

A Level English Literature

You are studying the OCR A-Level in English Literature H472.

At the end of Year 13, you will sit two exams, each worth 40% of the A-Level and you will also submit a coursework portfolio worth 20%:

Paper One **Shakespeare**
Drama and Poetry pre-1900

Texts: Hamlet, The Merchant's Prologue & Tale + A Doll's House

Paper Two **Close Reading in a Chosen Topic Area (Dystopian Literature)**
Comparative and Contextual Study from a Chosen Topic Area

Texts: 1984 + The Time Machine

Coursework **Close Reading – an analysis of a poem within a collection.**
Comparative essay – comparing a play and a novel.

Texts for coursework: You have free choice here. All three texts must be post-1900. One must be post 2000. However, we will teach Jerusalem by Jez Butterworth as a possible choice for the play text and A Clockwork Orange by Anthony Burgess as a possible choice for the novel.

You will study a total of 8 texts. Final choices of the Year 13 texts will be made during Year 12.

Year 12

In Year 12, you will study 4 texts.

Hamlet by William Shakespeare

The Merchant's Prologue and Tale by Geoffrey Chaucer

1984 by George Orwell

Jerusalem by Jez Butterworth as a possible text for the comparative coursework.

The year will be structured in the following way:

	Set 1	Set 2
Term 1 & Term 2	<i>Hamlet</i> with IJB <i>1984</i> with TG	<i>Hamlet</i> with TG <i>1984</i> with IJB
Term 3 & Term 4	<i>The Merchant's Tale</i> with IJB <i>Jerusalem</i> with TG	<i>The Merchant's Tale</i> with TG <i>Jerusalem</i> with IJB
Term 5 & Term 6	INTERNAL EXAMS Poetry Coursework with IJB & TG	INTERNAL EXAMS Poetry Coursework with TG & IJB

SUMMER 2017

To get ahead and be prepared for the start of the course in September, you need to do the following over the summer (**COMPULSORY TASKS in UNDERLINED BOLD**):

1. **READ!** Read anything by anybody. You have been given a 'suggested' reading list, which you could use to broaden your knowledge of literature, but you should choose anything you like – the more widely you read, the more secure you will be in your knowledge of literature and the more confident in making comparisons across texts. Understanding of literature is greatly enhanced by being able to cross-reference texts, ideas and styles.
2. **Read *1984* by George Orwell** – this is a set text. (Read other texts by Orwell – *Down and Out in Paris and London*, *Animal Farm* & *The Road to Wigan Pier* are perhaps the most relevant to our study.
3. Read other 'Dystopian' texts to supplement your understanding of *1984*, for example: *Children of Men*, *A Handmaid's Tale*, *Brave New World*.
4. **Watch a performance of *Hamlet***. Ideally, go and see a live production. Otherwise, watch a DVD film of the play. Kenneth Branagh's version is good and is one that we shall use in class. There is also a good version starring Mel Gibson and a David Tennant RSC production easily available.
5. Go and see some plays. It doesn't matter what you see. Watch drama at a festival. Go to the theatre.
6. **Read some poetry. Find a post-1900 poet you could introduce to the class and present your analysis of one particular poem in the very first lesson of the year.** This will be invaluable preparation for your coursework. Some possible poets to consider: Sylvia Plath, Carol Ann Duffy, e. e. cummings, Owen Shears, Wilfred Owen, Simon Armitage, Daljit Nagra.

7. Have a good holiday and do some living!