THE WORTHGATE SCHOOL
CANTERBURY

COURSE DESCRIPTOR

INTERNATIONAL BACCALUREATE

ENGLISH A: LITERATURE

SUBJECT OVERVIEW

All IBDP students are required to study English. The guideline for the English A course is that English is the student's mother tongue; and previous English studies have been taught and learned through English.

In the English A Literature course, students will develop an understanding of the techniques and skills involved in literary criticism, through the formal analysis and evaluation of texts and wide coverage of a variety of literature in the four genres, from at least three different continents. This course studies the way literary conventions shape responses to texts. The course will enable students to be confident in critical thinking and evaluation of texts in both the written and oral components; inspiring students to become aware and responsible citizens in society, capable of making sound, informed and critical judgments.

At the completion of this course, students will have a thorough knowledge of a range of texts and an understanding of other cultural perspectives. They will also have developed skills of analysis and evaluation, and the ability to support an argument in clearly expressed writing.

PRIOR LEARNING REQUIRED

A pre-requisite to enter this course is that the student has successfully completed the GCSE English Language course, or its equivalent. The student needs to be fluent in English and demonstrate a high level of profciency in reading, writing, listening and speaking. Students wishing to study English A: Literature will undergo an assessment upon their arrival to ascertain their proficiency in the English language, ensuring their readiness for the course.

It is always recommended that a wide reading base be the foundation of any literature course. Students are encouraged to read diversely and beyond their own cultures before entering this course. It will provide language and ideological skills required for efficient and competent understanding of the knowledge taught.

EXAM BOARD

IB

COURSE CONTENT

Year 1	Year 2
Distinction between SL and HL The model for language A: literature is the same at SL and HL but there are significant quantitative and qualitative differences between the levels. SL students are required to study 9 works. HL students are required to study 13. Except for two works, all will be completed in Year 1. **PAPER 1:** SL and HL students are presented with 2 previously unseen literary extracts or texts from different literary forms, each accompanied by a guiding question. SL students are required to write a guided analysis of ONE of these. HL students must write guided analyses of BOTH literary extract texts. **ESSAY:** HL students will have a fourth assessment component, the higher level (HL) essay, a	The HL written assignment is completed. The Oral is completed: HL AND SL. Evaluation: critical thinking skills and evaluation are taught through the Paper 2 which requires two texts to be compared guided by a question in the paper. **PAPER 2:** SL and HL students are given the same paper. They choose ONE question out of 5. They compare two texts and by the process of evaluation they present an essay. **THE ORAL:** The oral is a 15-minute exam. 5 minutes is used to speak about one text which is a work in translation. 5 minutes is used to speak about one text (not in relation to the first text) which is written by an English author. 5 minutes is then discussion with the teacher about the Global Issue.

written coursework task that requires students to explore a line of inquiry in relation to a studied literary text or work. The outcome is an essay of 1,200–1,500 words. HL students are expected to demonstrate a deeper understanding of the nature of literary study.	This exam is recorded, and the recording is sent to IB. The Written Assignment is submitted for external marking; the oral recording is submitted for moderation; Paper 1 and Paper 2 are full external examinations.

ASSESSMENT

A variety of assessment styles are regularly set throughout the year.

- Formal summative assessments occur each half term.
- Formative assessments: Individual formative assessments are continuous with submitted class and homework.
- Dynamic assessment is ongoing: an evaluation method used to identify an individual's skills as well as their learning potential.
- Ipsative assessments are ongoing: directly measuring value added progress specifically.

The assessments take various forms:

- Teacher verbal comments and evaluation
- Teacher formal written evaluation
- Peer comments and evaluation
- Self-evaluation.

There is a mock examination of Paper 1 and Paper 2 set in November of each final year.

Paper	Length of paper	Weighting
Paper 1: Guided literary analysis/ evaluation.	SL: 1 hour 15 minutes HL: 2 hours 15 minutes	20 marks: 35% 40 Marks: 35%

Paper 2:	SL/HL 1 hour 45	30 marks: 25%
Written Assignment:	HL:1200-1500 words	20 Marks: 20%
Oral:	SL/HL: 15 minutes	40 Marks: 20%

TEXTBOOKS/REVISION GUIDES

Title	ISBN	Author
Oxford IB diploma Programme: English A: Literature: Course companion	978-0-19-839008-4	Hannah Tyson, Mark Beverley
IB DIPLOMA PROGRAMME: English A1; Course companion.	978-0-19-015147-9	Elizabeth Druce, Hannah Tyson.

HIGHER EDUCATION PATHWAYS

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A study of English Literature to this degree of intensity undergirds all other subjects, as it teaches the individual to perceive, to analyse, to evaluate all choices, actions, and motivations of character; it also teaches the individual to think critically and creatively with the implicit understanding of the values that under form and inform a civilised society. It teaches how to think and to act responsibly, independently and creatively.

COMPLEMENTARY SUBJECTS OF STUDY

English A Literature is popular with students who wish to study History, English Language, Politics and Business at university and enter careers in Law, Journalism, International Relations, Education and the Design / Communication sector.

CURRICULUM DIRECTOR

Ms. Jemma Jones