

English Literature at A Level

A Level English Literature is a two year course consisting of three units. Coursework is completed at the end of the first year and this is worth 20%. The final two examinations are worth 40% each and take place in June of Year 13.

The awarding body (exam board) is **AQA**.

What is in each unit?

| PAPER 1: Aspects of Tragedy (40%) | PAPER 2: Social and Political Protest Writing (40%) | Non-Examined Assessment (20%) |
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| Analysis of an extract from Shakespeare's <u>Othello</u> | Student analysis of unseen protest writing text (given in the exam) | 1250 word essay applying literary analysis to a poetry text (studied in detail in class) |
| Analytical essay on Shakespeare's <u>Othello</u> | Analytical essay on one of the three set texts (see below) | 1250 word essay applying literary analysis to a prose text (students' individual choice) |
| One question comparing: <u>Death of a Salesman</u> by Arthur Miller and the poetry of John Keats | Comparison of the other two texts: <u>Songs of Innocence and Experience</u> by William Blake; <u>The Handmaid's Tale</u> by Margaret Atwood; <u>The Kite Runner</u> by Khaled Hosseini | |

You need to purchase the following texts for study in the first term. We recommend purchasing the following editions (these are the texts your teachers will be using in class):

- ❖ *Death of a Salesman* by Arthur Miller
Penguin Modern Classics edition. ISBN: 978-0-141-18274-2
- ❖ *Othello* by William Shakespeare
Heinemann Advanced Shakespeare edition. ISBN: 978-0-435-193058

Assessment Objectives (You are assessed on these during the course)

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| AO1 | Articulate informed, personal and creative responses to literary texts, using associated concepts and terminology, and coherent, accurate written expression. |
| AO2 | Analyse ways in which meanings are shaped in literary texts. |
| AO3 | Demonstrate understanding of the significance and influence of the contexts in which literary texts are written and received. |
| AO4 | Explore connections across literary texts. |
| AO5 | Explore literary texts informed by different interpretations. |

Equipment

In class for **every** lesson you will need:

- An A4 ring binder with file dividers.
- A booklet of A4 lined writing paper which is hole-punched and margined.
- A set of highlighter pens.

At home you will need:

- An A4 lever arch folder in which to store worksheets etc.
- A good English Dictionary
- A good English Thesaurus

A Level English Literature: Summer Tasks

It is **essential** that this work be completed to ensure a confident, well-informed start to the course.

Task 1: Read at least one of the following fiction texts (these have all been selected for their relevance to your coursework wider reading module).

Write a 1000 word review of the book for a Year 10 student, covering the following two points:

- Why you would recommend it to a Year 10 student
- What relevance it has in society today.

Texts:

- ❖ The Color Purple by Alice Walker
- ❖ Mrs Dalloway by Virginia Woolf
- ❖ Regeneration by Pat Barker
- ❖ The Picture of Dorian Gray by Oscar Wilde
- ❖ Frankenstein by Mary Shelley
- ❖ The Wasp Factory by Iain Banks
- ❖ A Clockwork Orange by Anthony Burgess
- ❖ The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald
- ❖ Never Let me Go by Kazuo Ishiguro

Task 2: Watch a version of 'Othello' and 'Death of a Salesman' to build your familiarity with the texts. Recommended versions include 1995 (Dir. Oliver Parker) for Othello and 1985 (Dir. Schlöndorff) for 'Death of a Salesman.' Make notes as you go to help you remember characters and plot.

Task 3: Research the plots of 'Othello' and 'Death of a Salesman' as well as other works by the same authors. Suggestions include: King Lear and Hamlet by Shakespeare and 'A View from the Bridge' and 'All My Sons' by Arthur Miller.