



English

U6 Course Overview 2026

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One school. Many voices.



NORWICH SCHOOL

Following the CIE International A level syllabus, pupils study a minimum of seven texts, at least two examples of each of the genres of prose, poetry and drama, to develop their ability to analyse and evaluate literary texts across a variety of genres and periods. The course has three assessed elements:

Sixth Form

We currently follow the CIE English Literature International A level syllabus.

We would usually expect those choosing English Literature to gain 7s or better in both English Language and English Literature at IGCSE.

The course is structured around four examination papers, each worth 25% of the qualification. These cover the following areas: drama and poetry; prose and an unseen extract; Shakespeare and drama; poetry and prose. All exams are taken at the end of U6.

Exam One - 'Drama and Poetry'

The texts currently available for study for the 'Drama and Poetry pre-1900' exam are currently as follows:

- One drama text: Edward Albee, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf*; Aphra Behn, *The Rover*; Inua Ellams, *Barbershop Chronicles*; William Shakespeare, *The Tempest*
- One poetry text: Zaffar Kunial, *England's Green*; Sylvia Plath, *Ariel*; Christina Rossetti, *Selected Poems*; *Songs of Ourselves*, Vol. 2.



Exam Two - 'Prose and Unseen'

The topics for the 'Prose and Unseen' exam are currently as follows:

- One prose text: *Stories of Ourselves*, Vol. 3; Evelyn Waugh, *A Handful of Dust*; Colson Whitehead, *The Underground Railroad*; Tara June Winch, *The Yield*
- An unseen text (from a choice of a drama, a poetry, or a prose extract).

Exam Three - 'Shakespeare and Drama'

The topics for the 'Shakespeare and Drama' exam are currently as follows:

- One Shakespeare play: *Henry IV, Part 1*; *The Taming of the Shrew*
- One drama text: Lynn Nottage, *Sweat*; Wole Soyinka, *Kongi's Harvest*; Timberlake Wertenbaker, *Our Country's Good*.

Exam Four - 'Pre- and Post-1900 Poetry and Prose'

The topics for the 'Pre- and Post-1900 Poetry and Prose' exam are currently as follows:

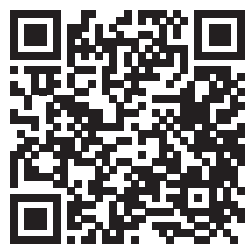
- One Pre-1900 text: Jane Austen, *Mansfield Park*; George Gordon, Lord Byron: *Selected Poems*; Geoffrey Chaucer, *The Wife of Bath's Prologue and Tale*; George Eliot, *Middlemarch*; Thomas Hardy, *Jude the Obscure*; William Shakespeare, *Selected Sonnets*
- One Post-1900 text: Elizabeth Bishop, *Selected Poems*; J M Coetzee, *Waiting for the Barbarians*; Katherine Mansfield, *Selected Stories*; Gabriel Okara, *Selected Poems*; Richard Powers, *The Overstory*; Ocean Vuong, *Night Sky with Exit Wounds*.

Entry Requirements

We would usually expect those choosing English Literature to gain 7s or better in both English Language and English Literature at GCSE.

Where can the course take you?

A level English Literature provides a foundation for any degree course or career involving written communication, research and analytical skills. It will open up many career options including teaching, journalism, media, advertising, marketing, law and academia.



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For further information about the CIE Syllabus, please click or scan
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