

HOLLAND PARK SCHOOL SIXTH FORM | ENGLISH

Examination Board
AQA
Topics/ Texts Studied
Year 12: King Lear, Richard II, a selection of Keats poetry. Year 13: The Murder of Roger Ackroyd (Agatha Christie), Atonement (Ian McEwan), a selection of 'crime poetry' that includes the work of George Crabbe, Robert Browning and Oscar Wilde, unseen passages of crime writing
Coursework and Practical Elements
Two 1,500 word coursework assignments. The first is on a novel of the student's choosing, the second is on a collection of poetry. Past choices have included Phillip Larkin, W.B. Yeats and Andrew Marvell.
Recommended Pre-reading
All reading is useful! Read widely, often, and across genres. For Shakespeare, Macbeth, the Tempest, Othello, Henry IVth Parts I and II. For Keats, we recommend students study his Odes and have an essential grasp of Romanticism. For crime writing, we encourage a wide range of crime literature, including other Agatha Christie, the hard-boiled writing of Raymond Chandler, Charles Dickens, and even modern commercial thrillers - Lee Child has made an appearance!
Where will this course take me?
Anything and everything from working in the media, marketing, law, finance, academia, government. English A level is a rigorous essay subject that is applicable to many fields - possibly excluding scientific research!

Why should you study this course?
English A-Level touches on all the great questions: what's the meaning of life? What is power, who has it, and how to people misuse it? Is the world fair? Why are we fascinated by awful people and awful behaviours? The A Level covers a broad range of texts and equips students with essential skills such as inference and essay writing, with opportunities to develop your own interpretations of your own text choices in the coursework along with extensive help and guidance on the best lines of argument from experienced teachers.
What are the entry requirements?
In addition to the general entry requirements, you will need a grade 7 or above in GCSE English Language or Literature to study this course.