

ENGLISH LITERATURE A-LEVEL

Dear students,

We hope you are looking forward to studying English Literature A-level in September. To make sure you are fully prepared for studying this course, we would like you to complete the tasks listed below. Please bring your notes, completed tasks and reading with you to the first lesson back in September.

Suggested Summer Tasks:

1. Purchase three folders and sets of dividers.
2. Complete reading/tasks suggested by your teachers during the induction sessions. See list at the end of this pack.
3. Read the handout entitled – *Enriching: Love Through the Ages* – and work through the activities. Make notes and be prepared to discuss your ideas in September.
4. Complete the critical vocabulary chart included in this document.

Understanding A-Level

Unit:	Paper 1: Love through the ages	Paper 2: Texts in shared contexts Option 2B: Modern times: literature from 1945 to the present day	Non-examined assessment: Independent critical study: texts across time
What is assessed:	Study of three texts: one poetry and one prose text, <u>of which one MUST be written pre-1900</u> , and one Shakespeare play.	Study of three texts: one prose, one poetry, and one drama, <u>of which one MUST be written post-2000</u> . Exam will include an unseen extract.	Comparative critical study of two texts, <u>at least one of which MUST have been written pre-1900</u> . One extended essay (2500 words) and a bibliography.
Assessment:	Written exam: 3 hours Open book in Section C only 75 marks	Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes Open book 75 marks	Assessed by teachers Moderated by AQA 50 marks
Weighting:	40 % of A-level	40 % of A-level	20% of A-level
Questions:	Section A: Shakespeare one passage-based question with linked essay (25 marks) Section B: Unseen poetry: compulsory essay questions on two unseen poems Section C: Comparing texts: one essay question linking two texts (25 marks)	Section A: Set texts. One essay questions on set text (25 marks) Section B: Contextual linking – One compulsory questions on an unseen extract (25 marks) One essay questions linking two texts (25 marks)	A comparative critical study of two texts on a theme of your choice. Texts and task to be negotiated with teacher.
Assessment objectives:	<u>AO1</u> : Articulate informed, personal and creative responses to literary texts, using associated concepts and terminology, and coherent, accurate written expression. <u>AO2</u> : Analyse ways in which meanings are shaped in literary texts. <u>AO3</u> : Demonstrate understanding of the significance and influence of the contexts in which literary texts are written and received. <u>AO4</u> : Explore connections across literary texts. <u>AO5</u> : Explore literary texts informed by different interpretations.		

Critical vocabulary – key terminology to use when analysing a text.

Word	Definition	Example
Alliteration		
Ambiguity	Something with more than one meaning	
Atmosphere		
Blank Verse		
Caesura		
Couplet		
Courtly Love		
Chivalry		
Dialect		
Dramatic Monologue		

Elision	the omission of a vowel at the end of one word when the next word begins with a vowel	‘Whiles crooning o'er an auld Scots sonnet’
Enjambment		
Farce		
Free Verse		
Genre		Tragedy, Comedy (Poetry, Prose, Drama)
Hyperbole		
Iambic Pentameter		
Imagery		
Idiom		
Intertextuality		
Irony		

Lyric		
Metaphor	Saying something 'is' something else	
Metre		
Monologue		
Narrative		
Onomatopoeia		
Parody		
Persona		
Personification		
Rhetoric		
Rhyme		

Rhythm		
Satire		
Simile		
Syntax		
Tone		

Reading List:

Prose

Read *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald and *Atonement* by Ian McEwan

Poetry

Download a copy of the pre-1900 poetry anthology from the school website. Read each poem and bullet point the key ideas expressed in each poem.

The Nation's Favourite: Love Poems by Daisy Goodwin

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Nations-Favourite-Love-Poems-Poetry/dp/056338378X>

Create your own anthology of your favourite poems – you can choose to focus on a particular theme if you wish.

Drama

Purchase a copy of *Othello* by William Shakespeare and watch a production or film version of it – see list.

Othello by William Shakespeare – Penguin edition

https://www.amazon.co.uk/Othello-Penguin-Shakespeare-William/dp/0141396512/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1467722274&sr=1-1&keywords=othello+penguin+classics

Shakespeare Biographies / Context

Peter Ackroyd	Shakespeare: The Biography (2004)
Bill Bryson	Shakespeare: The World as a Stage (2007)
Frank Kermode	The Age of Shakespeare (2004)

Criticism

Lena Cowen Olin (ed.)	Othello: Contemporary Critical Essays
Andrew Dickson	The Rough Guide to Shakespeare (2005)
John Drakakis (ed.)	Shakespearean Tragedy (1992)
Frank Kermode	Shakespeare's Language (2000)
F. R. Leavis	The Common Pursuit (1952)
Lawrence Lerner (ed.)	Shakespeare's Tragedies (1963)
Marvin Rosenberg	The Masks of Othello (1961)
John Wain (ed.)	Shakespeare: Othello (1971)

Film Versions

Othello (1952) Starring Orson Welles
Othello (1965) Starring Lawrence Olivier
Othello (1990) Starring Willard White & Ian McKellen

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Othello (1995) Starring Lawrence Fishburne & Kenneth Brannagh

Othello (2001 TV film) Starring Christopher Eccleston and Keely Hawes