

Brighthouse High School

A Level English Literature Transition booklet

Paper 1: Literary genres: Aspects of tragedy	Paper 2: Texts and genres: Elements of political and social protest writing	Non-examination assessment: Theory and Independence.
<p>Section A: One passage-based question on set Shakespeare text. (25 marks)</p> <p>Section B: One essay question on set Shakespeare text. (25 marks)</p> <p>Section C: One essay question linking two texts, with the common theme of tragedy. (25 marks)</p>	<p>Section A: One question assessing understanding of an unseen extract, with a focus on political and social protest.</p> <p>Section B: A choice of essay questions on one of three set texts.</p> <p>Section C: One essay question linking the remaining two set texts, with the common theme of political and social protest writing.</p>	<p>In this component, students write about two different literary texts. One of the texts must be a poetry text and the other must be prose. Students cannot choose texts from any of the A-Level exam set-text lists.</p> <p>This process is supported by the AQA Critical anthology, which has accessible extracts on the following critical methods and ideas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • narrative theory • feminist theory • Marxist theory • eco-critical theory • post-colonial theory • literary value and the canon. <p>Students produce two essays of 1,250-1,500 words. One response will be a conventional essay; the second can be re-creative. It is possible to submit two conventional responses.</p> <p>A conventional essay will focus on debate and explore potential meanings in a literary text using critical theories and ideas.</p>
<p>Set Texts:</p> <p><i>Othello</i>: William Shakespeare</p> <p><i>Death of a Salesman</i>: Arthur Miller</p> <p><i>Selected poems</i>: John Keats ('<i>Lamia</i>', '<i>Isabella or The Pot of Basil</i>', '<i>La Belle Dame Sans Merci</i>', '<i>The Eve of St. Agnes</i>').</p>	<p>Set Texts:</p> <p><i>The Kite Runner</i>: Khaled Hosseini</p> <p><i>The Handmaid's Tale</i>: Margaret Atwood</p> <p><i>Songs of Innocence and of Experience</i>: William Blake</p>	<p>Some previous texts studied include:</p> <p><i>Rebecca</i>: Daphne du Maurier <i>Lolita</i>: Vladimir Nabokov <i>The Catcher in the Rye</i>: JD Salinger <i>1984</i>: George Orwell <i>Pride and Prejudice</i>: Jane Austen <i>The Secret History</i>: Donna Tartt <i>The Silence of the Lambs</i>: Thomas Harris <i>Wuthering Heights</i>: Emily Bronte</p> <p>Some previous poets studied include:</p> <p>Dylan Thomas Carol Ann Duffy Charles Bukowski Wilfred Owen Seamus Heaney</p>

How can I prepare for A Level English Literature?

Read, or at the very least, watch, the plays you will be studying in Year 12 – check the programmes at local theatres to see if any live performances are planned, but if not, some film versions are listed below.

Make sure you have read the text you are planning to use for your Theory and Independence section of the course: pick a novel and a poet you've always wanted to study but have never had the opportunity. This is the part of the course you can make your own and you should choose texts you enjoy and that you want to write about. Some examples of texts and poets chosen by past students are above; while there is some scope with regards the texts you choose, they must have some literary merit in order to qualify. There are several suggestions on the sites linked to "The Canon" below; the main prerequisites are that one text must be prose, one poetry (preferably a collection of poems) and neither text can be one of the set texts for the A Level Course.

Suggested Wider Reading:

The Canon:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Western_canon

<https://sites.google.com/site/theenglishliterarycanon/the-canon-portal>

Othello background information:

<https://www.cliffsnotes.com/literature/o/othello/critical-essays/shakespeares-tragedy>

Death of a Salesman background information:

<https://www.cliffsnotes.com/literature/d/death-of-a-salesman/critical-essays/major-themes-in-death-of-a-salesman>

John Keats background information:

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems-and-poets/poets/detail/john-keats>

Roland Barthes: *The Death of the Author*

http://tbook.constantvzw.org/wp-content/death_authorbarthes.pdf

Films:

Othello (1995). Directed by Oliver Parker.

Othello (1965). Directed by Stuart Burge.

Death of a Salesman (1985). Directed by Volker Schlöndorff.

AQA course website:

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/as-and-a-level/english-literature-b-7716-7717>