



IGCSE

English Literature

**English
Literature
IGCSE**

General Introduction

Welcome to your English Literature IGCSE course! This introduction will serve as a guide to what you can expect from the course, and it will show you how to plan your study of this course effectively. So do not just jump straight on to Lesson One!

You and IGCSE English Literature

This course is linked to the 4ET0 IGCSE specification set by the Edexcel examination board. The Edexcel IGCSE in English Literature enables students to:

- engage with and develop the ability to read, understand and respond to a wide range of literary texts from around the world
- develop an appreciation of the ways in which authors achieve their literary effects and to develop the skills needed for literary study
- explore, through literature, the cultures of their own and other societies
- find enjoyment in reading literature and understand its influence on individuals and societies.

Assessment Objectives and Weightings

There are three Assessment Objectives in IGCSE – this is what examiners are looking for and awarding marks to. They are equally weighted, i.e. they each make up 33.3% of the possible marks.

- A01:** a close knowledge of texts and the contexts in which they were written
- A02:** understanding and appreciation of authors' uses of the following as appropriate: characterisation, narrative, plot, setting and language
- A03:** a focused, sensitive, lively and informed personal response to texts

Do not worry if this all seems a bit daunting at the moment. This course is designed to help you to achieve these aims, and by the end of the course they should come as second nature!

Examination Structure

There will be two written examination papers:

Paper 1: Drama and Prose (60 marks)

Paper 2: Poetry (30 marks)

There is also a coursework alternative to Paper 2 but we will *not* be preparing you for the coursework alternative as this option is designed for the school classroom only. Make sure you specify the non-coursework option when you enter for the exam!

Texts to be studied

We have selected two texts for Paper 1 which are on the Edexcel list of alternatives and match the assessment criteria to study on this course. They are as follows:

Drama: William Shakespeare, *Romeo and Juliet*

Prose: John Steinbeck, *Of Mice and Men*

Edexcel do not nominate a specific edition. You will need to get hold of your own copy of each of these books. The modules on each text suggest alternative editions of the texts you might try to get hold of. **You are not allowed to take texts into either the Paper One or the Paper Two examinations.**

For Paper 2 (Poetry), you will need the *Edexcel Anthology for IGCSE English Language (Specification A)* and *IGCSE English Literature*

although for English Literature, you will need **Section C only**.

Apart from the literary texts, there is no need to buy any other textbooks. However, although the OOL course is self-contained, it is always a good idea to look at alternative approaches or to gain extra practice. Your local or college library may contain some helpful books.

The Course

The Oxford Open Learning English Literature IGCSE course is divided into five modules, 19 lessons and 16 Poetry worksheets. It is set out as follows:

Module One: Literary Analysis

Lesson One: Writing about Yourself
Lesson Two: Comparing Different Versions of an Event

Tutor-marked Assignment A

Lesson Three: Imagery and Setting
Lesson Four: Character
Lesson Five: Point of View

Tutor-marked Assignment B

Module Two: Essay Technique

Lesson Six: Persuasion
Lesson Seven: Paragraphing
Lesson Eight: Planning Essays

Tutor-marked Assignment C

Lesson Nine: Argument

Module Three: Steinbeck: *Of Mice and Men*

Lesson Ten: Characters and Characterisation (1)
Lesson Eleven: Characters and Characterisation (2)

Tutor-marked Assignment D

Lesson Twelve: Themes
Lesson Thirteen: Structure and Plot
Lesson Fourteen: Style and Viewpoint

Tutor-marked Assignment E

Glossary

Module Four: Shakespeare: *Romeo and Juliet*

Lesson Fifteen: Studying Shakespeare
Lesson Sixteen: The First Two Acts
Lesson Seventeen: Acts III, IV and V

Tutor-marked Assignment F

Lesson Eighteen: Characters and Themes

Tutor-marked Assignment G

Module Five: Edexcel Poetry Anthology

Lesson Nineteen: Introduction

Tutor-marked Assignment H

Anthology Worksheets 1-16

Tutor-marked Assignment I
Tutor-marked Assignment J: Mock exam

Revision
Glossary

The course is arranged in this way in order to make it easy to follow. The first two modules are general, introductory modules, designed to ease you gently into the course and to provide you with a solid foundation on which to base your textual studies. Modules Three, Four and Five are on the three examination texts, and each of these contains two tutor-marked assignments which should help you to check your progress.

You do not have to follow the course in this order. Whatever route you choose to take through the course, you will undoubtedly need to revise each module just before you sit the exam, in order to refresh your memory.

The Structure within each Lesson: How to Study

Front Page

The front page of each lesson shows:

- The title.
- Aim(s) for the lesson. These set out the position that you should reach after working through the lesson; keep these in mind while reading the lesson material.
- Context. This gives a very brief summary and shows how the lesson fits in with the rest of the course.
- Note. This indicates specific reading or writing materials needed for the lesson.

Lesson Notes

There then follow the notes; these present the subject material to be studied in the lesson. Read these through carefully several times until you feel that you have understood the broad outline of the theory involved, and then tackle any reading references.

Activities

For most of this course the work that you will be doing will not be sent to your tutor; it will consist of Activities; these will aid your learning and allow you to check that you are taking in what you have been reading. The important thing to remember is that none of the work that you do in these activities is wasted: all of it will contribute to helping you develop skills, which will later be assessed both in your coursework assignments and in your examination. Your activities will give you necessary practice, and careful work on these will contribute more to your eventual performance and success than any other aspect of the course.

Activities are indicated as follows over the page:

Activity 7

Is the main speaker in this passage a detached, objective narrator of events?

In your answer, you should consider whether this speaker:

- o Presents opinion as if it were fact
- o Keeps his or her own opinions of people out of the account
- o Could have witnessed everything that s/he tells
- o Assumes that the listener will agree with his/her views
- o Is more sympathetic to some of the people involved than to others.

Decide in what ways this teller is biased, and give examples from the passage. You may also use your knowledge of the first passage in your answer.



The pencil symbol indicates that you should make your own notes in the space provided (though, of course, you may prefer to make them separately).

Where do I find the Answers to Activities?

This varies. Some Activities do not have answers at all because they are too open-ended and their purpose is that you should produce a response which is personal to you.

However, most Activities do have 'specimen' answers. These are not the *only* 'correct' answers but they may help you to see how you could improve your own work. Some of these specimen answers are to be found at the end of the lesson and some immediately following the activity.

You may be tempted to peek at the answer to the activity before you have made a proper attempt at it. This is to be avoided at all costs. You must discipline yourself *not* to read the next section of a lesson until you have done the activity. To help you manage this we have put the activities in boxes. Think of these boxes as red lights; do not approach them until you are ready to give the activity your best shot, and do not pass them until you have completed the activity.

Reading the answers too early will be fatal for a number of reasons. The specimen answer tackles the problem in a certain way, and if you have not made your own attempt yet, you will tend to think that that is the only way to do it. There will be other ways, and it is best if you can find one of your own. Remember that the answer is just a 'specimen' or 'suggested' answer.

Self-Assessment Tests

When you feel that you have mastered the topics and completed the activities, tackle the Self-Assessment Test (there is one at the end of most lessons). The answers to these can be found at the end of each module. Again, do not be tempted to cheat by looking at the answers. This would give you less chance of doing well on the Tutor-marked Assignments and on the coursework.

Tutor-marked Assignments

After every two or three lessons there is a Tutor-marked Assignment. These should be carried out under timed conditions to give you examination practice. These tests will thoroughly check your understanding of the previous few topics. You should send your answers to these tests to your tutor, who will return your marked script together with a set of suggested answers.

You and Your Tutor

You should note that you must write your name and other details very clearly on your test answers, and that you should ensure that all the sheets of your assignment are firmly attached together. To these you should attach one of the TMA cover slips which are supplied with this course, taking care to fill in the relevant sections (note that some of these will be filled in by your tutor).

When your scripts for the Tutor-marked Assignments are returned, suggested answers will also be sent to you.

The Edexcel Specification 4ET0

This course of lessons will prepare you for the exam-only version of the English Literature IGCSE specification (4ET0) examined by Edexcel.

This is a specification which is open to external/private candidates and it is assumed that you fall in that category.

The examination is not tiered. This means that there are no alternatives for candidates of differing abilities.

It is a very good idea to get hold of your own copy of the syllabus/specification for the year in which you expect to take the examination. All Edexcel publications (except the learning and teaching resources) can be ordered direct from:

Edexcel Publications
Adamsway
Mansfield
Notts
NG18 4FN

Tel: 01623 467 467

Fax: 01623 450 481

Email: publications@linney.com

Copies can also be downloaded from the Edexcel website: www.edexcel.com. Make sure you get the right year and the correct syllabus! Question papers, mark schemes and examiners' reports are also available from:

<http://www.edexcel.com/iwantto/Pages/question-papers.aspx>.

Careful study of these will help you understand what the examiners are looking for.

The Edexcel Examination Papers

Reading and writing are assessed in the internationally recognised forms of Standard English: either British or American standard forms are acceptable in the students' writing. Spelling must be consistent, whether it follows British or American usage.

Paper 1: Drama and Prose

Taken by all students.

Content overview

- Drama
- Prose

Assessment overview

- The assessment of this paper is through a one-hour and 30-minute examination, set and marked by Edexcel.
- Single tier of entry.
- The paper is divided into **two** sections: Drama and Prose. Students must answer **one** question from each section.
- There is a choice of **two** questions for each text in both sections.
- This is a closed book examination. Texts may **not** be taken into the examination.
- The total number of marks available is 60.

Paper 2: Poetry

Examination alternative to coursework.

Content overview

Poetry

- Unprepared poem
- Section C of the *Edexcel Anthology for IGCSE English Language (Specification A) and IGCSE English Literature*

Assessment overview

- The assessment of this paper is through a 45-minute examination, set and marked by Edexcel.
- Single tier of entry.
- There will be a choice of **three** questions on the paper. Students must answer **one** question.

- One question will be set on an unprepared poem and another two questions will be set on poems from Section C of the anthology.
- The total number of marks available is 30.

Unprepared poem

One question will be set on an unprepared poem not in the anthology; it will be printed in the examination paper.

When planning an answer for the unprepared poem, students should consider the following:

- the poet's attitude to their subject
- the poet's descriptive skills
- the language used
- the student's personal response to the poem — the poem's effect
- any other aspects considered to be of importance.

Anthology poems

Students will be required to write about **at least two** poems from Section C of the anthology.

- One question will refer to **at least one** named poem. Students will be required to compare that poem with **at least one other** poem, which may be named, or may be selected by the student.
- The alternative anthology poetry question will allow students to select appropriate poems of their choice.

Contents of Section C — *Edexcel Anthology for IGCSE English Language (Specification A) and IGCSE English Literature*

If — Rudyard Kipling
Prayer Before Birth — Louis Macneice
Half-past Two — U. A. Fanthorpe
Piano — D H Lawrence
Hide and Seek — Vernon Scannell
Sonnet 116 ('Let me not to the marriage ...') — Shakespeare
La Belle Dame Sans Merci — John Keats
Poem at Thirty-Nine — Alice Walker
Telephone Conversation — Wole Soyinka
Once Upon a Time — Gabriel Okara
War Photographer — Carol Ann Duffy
The Tyger — William Blake

My Last Duchess — Robert Browning
A Mother in a Refugee Camp — Chinua Achebe
Do Not Go Gentle into That Good Night — Dylan Thomas
Remember — Christina Rossetti

Information on the Anthology

Students are not permitted to take copies of the *Edexcel Anthology for IGCSE English Language (Specification A) and IGCSE English Literature* into the examination with them. All poems from Section C of the anthology will be printed in a poetry booklet as an insert to the examination paper.

Copies of the anthology are available to download from the Edexcel website at

[http://www.edexcel.com/migrationdocuments/IGCSE%20New%20IGCSE/IGCSE2009_Anthology_EnglishLanguage\(SpecA\)_and_EnglishLiterature.pdf](http://www.edexcel.com/migrationdocuments/IGCSE%20New%20IGCSE/IGCSE2009_Anthology_EnglishLanguage(SpecA)_and_EnglishLiterature.pdf)

If you have difficulty copying this link, then go to the Edexcel webpage for IGCSE English Literature and click on the link for 'Anthology'. If you do not have access to the internet, you will need to contact your Student Adviser for assistance.

Using the Internet

All students would benefit from access to the Internet. You will find a wealth of information on all the topics in your course. As well as the Edexcel website (www.edexcel.com), you should get into the habit of checking the Oxford Open Learning site (www.ool.co.uk) where you may find news, additional resources and interactive features as time goes by. If you have not already done so, you may register for your free copy of *How to Study at Home*, our 200-page guide to home learning, or enrol on further courses. Put it on your Favourites list now!

And finally...

Good Luck!

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