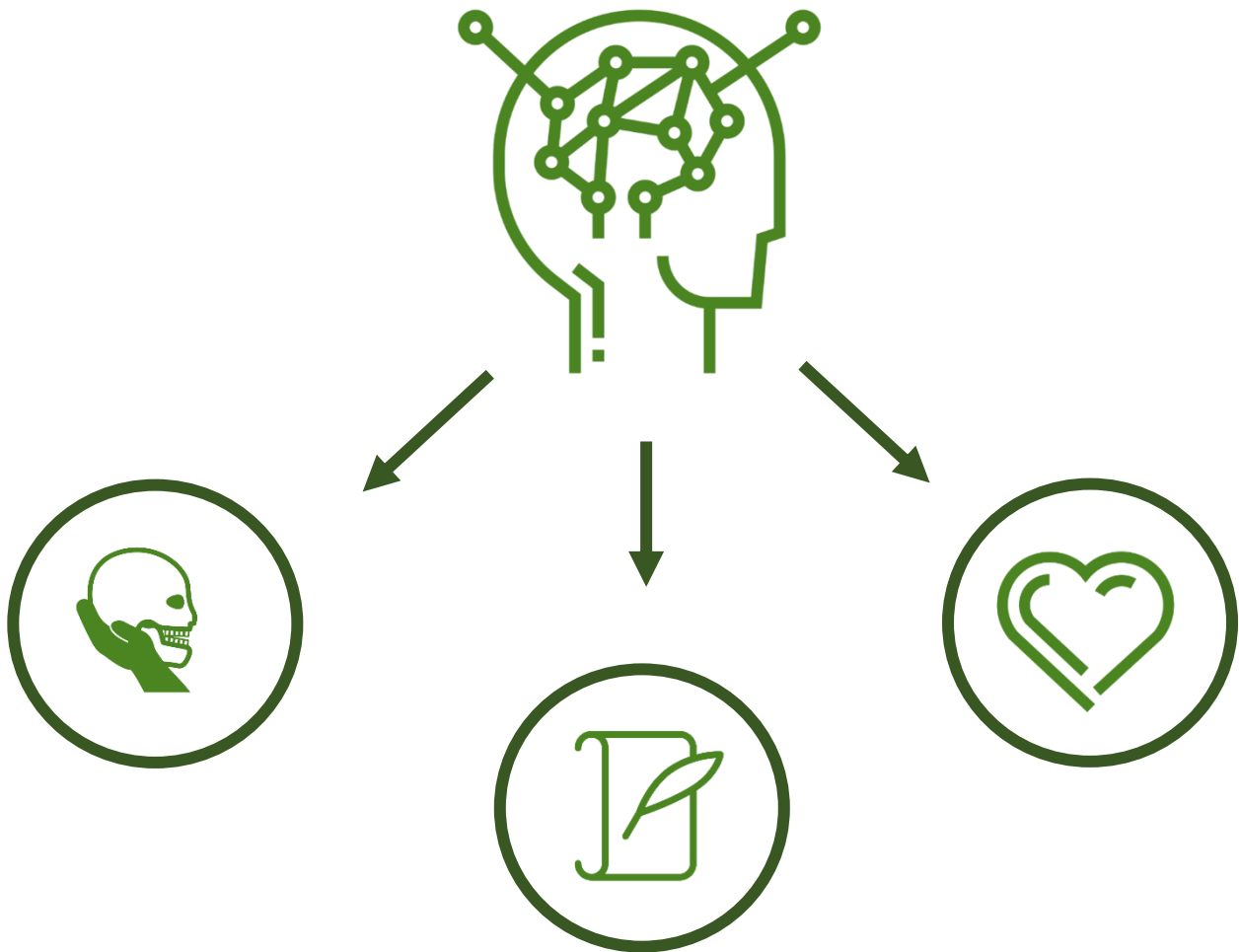


English Literature Preparation Work



Contents:

1. Shakespeare	2. Poetry	3. Love through the Ages
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1) Shakespeare



Moving on from your study of Shakespeare at KS4 means that you have the opportunity to study his life and works in greater depth, and really discover the incredible impact and beauty of his writing! The links below will take you through a world of Shakespeare, and are recommended in preparation for your study of Othello. Make notes on any written resources (the Cornell method is most effective – explanation of how to do this [here](#)). Each icon below contains a link to the relevant website or documents.

The National Theatre
have given out free
access to their plays to
watch during
lockdown.
Username: **6Nf"ONx\$**
Password: **3Fb\$3Ps\$**



The British
Library – various
articles on
Shakespeare &
the Renaissance



The Shakespeare
book – a great
overview of
Shakespeare's
works



Overview articles
on Shakespeare
and Othello

2) Poetry



As with Shakespeare, your study of poetry at A Level changes and becomes more in depth. The more you understand about the changes in poetry over time, the more interesting it becomes! Below are some sources that will help you to explore poetry from different time periods. As you read and engage with them, make mind maps about each time period in preparation for September. You may want to start with a clear overview of literature over time. Try researching the timeline of trends and periods in literature. Find a simple overview [here](#), or a more complex, interactive timeline, click [here](#). For an overview of each time period, click [here](#).

Metaphysical poetry (17 th Century) – click here	Restoration poetry (17 th Century) – discover more about key writers here and here	The Romantics (18 th Century) – click here
Victorian poetry (19 th Century) – click here	Decadent poetry (late 19 th Century) – click here	Modernist and Postmodern poetry (20 th Century) – click here for modernism, and here for postmodernism

3) Love through the Ages



Now you have an overview of Shakespeare and of a poetic timeline, it's time to start thinking about your first unit: Love through the Ages. This tracks the theme of love, in all its forms, across time through different literary forms. It's a brilliant unit, and the activities and reading below will help to prepare you well for this. Enjoy!

Task 1: Watch the following TED talk and read the article:

<http://ed.ted.com/lessons/why-do-we-love-a-philosophical-inquiry-skye-c-clearly>

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2011/may/07/love-literature-tessa-hadley>

Across time, writers and philosophers have presented love, its merits and its drawbacks in many ways:

- Love makes us whole: Plato (427-347AD)
- Love tricks us into having babies: Schopenhauer (1788-1860)
- Love is escape from our loneliness: Russell (1872-1970)
- Love is a misleading affliction: Buddah (6th-4th century BC)
- Love lets us reach beyond ourselves: Beauvoir (1908-1986)

These ideas can help with our understanding and expression of a type of love that is presented in the range of texts we will explore in Year 12. It is merely to help us realise that there are so many different motivations for different types of love and our aim is to explore these within the texts we will study. However, this list is not exhaustive.

Write a short piece exploring your thoughts on the question: **what is love?**

Task 2: Keep a reading log:

Read as widely as you can. The document found [here](#) contains a suggested reading list to get you started, and a log so that you can track the types of love found in each text. You can either tick them, or put a brief description of how that type of love is presented in the texts.

Task 3: Pre 1900 extract tasks

Read the extract booklet found [here](#). Each extract has some linked questions that you can answer in preparation for studying unseen prose later in your course.

Task 4: Research and choose one of Shakespeare's sonnets and then write a modern response to it in the structural style of a sonnet.

The example below is taken from a book called 'On Shakespeare's Sonnets – A Poets' Celebration' edited by Hannah Crawforth & Elizabeth Scott-Bauman

Sonnet 18 - William Shakespeare

Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?
Thou art more lovely and more temperate:
Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May,
And summer's lease hath all too short a date:
Sometime too hot the eye of heaven shines,
And often is his gold complexion dimm'd;
And every fair from fair sometime declines,
By chance, or nature's changing course, untrimm'd;
But thy eternal summer shall not fade
Nor lose possession of that fair thou ow'st;
Nor shall Death brag thou wander'st in his shade,
When in eternal lines to time thou grow'st;
So long as men can breathe or eyes can see,
So long lives this, and this gives life to thee

Dream - P J Kavanagh

Shall Exaggeration is the role of art!
Because we are tiny creations – yet not so.
On dreams can fall a grandeur and the heart
Speak languages we waking do not know:
Your face, behind a window, its sash-cord struck;
You struggle to open it; railings are too tall
For me to climb and help. But, trusting luck,
Soon we are crossing on foot a Javanese mall
In murderous traffic. Apart, not hand in hand,
You first, (and this seemed right); we keep our
angle,
Oblique, unvaried. Today we are still bound
Not by a chain or a rope, by a radio signal
Of exaggeration, never untuned, a wireless
Connection, with its own reach and sound – and
tireless