



Newent Community School

Pearson Edexcel English Literature A Level

Summer Transition Tasks

Work through the activities carefully. As well as working hard, to be successful at English Literature A Level you need to be willing to:

- Be able to motivate yourself and work independently;
 - Show a passion for Literature;
 - Read widely outside of lessons;
- Develop your skills of analysis and evaluation;
 - Be willing to engage in debate;
 - Have strong research skills;
- Use academic, technical English in your own writing.

Task One: Familiarise Yourself with the Specification

Be clear about what you are going to be learning. Can you explain to another student or adults at home what the course contains?

Component 1: Drama		*Paper code: 9ET0/01
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Externally assessed Availability: May/June First assessment: 2017 		30% of the total qualification
Overview of content Students study: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> one Shakespeare play and one other drama from either tragedy or comedy – both texts may be selected from one or both of these categories. critical essays related to their selected Shakespeare play. Students' preparation is supported by <i>Shakespeare: A Critical Anthology – Tragedy</i> or <i>Shakespeare: A Critical Anthology – Comedy</i>. 		
Overview of assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Written examination, lasting 2 hours and 15 minutes. Open book – clean copies of the drama texts can be taken into the examination. The Critical Anthology must not be taken into the examination. Total of 60 marks available – 35 marks for Section A and 25 marks for Section B. Two sections: students answer one question from a choice of two on their studied text for both Section A and Section B. Section A – Shakespeare: one essay question, incorporating ideas from wider critical reading (AO1, AO2, AO3, AO5 assessed). Section B – Other Drama: one essay question (AO1, AO2, AO3 assessed). 		

Component 2: Prose		*Paper code: 9ET0/02
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Externally assessed Availability: May/June First assessment: 2017 		20% of the total qualification
Overview of content Students study: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> two prose texts from a chosen theme. At least one of the prose texts must be pre-1900. 		
Overview of assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Written examination, lasting 1 hour and 15 minutes. Open book – clean copies of the prose texts can be taken into the examination. Total of 40 marks available. Students answer one comparative essay question from a choice of two on their studied theme (AO1, AO2, AO3, AO4 assessed). 		

Component 3: Poetry		*Paper code: 9ET0/03
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Externally assessed Availability: May/June First assessment: 2017 		30% of the total qualification
Overview of content Students study: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> poetic form, meaning and language a selection of post-2000 specified poetry and <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a specified range of poetry from: <i>either</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a literary period (either pre- or post-1900) <i>or</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a named poet from within a literary period. 		
Overview of assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Written examination, lasting 2 hours and 15 minutes. Open book – clean copies of the poetry texts can be taken into the examination. Total of 60 marks available – 30 marks for Section A and 30 marks for Section B. Two sections: students answer one question from a choice of two, comparing an unseen poem with a named poem from their studied contemporary text and one question from a choice of two on their studied movement/poet. Section A – Post-2000 Specified Poetry: one comparative essay question on an unseen modern poem written post-2000 and one named poem from the studied contemporary text (AO1, AO2, AO4 assessed). Section B – Specified Poetry Pre- or Post-1900: one essay question (AO1, AO2, AO3 assessed). 		

Task Two: Prepare yourself by reading ahead

The texts listed below are all taken from the Edexcel specification reading list. Select at least two texts to read from each component and write a two-hundred-word review for each you engage with. **Currently taught texts in the department are highlighted in bold.**

Component 1: Drama

- Hamlet by William Shakespeare
- King Lear by William Shakespeare
- **Othello by William Shakespeare**
- Doctor Faustus by Christopher Marlowe
- The Importance of Being Earnest by Oscar Wilde
- **A Streetcar Named Desire by Tennessee Williams**
- Waiting for Godot by Samuel Beckett

Component 2: Prose

Science and Society

- **Frankenstein by Mary Shelley**
- The War of the Worlds by H G Wells
- **The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood**
- Never Let Me Go by Kazuo Ishiguro

From Other Categories

- Wuthering Heights by Emily Bronte
- The Color Purple by Alice Walker
- A Thousand Splendid Suns by Khaled Hosseini

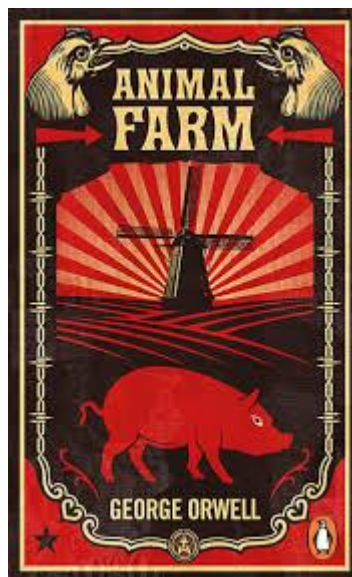
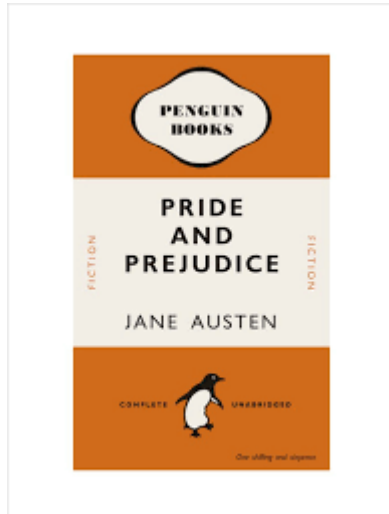
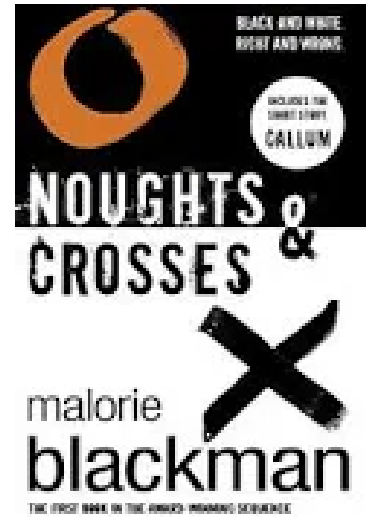
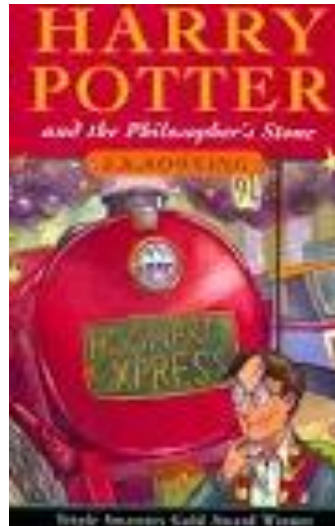
Component 3: Poetry

A wide range of specified poetry will be studied across the course. Look at a few examples of the texts or named poets below.

- **Poems of the Decade: An Anthology**
- The Wife of Bath's Prologue and Tale by Geoffrey Chaucer
- Christina Rossetti
- Philip Larkin
- T S Eliot
- John Keats

Task Three: Give A Critical Opinion

If you had to choose one text to add to the school curriculum which every student must read during their Secondary education, what would you choose and why? Write five hundred words. Covers of some potential candidates are below. You will be asked to present your choice in class at the start of Year 12.



Task Four: Engage With An Unseen Text

Below is an example of one of the poems you will study from the Poems of the Decade Anthology. Annotate the poem with your thoughts and any specific techniques you think the poet has used for deliberate effect.

Genetics

My father's in my fingers, but my mother's in my palms.
I lift them up and look at them with pleasure –
I know my parents made me by my hands.

They may have been repelled to separate lands,
to separate hemispheres, may sleep with other lovers,
but in me they touch where fingers link to palms.

With nothing left of their togetherness but friends
who quarry for their image by a river,
at least I know their marriage by my hands.

I shape a chapel where a steeple stands.
And when I turn it over,
my father's by my fingers, my mother's by my palms

demure before a priest reciting psalms.
My body is their marriage register.
I re-enact their wedding with my hands.

So take me with you, take up the skin's demands
for mirroring in bodies of the future.
I'll bequeath my fingers, if you bequeath your palms.
We know our parents make us by our hands.

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From: *The State of the Prisons*

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Task Five: Other Preparation

Below is a list of further activities that will prepare you for the course. Keep a log of what you complete. Aim to achieve a minimum of three activities from this list.

1. Use Seneca to help familiarise yourself with texts you didn't choose to read from the list e.g. A Streetcar Named Desire or Frankenstein. [English Lit: Edexcel A Level A Streetcar Named Desire](#) [English Lit: Edexcel A Level Frankenstein](#)
2. Use Seneca to develop your knowledge of subject specific vocabulary in order to discuss texts e.g. specific grammar terms. <https://senecalearning.com/en-GB/revision-notes/a-level/english-language/aqa/1-3-2-clauses>
3. Keep a diary of your reading for pleasure over the summer. Do you see any patterns in the genre or type of reading that you do? How might you broaden your reading?
4. Make plans to take a trip that immerses you in literary culture or a particular text. E.g. A Literature Festival such as Hay-on-Wye, see a play at the RSC or simply visit Stratford-Upon-Avon, attend a play at a local theatre, visit a large local or university library.
5. Watch the BBC series, Between the Covers. Why do people make recommendations for the books they love? What would you recommend if you could? What do the authors introducing their own texts want people to know about them?
6. Watch a TV or film adaptation of a book you enjoy. E.g. There are recent adaptations of the His Dark Materials Trilogy, The Handmaid's Tale, Noughts and Crosses and many more. What are the key differences? Why do you think those differences have happened?
7. Write an imaginary conversation with a character from a book you've recently read. What would you ask them? How do you think they might respond?
8. Listen to a literary podcast series. This link gives an overview of multiple options available: [12 Literary Podcasts for Writers and Readers - Electric Literature](#)