

# Creative Writing

## (2-year course)

Want to  
know more?

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Exam Board:  
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### Overview

The main requirement for a student of Creative Writing is, of course, a love of writing. If in your spare time, you're the sort of person who has been working on a novel, writing songs and poems, developing ideas for film and/or play scripts, or trying your hand at journalism in a variety of styles, this course is for you.

The approach of this course is very distinctive. The course provides a space for you to receive regular feedback on the writing projects you want to develop, the ones you would most likely be working on anyway. Absolute freedom with regard to both reading choices and writing projects isn't just allowed, it's absolutely central to how the course works.

You will have three lessons per fortnight to explore the best of contemporary writing. And you will also have the opportunity to attend a critical workshop, on a weekly basis, during which members of the group will present and critique each other's writing. Your teachers are also expected to bring their own creative writing to the workshop for criticism.

### What will I study and learn?

Your teacher will introduce you to interesting contemporary writing in the four main forms (poetry, prose fiction, prose non-fiction, and scripts), and help you to explore issues relating to good writing: narrative voice, how to format a screenplay, form in poetry, how to write convincing journalism, etc. But by far the most dynamic element in the course is the weekly critical workshop, where you will learn how to give and receive criticism on creative writing.

### What skills will I develop?

You will, without doubt, become more precise, more technically skilful, more adventurous, and more zeitgeisty in your writing. Most university English departments these days include Creative Writing modules, and Admissions Tutors understand the value of the course. Those who've got a head start, by taking Creative Writing in the Sixth Form, will be extremely well-equipped for university, and for life.

### How will I be assessed?

The course is linear, which means that all three components will be taken at the end of the Upper Sixth:

#### Coursework

##### Component 1

The Writing Portfolio

60%

##### Section A. Exploration

- i) three short pieces of creative writing, each in a different form eg poetry, prose fiction, script (2,000 words)
- ii) short commentary (1,000 words).

##### Section B. Specialism

Creative writing in one specialist form eg screenplay (3,000 words).

##### Section C. Critical Commentary

Essay exploring your own writing processes and influences (1,500 words).

#### Examinations

##### Component 2

Commissioned Writing

15%

You will be given a choice of five writing assignments/commissions. Choose two.

##### Component 3

Responsive Writing

25%

- Produce one piece of creative writing in response to a choice of prompts.
- Write a commentary exploring the relationship between the piece you wrote for Section A and one text you read from the pre-release material.

