



1941
2016
*Celebrating
75 years*

English Overview

In the English Department we aim to introduce students to a broad range of texts ranging from fiction to film. We explore traditional staples of the curriculum such as Shakespeare and a wide selection of poetry as well as embracing more modern elements like digital literacy. We encourage discussion and engagement on the issues we encounter in these texts.

Students are enabled to experiment with different styles of writing to find their unique voice. We strive to foster a love of reading through a variety of initiatives both inside and outside the classroom and hope that the students' experience in the classroom is both enriching academically and personally.

Senior Cycle

Comprehending and Composing

Students are required to study language in a wide variety of contexts, genres, functions and styles. Students develop skills and competencies in the areas of:

- The language of Information
- The language of Persuasion
- The language of Narration
- The language of Argument
- The Aesthetic use of Language

Comparative Study

Students engage in the comparative study of three texts: usually a novel, film and play. The three comparative texts vary each year.

At Higher Level the texts can be compared by

- Theme and Issue
- Literary Genre
- Cultural Context
- General Vision and Viewpoint

At Ordinary Level the texts can be compared by

- Hero/Heroine/Villain
- Relationships
- Social Setting
- Theme
- Aspects of story: tension, climax, resolution, ending etc.

Poetry

Students study a wide range of poetry. There are 48 prescribed poems for study at Higher Level and 36 poems prescribed for study at Ordinary Level.



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Single Text

Students will study a single text which, at Higher Level is usually a Shakespearean play.

How is this subject examined?

Level	Higher/Ordinary	
	Paper 1	Paper 2
Time	2 hours 50 minutes (170 minutes)	3 hours 20 minutes (200 minutes)
Marks	200 marks	200 marks
Structure	Section 1 Comprehending (100 marks) Comprehension questions and functional writing tasks	Section 1 Single Text (60 marks) Usually a Shakespearean Drama at Higher Level No Shakespeare required at ordinary level
	Section 2 Composition (100 marks)	Section 2 Comparative Study (70 marks) Comparison of novel, play and film
		Section 3 Poetry (70 marks). Unseen Poetry Studied poetry

Additional information

Students are encouraged to read widely outside of the course. Every effort is made to arrange for students to see productions of the texts that they are studying.