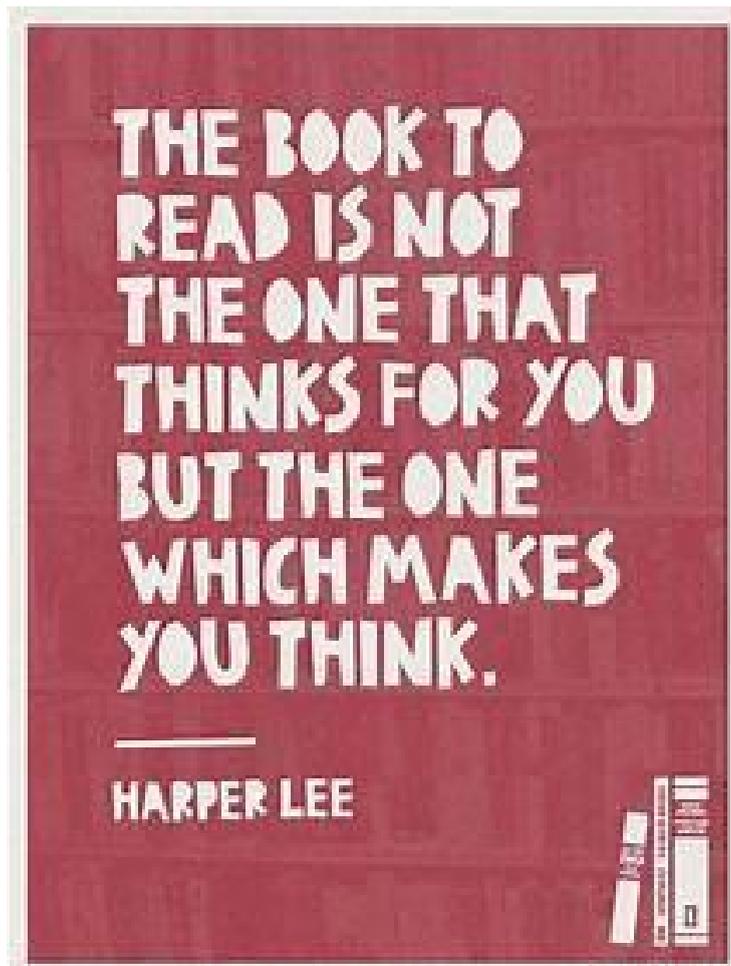


Year 11 Transition

A-Level English Literature

Summer Task Booklet



AQA ENGLISH LITERATURE B

The English Department
The Cottesloe School

Welcome to A-Level English Literature!

Welcome, Year 11 😊

Firstly, thank you so much for showing an interest in studying English Literature at A-Level. It is lovely to see that you have enjoyed the subject at GCSE so much that you are hoping to continue your academic journey with us in September. I hope that you found the induction lessons inspiring and that you are ready to go!

As you are probably aware from the course outline shared with you at induction, there is a lot to cover over the next two years and every lesson is precious. We would therefore like you to get started over the summer so we can delve straight in when you return to school. This booklet will now outline some ideas that you can use over the summer and beyond to develop an even better foundation for the course as well as a few tasks that we would like you to complete in time for your first lessons in September.

We can't wait to see you in September, but if you have any questions in the meantime please get in touch with one of the team below via their email address.

Enjoy!

Mrs. Onan-Read

KS5 LEAD FOR ENGLISH

Meet the A-Level English Literature Team



Mrs. Onan-Read
currently on maternity leave



Mrs. Woodcock
[EMAIL ME](#)



Mr. Matcham
[EMAIL ME](#)



Mrs. Russell
[EMAIL ME](#)

English Literature

Summer Preparation Tasks 2022

1

We would like you to read as many of the six set texts outlined overleaf as you can. Although you will not be studying them all at once in Year 12, this will provide you with an advantage. We would, however, recommend beginning with *King Lear* and *The Handmaid's Tale* as these are the texts that you will study at the start of Year 12. The more than you can read, the less heavy your workload will be in Year 12.

Whilst reading, you may like to annotate your texts with notes/ideas/observations, which you can later discuss in class.

2

As mentioned at the start of this booklet, we would like you to work your way through this booklet and complete the tasks that you choose – it is all about exploring the world of English Literature and developing your confidence with the subject. This handbook will be useful for you to work through for the next two years!

Make sure that you keep notes from all that you read and watch in your own folder as you may be able to make connections once you start the A-Level course and/or you may like to revisit ideas for your NEA.

Aim to complete as much of the booklet as you can – what you put in, you'll get out!

3

Finally, for your first lesson of Year 12 in September, we would like you to choose a suitably challenging novel, poem (or collection of poetry) or a play (or do all three) to read before your course, and then answer and prepare the following:

1. Take notes of any ideas or techniques that the writer used that interested you.
2. Write a critical review of the text. Here is an example, a review of *The Handmaid's Tale* in The Guardian: [www.theguardian.com/books/2010/sep/26/the-handmaids-tale- margaret-atwood](http://www.theguardian.com/books/2010/sep/26/the-handmaids-tale-margaret-atwood)
3. Do a piece of creative writing inspired by the text – this should in some way mimic the style of writing of the author – and write a commentary on how you have achieved this.
4. Read a critical view of the text that you have chosen.
5. Create a short presentation (3–5 minutes), that you can deliver to your class and/or teacher, on the text which covers the basic ideas of the text but also considers it critically.

HAVE FUN!

Set Texts

You will need to purchase one copy of each of the set texts to use in lessons.
(Texts with an * will be given out to you in September as they are printed by the Exam Board).

Paper 1: Literary Genres

- *King Lear* by William Shakespeare – 9781586638535
- *Death of a Salesman* by Arthur Miller – 9780141182742
- John Keats' Poetry Anthology *

Paper 2: Texts and Genres

- *The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood – 9780099740919
- *Songs of Innocence and Experience* by William Blake *
- *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hossieni – 9781408824856

Suggested Wider Reading Titles

From the same authors

- *The Crucible/A View from a Bridge* by Arthur Miller
- *Oryx and Crake/Alias Grace* by Margaret Atwood
- *A Thousand Splendid Suns/And the Mountains Echoed* by Khaled Hossieni
- *Far from the Madding Crowd/Mayor of Casterbridge* by Thomas Hardy
- *Othello/Hamlet* by William Shakespeare

English Department Revision Websites

We also currently have three websites, created by Mrs. Onan-Read and Ms Parris-Hammons, to help our students understand, learn, and ultimately revise their set texts. It would be a good idea to familiarise yourself with them over the summer as most of our resources will already have been uploaded.

Tragedy

<https://sites.google.com/cottesloe.bucks.sch.uk/aspects-of-tragedy/home>

Political and Social Protest Writing

<https://sites.google.com/cottesloe.bucks.sch.uk/elementsofppspw/home>

NEA

<https://sites.google.com/cottesloe.bucks.sch.uk/englishliteraturenea/home>

FAQs

What resources do I need to bring to my lessons?

In September, we will provide you with a purple exercise book which is to be used by you to complete any assessed pieces (essays, homework tasks etc.). We will also give you copies of the Critical Anthology as well as the Poetry Anthologies for Blake and Keats.

You will need to make sure that you have: A4 lined paper for your class notes, an A4 folder to store and organise your work, a selection of pens (black, blue and red) and highlighters as well as your own copies of the set texts.

How many lessons will I have each week?

It is likely that you will have 9 lessons over the course of the two-week timetable, so 4 lessons one week and 5 the next.

How much independent work am I expected to complete outside of lesson time?

It is expected that you will use your Guided Study sessions to complete work/wider reading as well as at least an additional 2-4 hours per week at home.

When will we have mock exams?

A-Level mock exam periods tend to be scheduled for January and June each year, but this could be subject to change.

How will I receive feedback on any essays that I write?

Your teacher will comment on your essay with questions/comments/ideas and then complete an assessment feedback form with a WWW/EBI comment as well as a grade out of 25. Your teacher may also provide the group with Whole Class Feedback and accompanying tasks. It is your responsibility to complete all of the fix-it required.

If I will be absent for a lesson, what do I do?

Please email the specific teacher for the lesson that you are going to miss and let them know that you will be absent (or if you are ill and are not in school). Your teacher will either send you the resources from the lesson and/or ask you to meet up with them to go through what you have missed. Again, it will be your responsibility to catch up.

If I really don't understand something in the lesson, what should I do?

Please let your teacher know as soon as possible, either at the end of the lesson, in an email or at a break/lunch time. You may feel embarrassed, but please do speak with us and let us know. We can schedule a 1:1 meeting at a time that suits you if necessary.

What should I do if I am not going to be able to meet the teacher's deadline?

Speak with that teacher directly and be honest! We can arrange for an extension and/or additional support with a 1:1 meeting.

What will I do if I forget my copy of the set text?

We will have spares in the English office that you can borrow for that lesson.

Am I allowed to use my phone during the lesson for research etc.?

Sorry, the school has a strict 'no phones' policy so you will be asked to keep them in your bags on silent. If you need to research something, you can always request to borrow a laptop from the Library.

If you have a question that is not answered here, please email one of the English Literature team.

Plan for Year 12 (changes can still be made)

Half Term	Teacher 1: x 5 per fortnight (PSPW)	Teacher 2: x4 per fortnight (Tragedy)
1	<p>Presentation of Summer tasks (1 week)</p> <p>Introduction to the Elements of PSPW and the Unseen (3 weeks) Focus on a range of unseen texts and introduce the elements.</p> <p><i>The Handmaid's Tale</i> Reading and analysis of the whole novel, focusing on elements of PSPW.</p>	<p>Introduction to Aspects of Tragedy (2 weeks) Linking to previous GCSE understanding of <i>Macbeth</i>. There is opportunity to concentrate on extracts from other Shakespearean tragedies (such as <i>Hamlet, Romeo and Juliet, Othello</i> etc.) as unseen extracts.</p> <p><i>King Lear</i> Reading and analysis of the play as whole, focusing on the aspects of tragedy.</p>
2	<p><i>The Handmaid's Tale</i> (cont.) Preparation for the January mock exam.</p>	<p><i>King Lear</i> (cont.) Preparation for the January mock exam.</p>
3	<p><i>The Kite Runner</i> Reading and analysis of the whole novel, focusing on elements of PSPW. Links could also be made to THT.</p>	<p><i>King Lear</i> (cont. if necessary) Students could now be introduced to Section B of Paper 1 as the whole play should be covered.</p>
4		
5		<p><i>Death of a Salesman</i> Reading and analysis of the play as a whole, focusing on the aspects of tragedy. Students could be introduced to the Paper 1, section C style of question (although no connection to other texts needed at this stage).</p>
6	<p>Preparation for the NEA An introduction to the NEA unit as well as key literary theories: feminism, Marxism etc.</p>	

General Preparation and Reading

Academic Writing

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/learningenglish/gothedistance/academicwriting>

Audio Series of the Classics

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p06w4v4x>

Open Book

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000h7m3>

The Novel (BBC Radio 4)

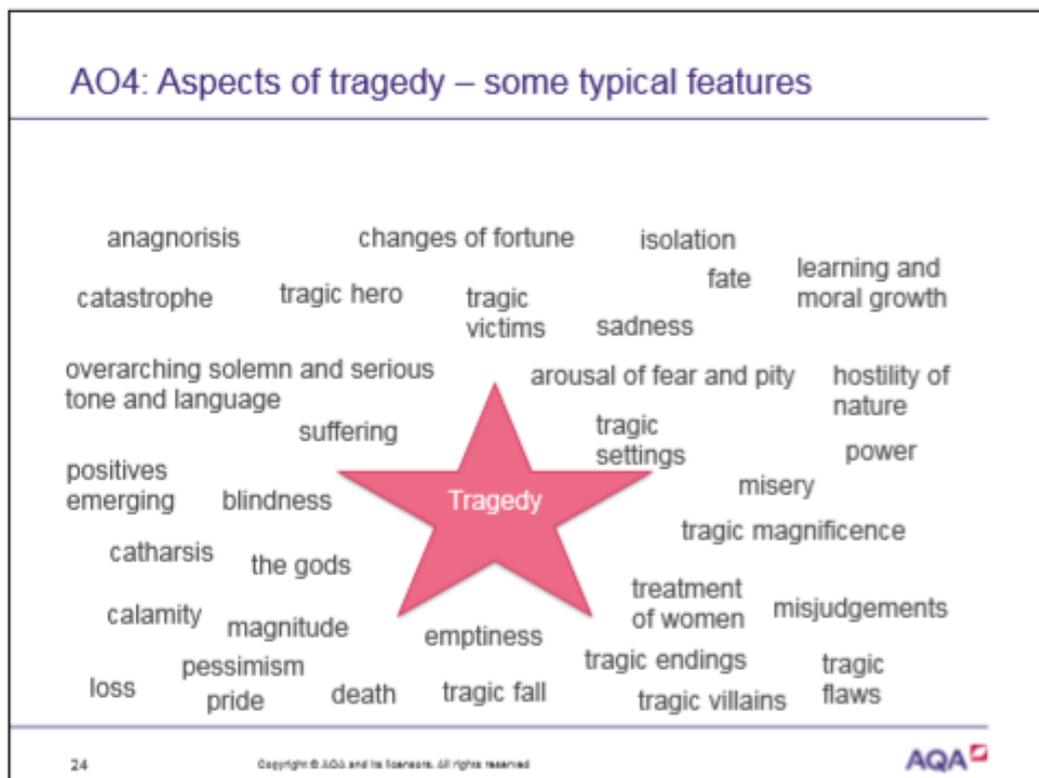
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p005463z>

Audio Classic Short Stories

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p06w4v4x/episodes/player>



PAPER ONE: ASPECTS OF TRAGEDY





King Lear

At A-level, we will read and study *King Lear* as part of our 'Aspects of Tragedy' work – it will be one of your first set texts in September so it would be a good idea to start here.

In preparation, it would be useful to:

Grasp the Genre

Shakespearean Tragedy

<https://www.nosweatshakespeare.com/shakespeares-plays/play-types/tragedy-plays/>

<https://www.bl.uk/shakespeare/articles/an-introduction-to-shakespearean-tragedy>

Understand the Context

Upstart Crow

In this excellent TV programme starring David Mitchell as William Shakespeare, we are introduced to Shakespeare's life, the Elizabethan context and the plot of many of his plays through entertaining television!

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episodes/b0959g26/upstart-crow?seriesId=b07bp62s> (30 mins each)

Cunk on Shakespeare

Philomena Cunk presents a witty 30 minute show on Shakespeare, his life and writing.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9YeCpHoy9EQ> (30 mins)

In Our Time (BBC Radio 4): Shakespeare's Life

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00547ct> (45 mins)

Listen to or Watch a version of the Play

'King Lear' starring Anthony Hopkins (BBC 2018) Amazon Prime Video

<https://www.amazon.com/King-Lear/dp/B07GGCWSN3>

The Shakespeare Sessions (podcast) Full Length Play: King Lear – 11th June 2018

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p069jfnw>

Watch or Read another Shakespearean Tragedy

Knowledge of other Shakespearean tragedies will help you understand the genre and draw parallels with them and *King Lear*.

Romeo and Juliet

Available soon from: <https://www.rsc.org.uk/news/bbc-culture-in-quarantine>

In Our Time (BBC Radio 4) show on Hamlet

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/b09jqtf5>

Macbeth

Register for free trial to watch (<https://www.marquee.tv/>)

Othello

<https://www.rsc.org.uk/othello/>

Practice Question – Paper 1, section B:

'Cordelia's death is the shocking climax of cruelty in Shakespeare's exploration of evil.'

To what extent do you agree with this view?

Remember to include in your answer relevant comment on Shakespeare's dramatic methods.

[25 marks]

Death of a Salesman

At the end of Year 12, you will study this 20th century play under the **Aspects of Tragedy** genre and you will be asked to connect his poems to *Keats' Poetry* in Section C of Paper 1.

To revise, you could research:

Arthur Miller

Interview (1999)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ob0f1kCtOM&t=27s>



The Film *remember that the set text is a play as it meant to be watched on stage by an audience*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RMqiCtq5VLs>

American Dream

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zf9tnN7-omo>

The Play as a Tragedy

Arthur Miller and 'The Tragedy of the Common Man'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0lcrPnJFiHA>

Plot Summary

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0okWZWWaQv4>

Themes, Symbols and Motifs

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FzpJnYIQv98&t=11s>

General Revision

<https://www.sparknotes.com/lit/salesman/>

Revision Notes

<https://kieurevision.blogspot.com/2017/06/aspects-of-tragedy-death-of-salesman.html>

Practice Question – Paper 1, section C:

'The pride displayed by tragic heroes and tragic heroines elevates them rather than diminishes them.'

To what extent do you agree with this view in relation to two texts you have studied?

Remember to include in your answer relevant comment on the ways the writers have shaped meanings.

[25 marks]



John Keats' Poetry

We will be studying *Keats' Poetry* under the **Aspects of Tragedy** genre and you will be asked to connect his poems to Miller's *Death of a Salesman* in Section C of Paper 1.

You will need to read and understand all 4 of Keats' poems: *Isabella*, *Lamia*, *The Eve of St Agnes* and *La Belle Dame sans Merci*.

To prepare, you could research:

John Keats

Life & Legacy

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_kd9qjZWeko

Romanticism

The Romantics – Eternity (BBC documentary)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R6mefXs5h9o>

Romanticism – History of Ideas

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OiRWBI0JTYQ&t=60s>

Alain de Botton on Romanticism

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sPOulyEJnbE>

Cockney Romantics – Keats and his friends

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AbYS75k404Y>

Poems

The Eve of St. Agnes

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A39r1jmh0mw>

Linking to Tragedy

Unpicking Tragedy

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LT4PCknLHHY>

A-Level Revision Notes

<https://kieurevision.blogspot.com/2017/06/aspects-of-tragedy-john-keats-poetry.html>

Practice Question – Paper 1, section C:

'Tragedies leave readers and audiences with a final sense of emptiness and disillusion.'

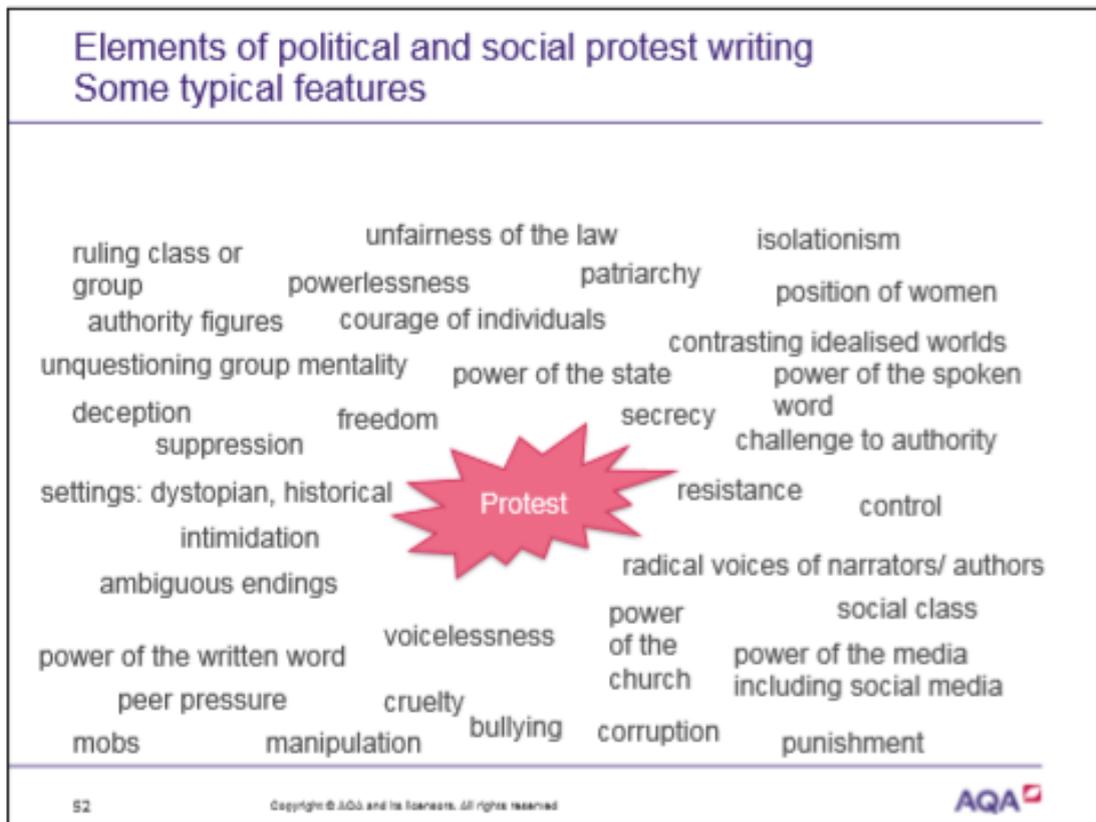
To what extent do you agree with this view in relation to two texts you have studied?

Remember to include in your answer relevant comment on the ways the writers have shaped meanings.

[25 marks]

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PAPER TWO: ELEMENTS OF POLITICAL AND SOCIAL PROTEST



Unseen Extract

For part of Paper 2: Elements of PSPW, you will have to write about an extract that you will (more than likely) not have seen before. You will have to analyse the extract, looking specifically how and why it explores the elements of PSPW. This question is worth 1/3 of the marks on the paper so is a particularly important unit to study.

In preparation, it would be useful to:

Introduction

<https://kieurevision.blogspot.com/2017/06/aqa-level-english-literature-b.html>

What is PSPW?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vw5SqNaY4yE>

Top 5 Tips for Answering the Unseen Question

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D0sdDEItEx8>

Practice Question – Paper 1, section A:

see extract - <https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/sample-papers-and-mark-schemes/2018/june/AQA-77172B-QP-JUN18.PDF>

Dystopian

We will be studying *The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood as part of your analysis of the Elements of PSPW. Like *King Lear*, it will be one of your first set texts to study in September, so it would be a good place to start your learning.

I recommend that you DON'T watch the series and DON'T read the sequel as they could make studying the text quite confusing!

To prepare, you could research:

Margaret Atwood

The Novel: A Female's World?

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m000b8mf/novels-that-shaped-our-world-series-1-1-a-womans-place>

Margaret Atwood – Ways to Change the World

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PH2ltR-xvFI>

BBC Bookclub – Interview with Margaret Atwood

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/b0b4zf0w>

Feminism

If you have access to Netflix, I would highly recommend the short film on **Feminism** in the '**History 101**' series as it focuses heavily on the feminist movement in America; this would be great learning for AO3 context as many of the events discussed are alluding to by Atwood in the novel.

British Library - Mary Wollstonecraft's Birthday Party podcast

<https://soundcloud.com/the-british-library/mary-wollstonecrafts-birthday-party-a-british-library-podcast>

British Library – 'Sisterhood and After' online exhibition

<https://www.bl.uk/sisterhood>

Genre: Dystopian Fiction

Why is Dystopian Fiction so Appealing?

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/w3csyv0r>

In Our Time: Melvin Bragg on Utopias

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p003k9fz>

Similar Fiction

Brave New World

Everyone is made in test tubes and society is controlled with pleasure.

E-book: <https://www.idph.com.br/conteudos/ebooks/BraveNewWorld.pdf>

Audiobook: https://stories.audible.com/pdp/B002V1BVK4?ref=adbl_ent_anon_sc_pdp_pc_0

Discussion: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b00jn8bc>

1984

You are always being watched, media is controlled and manipulated by the government and society is controlled with fear.

Ebook: <https://www.planetebook.com/free-ebooks/1984.pdf>

Audiobook: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=scqLliarGpM&disable_polymer=true



The Power by Naomi Alderman

Women rule the world.

As it was published in 2018, you'd have to buy this in order to read.

Fahrenheit 451

Books are banned. Firefighters don't put out fires; they burn books.

Ebook: <https://www.fsusd.org/cms/lib03/CA01001943/Centricity/Domain/2034/Fahrenheit%20451.pdf>

Audiobook: <https://archive.org/details/Fahrenheit451-Audiobook/Fahrenheit+451-Part02.mp3>

Dystopian Watching

Noughts & Crosses

Malorie Blackman's book is more like a teen romance, but the new BBC series has turned it into a scarily possible dystopian.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p082w992>

Black Mirror

This is to help with your understanding of the dystopian genre. Binge watching the entire series is not adequate preparation for A-level Literature! I recommend you choose 1-2 episode for work purposes.

A fairly disturbing series available on Netflix. Each episode is standalone and creates a dystopian world in which technology is damaging. Read the blurb first to see if it is for you. I recommend Series One Episode Three in which your entire memory is on a disk in your brain which you are able to re-watch and even play for others. Series 4 Episode 2 is probably quite relevant to you as teenagers! A mum has a device put in her daughter's eyes which enables her to see and hear everything her daughter does. Not only that, she can also control how much she can see and hear.

Revision Notes

https://kieurevision.blogspot.com/2017/06/aqa-level-english-literature-b_24.html

Practice Question – Paper 2, section B:

'The Handmaid's Tale is not primarily about the suppression of women but about their defiance.'

To what extent do you agree with this view?

Remember to include in your answer relevant detailed exploration of Atwood's authorial methods.

[25 marks]



Romantic Poetry

We will be studying *Songs of Innocence and of Experience* by William Blake as part of your analysis of the Elements of PSPW. Blake was a Romantic like Keats so a lot of their context will be shared.

To prepare, you could research:

William Blake

Blake's Radicalism

<https://www.bl.uk/romantics-and-victorians/videos/william-blake-radicalism>

The Notebook of William Blake

<https://www.bl.uk/collection-items/the-notebook-of-william-blake>

The Life of Poet William Blake – documentary (1995)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wDAIzERYzcY>

Romanticism

Introduction

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OiRWBIOJTYQ&t=123s>

The Origins of Romanticism

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t2-EA6doUf4>

The Romantics – Eternity (BBC Documentary)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oLwRXISgiSQ>

The Romantics – Nature (BBC Documentary)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=liVQ21KZfOI>

Blake, the Artist

Library of Blake's illustrations

<https://www.tate.org.uk/art/artists/william-blake-39/blakes-songs-innocence-experience>

Revision Notes

https://kieurevision.blogspot.com/2017/06/aqa-level-english-literature-b_22.html

Practice Question – Paper 2, section B:

'In his poetry, Blake presents parents as oppressive and controlling of their children.'

To what extent do you agree with this view?

Remember to include in your answer relevant detailed exploration of Blake's authorial methods.

[25 marks]



The Kite Runner

At the start of Year 13 you will study 'The Kite Runner', but it's not too early to start your learning journey.

To prepare, you could research:

Khaled Hosseini

Biography

<https://khaledhosseini.com/bio/>

Context on the Author - Interview

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=useqwpkN18E>

Listen to the audiobook version of the novel
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MEL2C2Q9Hik>

Analysing the Politics in *The Kite Runner*
<https://classroom.synonym.com/analysis-setting-the-kite-runner-23410.html>

Summary and Overview
https://kieurevision.blogspot.com/2017/06/aqa-level-english-literature-b_21.html

Revision Notes
<https://www.sparknotes.com/lit/the-kite-runner/summary/>

Practice Question – Paper 2, section B:

'In *The Kite Runner*, the personal and the political are always linked.'

To what extent do you agree with this view?

Remember to include in your answer relevant detailed exploration of Hosseini's authorial methods.

[25 marks]

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NEA

Non-Exam Assessment

As part of your independent study, you will be asked to choose two texts of your own (one novel and 3 poems from the same poet) to analyse for your coursework.

This unit will begin at the end of Year 12 but the earlier that you begin to read and choose your own texts, the easier you will find the tasks to complete.

To prepare, you could research:

NEA Reading List: Suggestions

Please note that many of these texts can be read through more than one critical lens.

Texts to apply a Feminist Critical Reading:

Beloved – Toni Morrison

The Power – Naomi Alderman

The Bloody Chamber – Angela Carter

The Awakening – Kate Chopin

The Yellow Wallpaper and Other Stories – Charlotte Gilman

Selected Poems – Anne Sexton (Poetry)

And Still I Rise – Maya Angelou (Poetry)

The Fat Black Woman's Poems – Grace Nichols (Poetry)

Selected Poems (Monologues) – Robert Browning (Poetry)

Texts to apply a Marxist Critical Reading:

1984 – George Orwell
Brave New World – Aldous Huxley
Fahrenheit 451 – Ray Bradbury
The Color Purple – Alice Walker
Wuthering Heights – Emily Bronte
Selected Poems – Simon Armitage (Poetry)

Texts to apply a Post-Colonial Critical Reading:

Americanah – Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano, or Gustavus Vassa, the African – Olaudah Equiano
Invisible Man – Ralph Ellison
Passing – Nella Larsen
Heart of Darkness – Joseph Conrad
Sing, Unburied, Sing – Jesmyn Ward
Things Fall Apart – Chinua Achebe
Selected Poems – Langston Hughes (Poetry)
Omeros – Derek Walcott (Poetry)

Texts to apply an Eco-Critical Critical Reading:

Black Beauty – Anna Sewell
Moby-Dick – Herman Melville
The Road – Cormac McCarthy
Sea Garden – H.D. (Poetry)
Selected Poems – Robert Frost (Poetry)

Texts to apply a Narrative Critical Reading:

Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit – Jeanette Winterson
Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine – Gail Honeyman
Shutter Island – Dennis Lehane
Never Let Me Go – Kazuo Ishiguro
Gone Girl – Gillian Flynn
Rebecca – Daphne Du Maurier

Texts to apply a Literary Canon Critical Reading:

To Kill a Mockingbird – Harper Lee
Pride and Prejudice – Jane Austen
The Catcher in the Rye – J. D. Salinger
Great Expectations – Charles Dickens
The Odyssey – Homer (Epic Poem)
Sonnets – Shakespeare (Poetry)
Paradise Lost – John Milton (Poetry)

Feminist Theory

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6s1-8sWutQ>

Marxist Theory

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nmlhEWiYE3o>

Eco-Critical Theory

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2aKkGa7sUdM>

Narrative Theory

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OwT-irY4LM>

Literary Value and the Canon

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VUy1QbUMgIQ>

Post-Colonial Theory

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=agdrjeM5TaQ>