

ENGLISH LITERATURE IGCSE

Exam board: Edexcel

Assessment method: 60% examination, 40% coursework: comparison of poems from Section C of the Edexcel IGCSE anthology

Length of exams: Paper 1: 1 hour 45 minutes

Breakdown of units

Paper 1 Examination:

The Paper 1 English Literature examination (60%) requires analysis of one prose text (usually either 'Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry' by Mildred Taylor OR 'Of Mice and Men' by John Steinbeck) and one drama text (usually either 'Romeo and Juliet' OR 'An Inspector Calls'). Other examination papers for this syllabus (for example, Paper 2) are not relevant to our cohort as we pursue coursework routes instead.

Paper 3 Coursework:

The Edexcel IGCSE syllabus for English Literature demands a lengthy piece of coursework of approximately 1200-1500 words discussing several poems from Section C of the anthology and accounts for a weighty 40%.

Overlap with other subjects

Essay writing is an integral part of the subject, thus consolidating skills necessary in other disciplines such as History, Film Studies and Drama. The Paper 1 Examination not only prescribes the study of a dramatic work (thus reinforcing concepts broached in Drama), but moreover has an obligatory focus upon the historical and social contexts of each text's production for both the prose and drama set texts. Dependent upon text selection, this may include the study of Shakespearean England, Edwardian Britain or the Great Depression era of the USA. Section C includes a diverse range of poems encompassing topics that extend students' cultural and geographical awareness with texts focused upon war in a range of countries such as Lebanon, Northern Ireland and Nigeria. As with other sections of the Edexcel IGCSE anthology, texts therefore address ethical, social and spiritual issues such as compassion, love, death, childhood, parenthood and prejudice. Historical aspects are broached in the study of the poems' contexts much like the examination and as such, discussions are focused on a range of eras such as the industrial revolution and the roots of multi-culturalism.