

English Literature at A Level

AQA Literature Specification B.

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%)
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)

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.

A05	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
- ❖ 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.