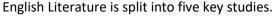# Edexcel English Literature

Why do you study GCSE English Literature?

The GCSE in English Literature exposes you to a wide range of some of the most significant works ever written in the English language. You will learn why they are so significant and where they sit in the history of literary development. Reading high-quality literature enables you to understand the world around you and gain an insight into different periods throughout history. Perhaps more importantly, it is a study of the human condition which in turn helps us to understand more about ourselves.

What will I study?

English Literature is split into five key studies.
- **Shakespeare:** *Macbeth* by William Shakespeare
- **Modern Drama:** *An Inspector Calls* by J. B. Priestley
- **19th Century Novel:** *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens
- **Belonging Poetry:** Fifteen poems from various periods throughout history
- **Unseen Poetry:** learning how to engage with and understand unseen texts.

How will I be assessed?

GCSE English Literature is assessed in two papers:
- Paper One: Shakespeare and Modern Drama
- Paper Two: 19th Century Novel, Belonging Poetry and Unseen Poetry.

Which skills will I develop and use?

This course will help you to develop the following skills:

Understand a writer's messages and ideas
Understand how these messages and ideas have been communicated
Understand why these messages were pertinent in the time they were written
Construct your own analytical essays
Compare ideas and themes in two poems
Learn how to engage with and understand poetry.

How will I be able to use this subject in my future career?

The skills acquired through the study of English Literature at GCSE are useful to students wishing to study a variety of subjects post 16. It particularly compliments history, law, politics, sociology, psychology, media and drama. The skills you develop can be used in a multitude of careers such as: teachers, doctors, politicians, actors, directors, journalists, lawyers and many more. The skills you develop in this GCSE are fundamental to life and can be used anywhere.