

AQA: A Level English Literature Transition Tasks

ALL STUDENTS MUST PERFORM THESE TASKS:

1. Read through the Course Introduction document and the handout.
2. Write a 300-word report explaining what 3 books you would take if you were left on a desert island and why.
3. Read *'The Great Gatsby'* by F Scott Fitzgerald and write a 500-word plot synopsis.
4. Complete some initial independent research on the tragic genre. Print out at least one source / article / essay and highlight / annotate. Make a list of eight or more expected features of a tragedy.
5. Read Shakespeare's source for the play *'Othello'*, Cinthio's short story in *'Hecatommithi'* <https://shakespeare-navigators.ewu.edu/othello/Osource.html>;
Make summary notes on the plot of this tale; research and record five key changes Shakespeare made to this original

THEN CHOOSE A MINIMUM OF TWO TASKS TO COMPLETE:

4. Read the opening of William Shakespeare's *'Othello'* and record/film yourself performing one of Iago's soliloquies, or write an analysis piece on one soliloquy.
5. Create a timeline of all the different movements in literature beginning with the 14th Century and ending with Modern Literature.
6. Create a definition sheet of 20 different technical features that a student could analyse in poetry (e.g. rhyme, assonance, etc.)
7. Research when Shakespeare's *'Othello'* was first performed and produce a 300-word summary of the historical context in which the play was set.
8. Speak to at least 5 people and record what their favourite piece of literature is and why.
9. Listen to **one** of the following podcast streams
George Orwell: *The Road to Nineteen Eighty-Four*
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/b01qhb8b>
Book Club: Carol Ann Duffy
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p00d3wr1>
Free Thinking: Audre Lorde
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m0004my0>
10. Create a ten-slide storyboard to display your understanding of the plot of either *'The Great Gatsby'* or *'Othello'*
11. Read three poems by the same author. Write 300 words on the key themes or ideas of these poems. Compare their similarities and differences and explain what you've learned about the poet having read these pieces.

You should bring this Transition Work to your first English Literature Lessons in Year 12. Be ready to discuss your work.

Recommended Reading List

AQA 'A' Level English Literature – Reading List



This is a list of some of the texts that will be useful to read for the AQA English Literature course. The **highlighted** texts are the ones we study in depth at PHS, and the ones you will be examined on. However, reading any selection of these texts will give you a firm foundation for the course. Follow our QR code to browse the PHS Online Library or find copies of these texts at your local libraries.

Text	Author	Type	Unit
Hamlet	William Shakespeare	Drama	AoT
Romeo & Juliet	William Shakespeare	Drama	AoT
Othello	William Shakespeare	Drama	AoT
King Lear	William Shakespeare	Drama	AoT
Richard II	William Shakespeare	Drama	AoT
Henry IV (Part 1)	William Shakespeare	Drama	SPP
Medea	Euripides	Drama	AoT
Oedipus Rex	Sophocles	Drama	AoT
Death of a Salesman	Arthur Miller	Drama	AoT
A Doll's House	Henrik Ibsen	Drama	SPP
The Great Gatsby	F. Scott Fitzgerald	Novel	AoT
Tess of the D'Urbervilles	Thomas Hardy	Novel	AoT
Gulliver's Travels	Johnathon Swift	Novel	SPP
1984	George Orwell	Novel	SPP
Animal Farm	George Orwell	Novel	SPP
Catch-22	Joseph Heller	Novel	SPP
Brave New World	Aldous Huxley	Novel	SPP

The Handmaid's Tale	Margaret Atwood	Novel	SPP
Hard Times	Charles Dickens	Novel	SPP
Harvest	Jim Grace	Novel	SPP
The Kite Runner	Khaled Hosseini	Novel	SPP
The Iliad and The Odyssey	Homer	Poetry	SPP
Prologue to The Monk's Tale	Geoffrey Chaucer	Poetry	SPP
The Monk's Tale	Geoffrey Chaucer	Poetry	SPP
Songs of Innocence and Experience	William Blake	Poetry	SPP
Poetry of Christina Rossetti: 'Cousin Kate', 'Goblin Market', 'An Apple Gathering', 'Maude Clare'	Christina Rossetti	Poetry	NEA
Poetry of John Keats	John Keats	Poetry	AoT

AoT = Aspects of Tragedy (Paper 1); **SPP** = Social and Political Protest Writing (Paper 2);
NEA = NonExamined Assessment (course work)



General KS5 Reading List

As an 'A' Level English Lit. student, you should be reading widely. What follows is a more general reading list, including texts by a wide range of authors, and from many different genres. The more of these you read, the more understanding you will have of how the genres of English Literature fits together. Some of these texts can be found in our online library (follow the QR code) or at your local library.

Text	Author	Type
All My Sons	Arthur Miller	Drama
A Thousand Splendid Suns	Khaled Hosseini	Novel
Atonement	Ian McEwan	Novel
The Ballad of Reading Gaol	Oscar Wilde	Poetry
The Bell Jar	Sylvia Plath	Novel
Beloved	Toni Morrison	Novel
Brighton Rock	Graham Greene	Novel
The Buddha Of Suburbia	Hanif Kureishi	Novel
The Catcher in the Rye	J.D. Salinger	Novel

Cat on a Hot Tin Roof	Tennessee Williams	Drama
The Color Purple	Alice Walker	Novel
The Crucible	Arthur Miller	Drama
Death of a Naturalist	Seamus Heaney	Poetry
The Fall of the House of Usher	Edgar Allen Poe	Short Story
Feminine Gospels	Carol Ann Duffy	Poetry
The French Lieutenant's Woman	John Fowles	Novel
The Garden Party	Katherine Mansfield	Short Story
Great Expectations	Charles Dickens	Novel
The Grapes of Wrath	John Steinbeck	Novel
I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings	Maya Angelou	Autobiography
The Importance of Being Earnest	Oscar Wilde	Drama
Midnight's Children	Salman Rushdie	Novel
One Hundred Years of Solitude	Gabriel Garcia Marquez	Novel
On the Road	Jack Kerouac	Novel
Oranges are Not the Only Fruit	Jeanette Winterson	Novel
Paddy Clarke Ha Ha Ha	Roddy Doyle	Novel
The Picture of Dorian Gray	Oscar Wilde	Novel
The Remains of the Day	Kazuo Ishiguro	Novel
A Room with a View	E.M. Forster	Novel
The Sea, The Sea	Iris Murdoch	Novel
Shakespeare: The World as a Stage	Bill Bryson	Biography
Sister Outsider	Audre Lorde	Poetry
Things Fall Apart	Chinua Achebe	Novel
Trainspotting	Irvine Welsh	Novel
Under Milk Wood	Dylan Thomas	Poetry/Drama
Waiting for Godot	Samuel Beckett	Drama
Wide Sargasso Sea	Jean Rhys	Novel
Wild Swans	Jung Chang	Biography
The Waste Land	T. S. Eliot	Poetry
Wolf Hall	Hilary Mantel	Novel
Wuthering Heights	Emily Bronte	Novel
The Yellow Wallpaper	Charlotte Perkins Gilman	Short Story

There is one recommended text book for English Literature, and a series of literary texts for the two-year course. It is advisable to have your own copies, so that you can annotate in detail. AQA's anthologies of Critical Theory and Poetry (Tragedy and Social and Political Protest Writing) will be provided for you.

AQA A Level English Literature B: Student Book

ISBN 978-0198337485

Othello, William Shakespeare (Oxford Schools)

ISBN: 978-0198328735

Death of a Salesman, Arthur Miller (Penguin Classics)

ISBN: 978-0141182742

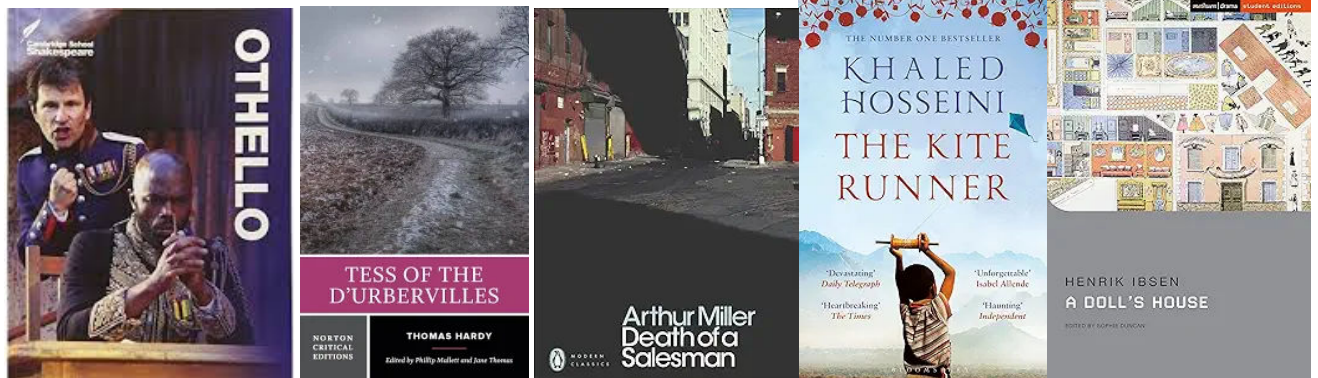
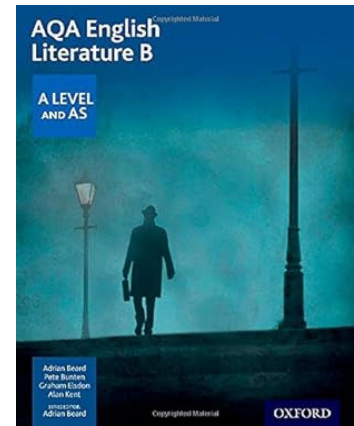
Tess of the d'Urbervilles, Thomas Hardy Thomas Hardy (Norton Critical Edition) ISBN: 978-1324071891

The Kite Runner, Khalid Hosseini (Bloomsbury)

ISBN: 978-1526604743

A Doll's House, Henrik Ibsen (Methuen Drama)

ISBN: 978-1350116788



Paper 1: Literary genres
Aspects of Tragedy: 75 Marks - 40%

Written Exam: Closed Text - 2 hours 30 minutes

Study of three texts: one Shakespeare text; a second drama text and one further text, of which one must be written pre-1900

Section A: one passage-based question on set Shakespeare text – Othello (25 marks)

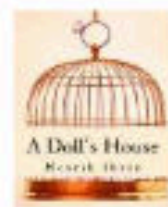
Section B: one essay question on set Shakespeare text – Othello (25 marks)

Section C: one essay question linking two texts – Death of a Salesman and Hardy's *Tess of the d'Urbervilles* (25 marks)



Non-exam assessment: Theory and Independence

50 marks – 20% of A-Level
Assessed by Teachers; Moderated
by AQA



Study of two texts: one poetry and one prose

Two essays of 1250–1500 words, each responding to a different text and linking to a different aspect of the Critical anthology.

One essay can be re-creative. The re-creative piece will be accompanied by a commentary.



**AQA A Level
English Literature**

Paper 2: Texts and Genres
Elements of Political and Social Writing:
75 Marks - 40%

Written Paper: Open Text - 3 hours

Study of three texts: one post-2000 prose text; one poetry and one further text, one of which must be written pre-1900

Examination will include an unseen passage.

Section A: one compulsory question on an unseen passage (25 marks)

Section B: one essay question on set text – A Doll's House – Henrik Ibsen/Blake Poetry – Songs of Innocence and of Experience/The Kite Runner – Khaled Hosseini (25 marks)

Section C: one essay question which connects two of the above texts (25 marks)

Assessment Objectives

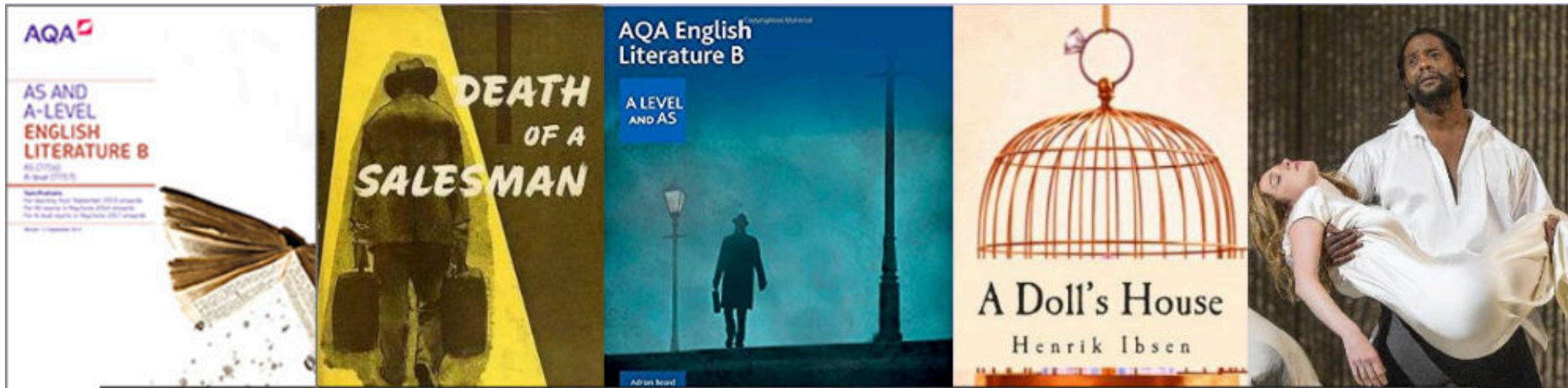
AO1: Articulate informed, personal and creative responses to literary texts, using associated concepts and terminology, and coherent, accurate written expression.

AO2: Analyse ways in which meanings are shaped in literary texts.

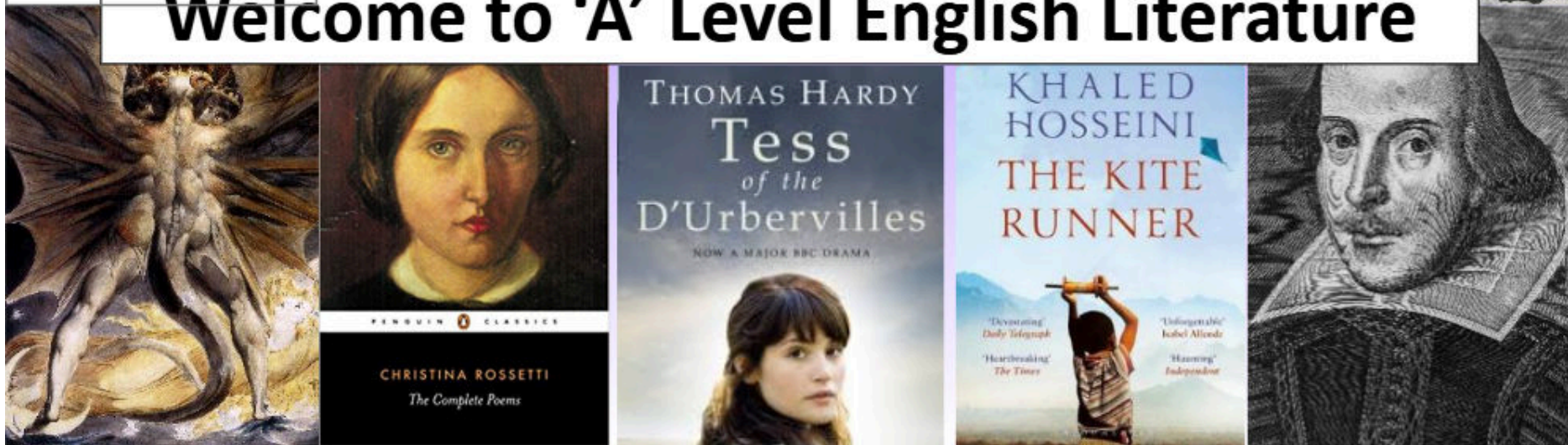
AO3: Demonstrate understanding of the significance and influence of the contexts in which literary texts are written and received.

AO4: Explore connections across literary texts.

AO5: Explore literary texts informed by different interpretations.



Welcome to 'A' Level English Literature



c/w

Introduction and Welcome

L/O: What are the expectations and objectives of the course?

Folders & Expectations



You will be given a lever-arch file and a set of dividers. You should use this to keep your notes and handouts for each unit of **English Literature**. You will also be given a smaller plastic wallet for day-to-day use.

Generally, you should try to bring your file to every lesson. However, as it gets bigger, you may only need to bring your smaller folder containing assignments and notes for the current unit.

It will be YOUR RESPONSIBILITY to keep your notes up-to-date and folders tidy.



Introduction and Welcome

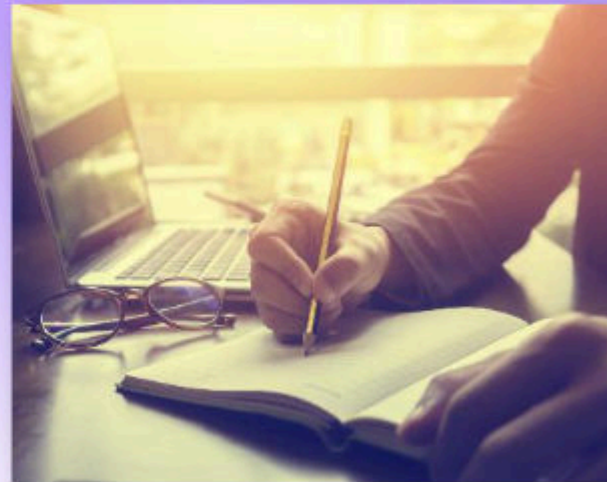
L/O: What are the expectations and objectives of the course?

Assessments, Essays & Exams

You will have **two** exam papers for A Level English Literature, each containing **three** essay-based questions worth 25 marks each.

In order to build your skills with this type of exam question, we will be aiming to complete an essay of this type **every two weeks**.

You will also have **coursework** (non-examined assessment) in the form of **two extended essays**.



Assessment Objectives

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.

What do the AOs actually mean?

	Assessment Objective	Meaning	%
AO1	Articulate informed, personal and creative responses to literary texts, using associated concepts and terminology, and coherent, accurate written expression.	You write about texts in accurate, clear and precise ways so that what you have to say is clear to the marker. You use literary terms (e.g. 'protagonist') or refer to concepts (e.g. 'hubris') in relevant places. You do not simply repeat what you had read or been told, but express your own ideas based on in-depth knowledge of the text and related issues.	28%
AO2	Analyse ways in which meanings are shaped in literary texts.	You are able to explain in detail how specific techniques and methods used by an author (e.g. recurrent symbols or motifs) influence and affect the reader's response.	24%
AO3	Demonstrate understanding of the significance and influence of the contexts in which literary texts are written and received.	You can explain how the play might reflect the social, historical, political or personal backgrounds of the author or the time when it was written. You could also consider how the text might have been received differently over time by audiences and readers.	24%
AO4	Explore connections across literary texts.	You are able to explain links between texts, perhaps of similar genres, or with similar contexts, or viewed from similar perspectives.	12%
AO5	Explore literary texts informed by different interpretations.	You understand how a text can be viewed in different ways, and are able to write about these debates, forming your own opinion. For example, you might explain how one critic might view Othello as a noble tragic hero, whilst another might see him as a weak, deluded man, who is responsible for his own downfall.	12%

AQA 'A' Level English Literature

Two Exams & One Non-Exam Assessment
Paper 1: 2 hours and 30 minutes
Paper 2: 3 hours
Non-Exam Assessment: Theory & Independence

Paper 1: Literary Genres

Choice of two options:
Option 1A: Aspects of Comedy
Option 1B: Aspects of Tragedy

2 hours and 30 minutes (40% of 'A' Level Lit.)

Section A:

- One passage-based question on set Shakespeare text.

(25 marks)

Section B:

- One essay question on set Shakespeare text.

(25 marks)

Section C:

- One essay question linking two texts

(25 marks)

Paper 2: Texts & Genres

Choice of two options:
Option A: Elements of Crime Writing
Option B: Elements of Political and Social Protest Writing

3 hours (40% of 'A' Level Lit.)

Section A:

- One compulsory question on an unseen passage.

(25 marks)

Section B:

- One essay question on set text.

(25 marks)

Section C:

- One essay question which connects two texts.

(25 marks)

Non-Exam Assessment: Theory & Independence

Study of two texts:
One poetry and one prose text, informed by study of the Critical Anthology

Assessed by teachers (20% of 'A' Level Lit.)

- Two essays of 1250–1500 words, each responding to a different text and linking to a different aspect of the Critical anthology
- One essay can be re-creative. The re-creative piece will be accompanied by a commentary.

(50 marks)

Introduction and Welcome

L/O: What are the expectations and objectives of the course?

Independent Study



You will have an **Independent Study** task each half-term, which you will be expected to complete in your study periods. These will link closely with the units in lessons, and will be crucial for attaining strong grades in assessments and essays.

You will also receive independent tasks from your individual teachers each week. These will generally take the form of **reading, research, preparation** or **revision**.

Introduction and Welcome

Thursday, 22 June
2023

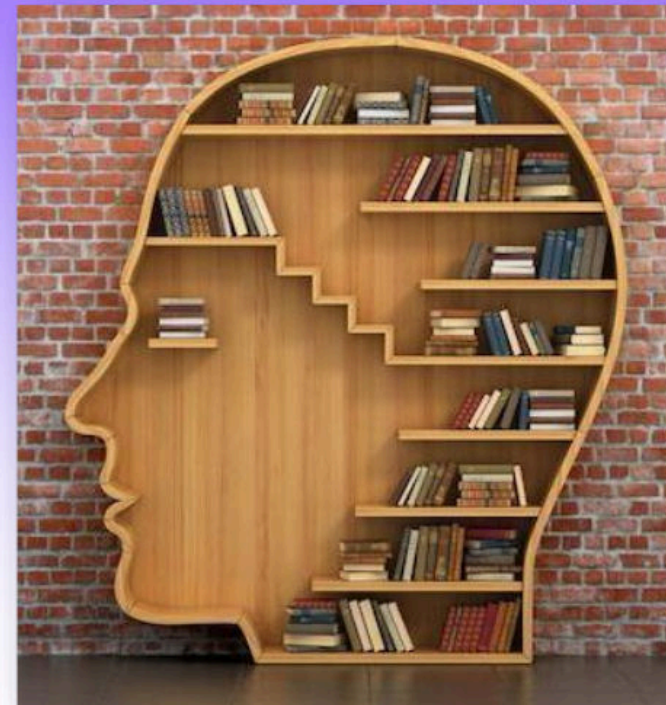
L/O: What are the expectations and objectives of the course?

The Importance of Reading

We are assuming that one of the main reasons you have chosen to study English Literature is because you **love books and reading**.

Reading is crucial to your success in this subject.

There are several **set texts** to read over the two years of the course, which you will have to read outside of lesson time. There will also be numerous essays, critical studies, biographies, research papers, etc.



	Provisional Year 12 Outline		Provisional Year 13 Outline	
	Teacher 1 (4 periods)	Teacher 2 (2 periods)	Teacher 1 (4 periods)	Teacher 2 (2 periods)
AUT 1	Intro to Aspects of Tragedy 'Othello'	Intro to Critical Theories & Non Examined Assessment	'A Doll's House' Blake's Poetry	NEA: Prose
AUT 2	'Othello'	Intro to Critical Theories & Non Examined Assessment	Blake's Poetry	Revision ('The Kite Runner' / Aspects of Tragedy) / NEA Editing
SPR 1	Pre-1900 Tragedy 'Tess of the D'Urbervilles') Assessment	'Death of a Salesman' (NEA Poetry Writing) Assessment	Mock SPP Revision	Mock SPP Revision (Unseen)
SPR 2	Pre-1900 Tragedy ('Tess of the D'Urbervilles')	'Death of a Salesman' & Tragedy Revision (NEA Poetry Writing)	Revision – Aspects of Tragedy	Revision – Aspects of SPP
SUM 1	'The Kite Runner'	Introduction to Social & Political Protest and Unseen (NEA Poetry Editing)	Exam technique	Exam technique
SUM 2	'The Kite Runner' End of Year Exams	SPP Unseen End of Year Exams (Summer Reading for NEA)		