



CHELTENHAM
LADIES'
COLLEGE

SIXTH FORM ENTRY IN SEPTEMBER 2025

ENGLISH LITERATURE

Candidates who wish to study this subject in the Sixth Form should enjoy reading challenging texts and examining them closely. They should be prepared to contribute generously during class discussion and use their initiative to engage in plentiful wider reading. Furthermore, we wish students to demonstrate a creative and dynamic approach to literature at this level.

We expect candidates to have already studied a wide range of challenging English literature. This should include:

- The complete text of more than one of Shakespeare's plays;
- Pre- and post-1914 prose;
- Pre- and post-1914 poetry.

Candidates should be familiar with the techniques required for close analysis of literature and be able to comment on the effectiveness of writers' methods. In particular, they should be conversant with some of the technical terms used for analysing poetry (including the terminology for exploring sound effects) and should have some understanding of different forms. Responses which demonstrate flair and originality to unseen texts will be particularly valued.

The entrance paper will test the following:

a) By responding to one unseen poem, candidates' ability to:

- interpret what they read;
- analyse closely the poet's use of language and structure and the effects created;
- show some awareness of nuance and tone.

b) By reference to challenging texts they have previously read or studied, to:

- construct a fluent and well-structured response to a question, supporting their argument with detail taken from the text/texts they choose. There will be a choice of three questions and they could use texts from their personal wider reading in their answers, rather than simply those they have studied.

The same entrance paper is set for all candidates, whether they are applying to study either A Level English Literature or, Higher/Standard Level English A Literature as a compulsory part of the IB Diploma Programme at College. We do not offer English Language A level at College.