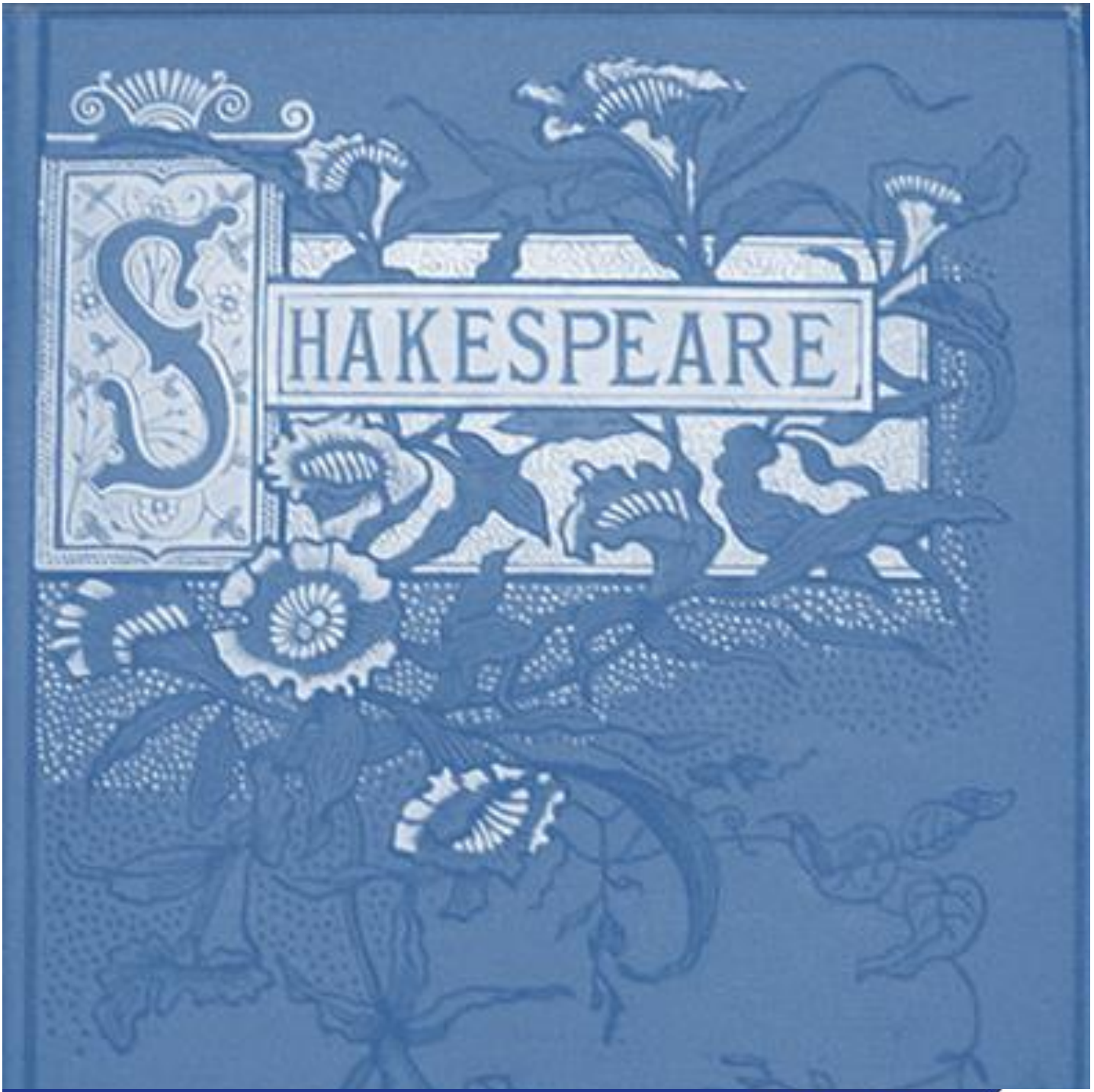


1. Examination board and course title:

A-level English

Literature / AQA

Specification : B (7717)

GDA

2. Course overview

English Literature A level provides an opportunity to develop a wide range of skills through analysing and exploring texts across time and genre. Through their study of fiction students also build an in depth overview of literary criticism, for example, feminist and Marxist literary theory. So, the course is not only about what is read but how it is read. Not only do students study prescribed texts but they also have the opportunity to choose works which appeal to their individual taste through the coursework component.

English Literature is a facilitating subject, which universities and employers look favourably upon, because it encourages students to learn the skills of analysis, independent research and communication. It is also a creative area of study which allows young people to express themselves through their personal responses to poetry, novels and plays.

A Level English Literature is a 2 year linear course and is offered as a full A level at George Dixon Academy. This means that students are able to develop their skills over time and study the discipline in more depth.

What will I learn?

The course consists of three main areas of study:

- **Aspects of Comedy or tragedy':** Texts might include important British writers like Shakespeare, Oscar Wilde and John Betjeman.
- **Elements of Crime Writing**: Texts might include important British writers like Agatha Christie, Robert Browning and Ian Mc Ewan.
- **Independent Study:** Here students can chose texts which they look at in light of their reading of literary theory. In the past students literary subjects such as, Victorian horror fiction; 20th century science fiction; protest poetry of the 1980s.

3. Assessment outline

Paper 1: Literary genres
Aspects of comedy (40% of A-level)
Study of three texts: one Shakespeare text; a second drama text and one further text, of which one must be written pre-1900

- written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes / closed book / 75 marks

Questions
Section A: passage-based question on set Shakespeare text (25 marks)
Section B: essay question on set Shakespeare text (25 marks)
Section C: essay question linking two texts (25 marks)

Paper 2: Texts and genres
Elements of crime writing (40% of A-level)
Study of three texts: one post-2000 prose text; one poetry and one further text, one of which must be written pre-1900
Examination will include an unseen passage.

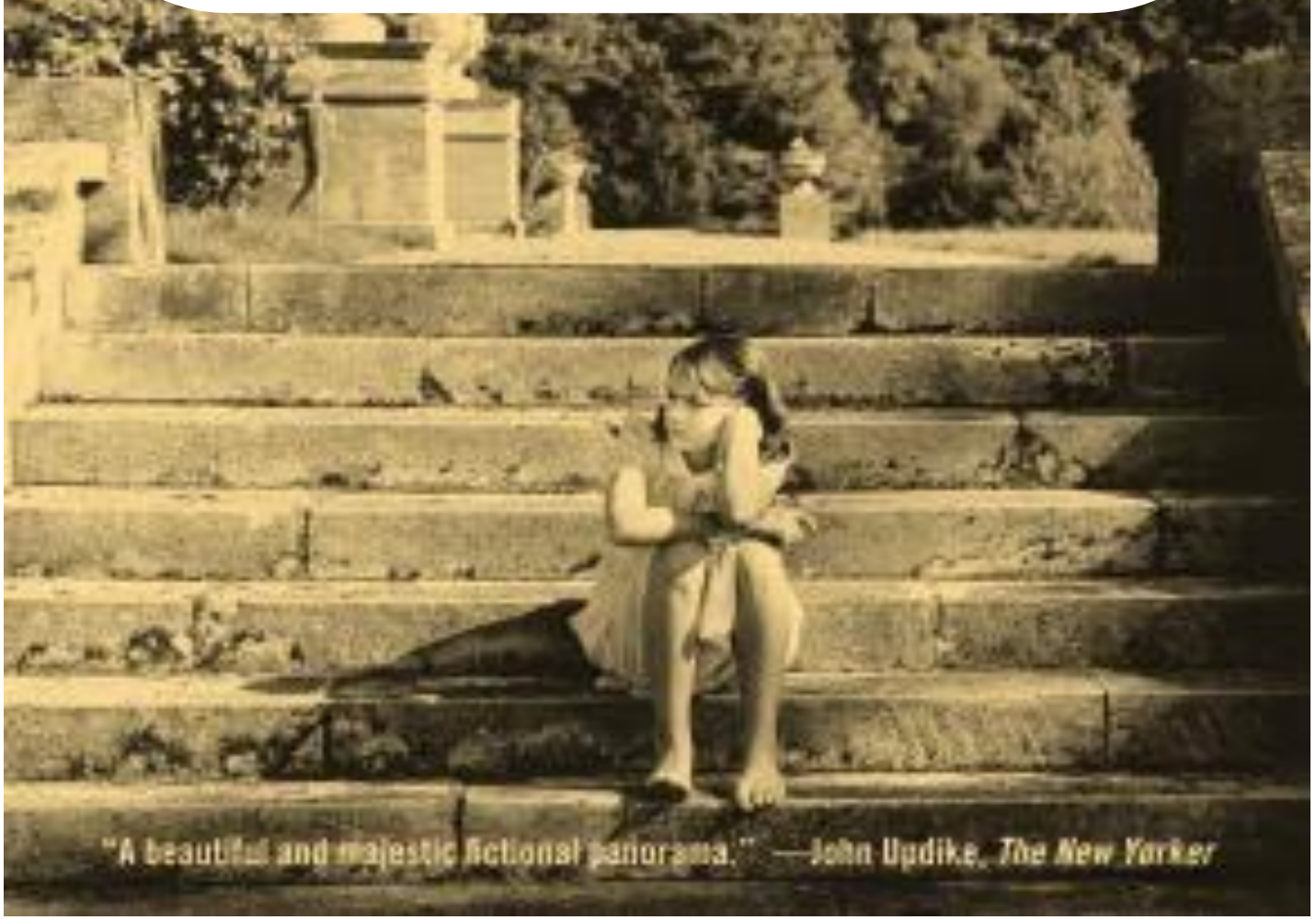
- written exam: 3 hours / open book / 75 marks

Questions
Section A: compulsory question on an unseen passage (25 marks)
Section B: essay question on set text (25 marks)
Section C: essay question which connects two texts (25 marks)

Non-exam assessment: Theory and independence
(20% of A-Level)
Study of two texts: one poetry and one prose text, informed by study of the Critical Anthology
Two essays of 1250–1500 words, each responding to a different text and linking to a different aspect of the Critical anthology
One essay can be re-creative. The re-creative piece will be accompanied by a commentary.

- 50 marks / assessed by teachers / moderated by AQA

Extracurricular activity:
Visits may include:
trips to the theatre and cinema
opportunities to engage in workshops at universities and with practising writers; library visits, etc.

4. Entry requirements
At least a 6 in English Language or English Literature at GCSE. However, study of Literature at GCSE is not a requirement, it is preferred.

5. Career pathways.
English Literature A level has excellent progression opportunities and will allow students to 'keep their options open' when it comes to further study or a career path. Most popular careers after the study of English Literature include: law, journalism, teaching, retail management, banking, marketing, arts administration.