changing?	Guidance
A2 Prose post-1914	2711 Optional 15% A Level Coursework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coursework remains a feature of A2 study Maximum word limit is 3,000 Free choice of text Essay on linked texts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Post-1914 texts studied at AS in 'Literature post-1900' A2 coursework unit called 'Texts in Time' Requirement to cover 3 texts and must include 1 prose, 1 poetry Texts chosen can be from any period Assessment Objectives are equally weighted New unit code F662 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In response to centre feedback to continue to include coursework at A2 QCA reduction from 6 to 4 units allows synoptic assessment to feature in coursework as well as exam 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coursework guidance will be available for teachers
A2 Prose post-1914	2712 Optional 15% A Level 2 hr Exam (Open book)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Post-1914 texts studied at AS in 'Literature post-1900' A2 unit called 'Texts in Time' (F664) Assessed through coursework Requirement to cover 3 texts and must include 1 prose, 1 poetry Texts chosen can be from any period Assessment Objectives are equally weighted New unit code F662 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In response to centre feedback to include coursework at A2 QCA reduction from 6 to 4 units 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coursework guidance will be available for teachers
A2 Comparative and Contextual Study	2713 Mandatory 20% A Level 2hr exam +15min reading time (Closed book)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emphasis on comparative and contextual study Focus on synthesis of knowledge and skills acquired during A Level study as a whole Texts chosen can be from any period 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit called 'Texts in Time' Assessment by coursework Requirement to link 3 texts, must include 1 prose and 1 poetry New unit code F664 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In response to centre feedback to include coursework at A2 QCA requirements for A2 study 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coursework guidance will be available for teachers on themes/topics and groupings of texts

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	New unit title	New unit code	Benefits to me and my learners	Support
AS	Poetry and Prose 1800-1945	F661 Mandatory 60% AS 30% A Level 2 hr Exam	<p>In this unit candidates undertake critical analysis of poetry and analyse a set prose text from the period, focusing on narrative methods and effects, and links to other readers' interpretations.</p> <p>This unit builds on candidates' literary skills developed at GCSE by continuing with familiar contexts, and extends understanding and analytical techniques, in preparation for A2.</p>	<p>OCR is currently developing teacher support, programmes of INSET and working closely with publishers to deliver support to accompany the new specification. More information on support will appear after QCA accreditation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guidance within specification • Coursework Guidance • Schemes of Work • Lesson Plans • Sample Assessment Material
AS	Literature post -1900	F662 Mandatory 40% AS 20% A Level Coursework	<p>In this unit learners have the opportunity to study their own choice of texts right up to the present day, thus they have the freedom to follow areas of individual interest and enjoyment.</p> <p>As part of their coursework folder candidates can choose to complete a close critical analysis of a section of their chosen text and to develop further their literacy skills. Freedom of choice of passage enables candidates to pursue their own study of a text with which they connect.</p> <p>Alternatively, candidates can undertake their own re-creative writing based on their chosen text, thus candidates gifted with a talent for writing can explore composition in relation to an author of their choice.</p> <p>Candidates are also given the opportunity to explore texts informed by other readers' interpretations, which opens up perceptions on the role of author and reader.</p>	
A2	Drama and Poetry pre-1800	F663 Mandatory 30% A Level 2hr Exam	<p>As part of this unit candidates are given the opportunity to return to the study of Shakespeare with more advanced literary skills and refreshed interest in his work.</p> <p>Candidates are also given the opportunity to explore connections and comparisons between literary texts, referring to one drama and one poetry text from the period. This encourages the development of further literary understanding and evaluation.</p>	
A2	Texts in Time	F664 Mandatory 20% A Level Coursework	<p>This unit allows learners to fully develop research skills and synthesise their knowledge and understanding in an extended individual study of literary texts across genres.</p> <p>Freedom of choice of texts allows candidates to choose and explore independently themes of personal interest.</p> <p>Gives candidates the opportunity to conduct study and research over a sustained period of time: good preparation for independent study at HE.</p>	

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