

Welcome to A-Level English Literature at Worcester Sixth Form College

James Lister – Course Leader

What are the entry requirements?

- To study A-Levels at Worcester Sixth Form College, you need to have a minimum of:
 - 4 GCSEs at grade 5
 - OR
 - 5 GCSEs at grade 4.
 - These must include GCSE Maths and GCSE English Language.
- To study A-Level English Literature, (as part of the above requirements) you need to have at least a grade 4 in GCSE English Literature.

What are the texts I'll be studying in A-Level English Literature?

- Year 1
- *The Tempest* by William Shakespeare (play)
- *A Streetcar Named Desire* by Tennessee Williams (play)
- Selected poems by Ted Hughes
- *The Duchess of Malfi* by John Webster (play)

- Year 2
- Selected poems by Sylvia Plath
- Coursework
- *Paradise Lost, Book 9* by John Milton (poem)
- Preparation for Unseen exam

What does the coursework essay involve?

- The coursework essay is based on your reading of two novels:
 - *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte
 - *All the Birds, Singing* by Evie Wyld
- You will independently read these two novels during the middle summer of the two-year A-Level. You'll begin writing a first draft of your coursework essay at the start of the second year. You'll get feedback on your first draft from your teacher after Christmas, and hand in your final version (2500-3500 words) just before Easter.
- You can choose your own essay question.

What's all that work leading up to? How will I be assessed?

- Your final A-Level grade will be based on your performance in four components: three exams and the coursework essay.

Component 1	Exam (2 hours): Poetry (30%)	Section A: <i>Paradise Lost</i> Section B: Hughes and Plath
Component 2	Exam (2 hours): Drama (30%)	Section A: <i>The Tempest</i> Section B: <i>Streetcar</i> and <i>Malfi</i>
Component 3	Exam (2 hours): Unseen (20%)	Section A: Unseen Prose Section B: Unseen Poetry
Component 4	Coursework (20%)	2500-3500 word essay on <i>Jane Eyre</i> and <i>All the Birds, Singing</i>

What exam board is used?

- The exam board we use is Eduqas.

Do I need to buy my own copies of all the texts?

- The college will lend you copies of all the texts we study. These need to be returned in satisfactory condition at the end of the A-Level.
- (However, if you're someone who likes to make notes in the books you're studying, you may want to buy your own.)

What are the characteristics of a successful A-Level English Literature student?

- A successful A-Level English Literature student would typically:
- Have a love of reading, writing, and ideas
- Be proactive, in terms of independent reading and research, having organised systems of learning, and asking for help
- Spend at least four hours per week working on the subject outside lessons
- Attend all lessons and actively contribute to them
- Prepare and complete all written work to the best of their ability.

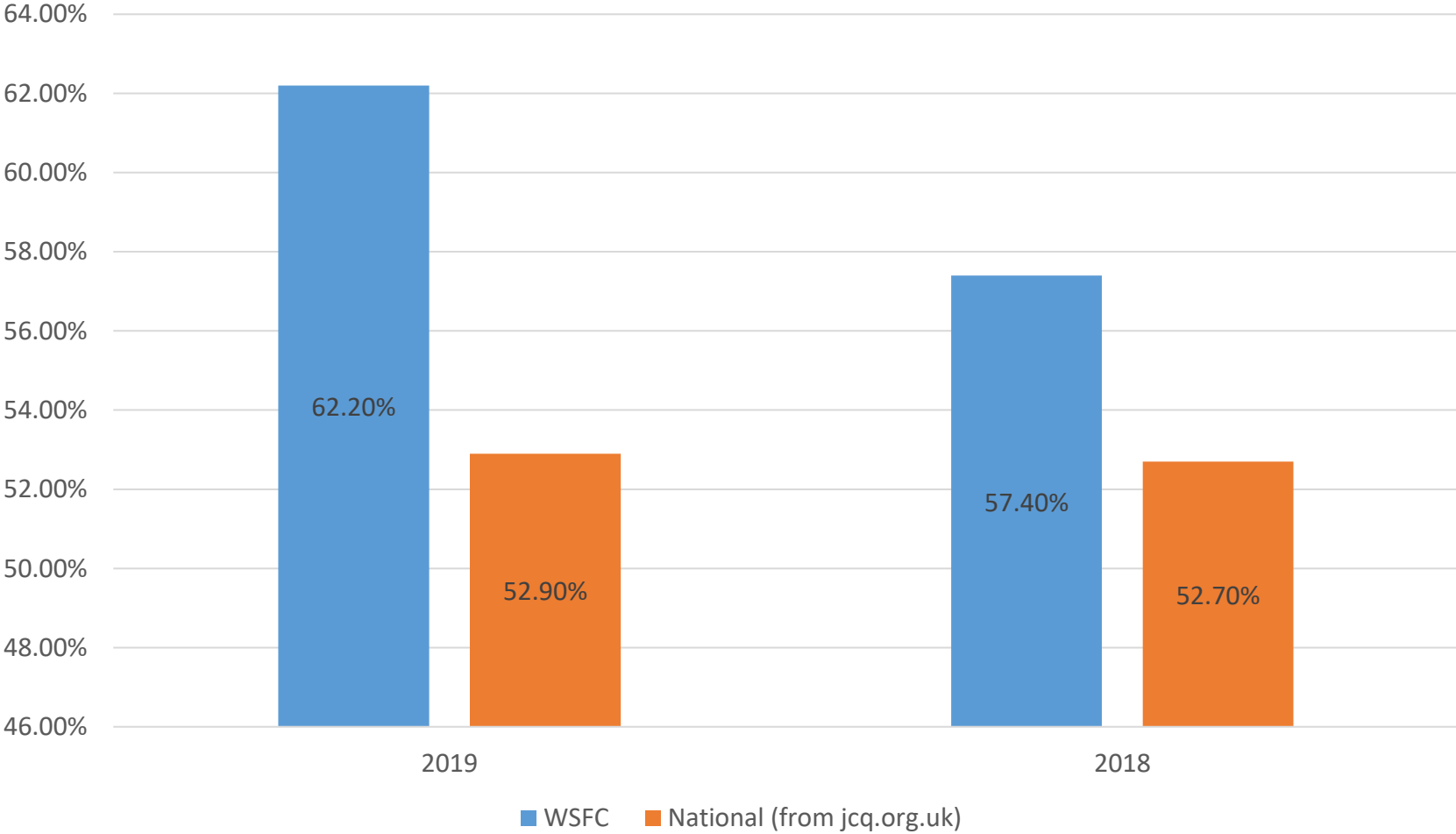
What goes on in an A-Level English Literature class? How do you study the texts?

- The good thing about A-Level English Literature is that it's not too different from the kind of work that you've done in GCSE English Literature.
- We think about how writers have created meaning and interpretations through their use of language
- We think about how contextual knowledge can make us think about texts in more knowledgeable ways
- We think about links and connections between texts
- We think about what other writers have said about texts
- We think about (and practise) how to write high-quality essays that do all the things the examiners want to see.

What can I do to prepare over the summer?

- Read!
- Do the “bridging tasks” on the college website

A-Level English Literature: WSFC A*-B pass rate vs. National A*-B pass rate



What can I do with an A-Level in English Literature?

Studying English Literature helps to develop versatile skills, including:

- communicating ideas clearly in spoken and written forms;
 - articulating knowledge of concepts and theories;
 - working and thinking independently, critically, and creatively.
-
- A-Level English Literature is one of the subjects that top universities like students to have.
 - The skills you develop in English Literature are the skills needed for careers in writing, publishing, journalism, research, librarianship, teaching, new media, PR, law, finance, business management, computing, and many more.

Let's read an extract

In the deep shade, at the farther end of the room, a figure ran backwards and forwards. What it was, whether beast or human being, one could not, at first sight, tell: it grovelled, seemingly, on all fours; it snatched and growled like some strange wild animal: but it was covered with clothing, and a quantity of dark, grizzled hair, wild as a mane, hid its head and face.

“Good-morrow, Mrs. Poole!” said Mr. Rochester. “How are you? and how is your charge to-day?”

“We're tolerable, sir, I thank you,” replied Grace, lifting the boiling mess carefully on to the hob: “rather snappish, but not 'rageous.”

A fierce cry seemed to give the lie to her favourable report: the clothed hyena rose up, and stood tall on its hind-feet.

“Ah! sir, she sees you!” exclaimed Grace: “you'd better not stay.”

“Only a few moments, Grace: you must allow me a few moments.”

“Take care then, sir!—for God's sake, take care!”

The maniac bellowed: she parted her shaggy locks from her visage, and gazed wildly at her visitors.

Let's read an extract

In the deep shade, at the farther end of the room, a figure ran backwards and forwards. What it was, **whether beast or human being, one could not, at first sight, tell**: it grovelled, seemingly, on all fours; **it snatched and growled like some strange wild animal**: but it was covered with clothing, and a quantity of dark, grizzled hair, **wild as a mane**, hid its head and face.

“Good-morrow, Mrs. Poole!” said Mr. Rochester. “How are you? and how is your charge to-day?”

“We're tolerable, sir, I thank you,” replied Grace, lifting the boiling mess carefully on to the hob: “rather snappish, but not 'rageous.”

A fierce cry seemed to give the lie to her favourable report: **the clothed hyena** rose up, and stood tall on its **hind-feet**.

“Ah! sir, she sees you!” exclaimed Grace: “you'd better not stay.”

“Only a few moments, Grace: you must allow me a few moments.”

“Take care then, sir!—for God's sake, take care!”

The maniac bellowed: she parted her shaggy locks from her visage, and gazed **wildly** at her visitors.

Questions

- If you have any questions, you can type them into chat-box and I can answer them in the remaining time we have left.
- If you would like to email me a question, here's my address:

j.lister@wsfc.ac.uk