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**AQA – English Literature A Level**

**A Student Guide**

This is a 2-year course leading to a full A Level with all exams taking place in June 2021. During the course you will study a variety of texts and explore the relationships that exist between them and the contexts within which they are written, received and understood.

In the first year you will study ‘Love through the ages’, exploring prose, poetry and drama produced across different time periods and in different contexts. As well as a requirement to read widely, you will closely study Shakespeare’s ‘Othello’, F Scott Fitzgerald’s ‘The Great Gatsby’ and AQA’s Anthology of pre-1900 Love Poetry. In addition, you will begin preparing the non-exam assessed component of the qualification – a 2500 word independent critical study in which you will compare two texts, at least one of which must have been written pre-1900. Your teacher will choose one of these texts and you will study this together. You will choose the text you compare it to.

In the second year of the A level you will study ‘Texts in shared contexts’, Option A, focusing on ‘WW1 and its aftermath’. You will explore literature arising out of WW1 and reflect upon the full impact of war that reverberates up to the present day. This option allows you to consider the impact on combatants, non-combatants and subsequent generations as well as its social, political, personal and literary legacies.

**Assessment**

**Paper 1: Love through the ages (40% of A Level)**

**What’s assessed?**

This is a 3-hour written exam with three sections. Section A: Shakespeare: a passage-based question with a linked essay; Section B: Unseen poetry: a compulsory essay question on two unseen poems; Section C (open book): Comparing texts: one essay question linking two texts. (The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald and the Anthology of Love Poetry through the ages: pre 1900, edited by AQA).

**Paper 2: Texts in shared contexts (40% of A Level)**

**What’s assessed?**

Option A: WW1 and its aftermath. You will study a play, an anthology of poetry and a prose text in detail as well as reading widely from literature of the time period.

This is a 2 hour 30 minute exam and is open book. Section A: set texts: One essay question on the chosen prose text (Birdsong by Sebastian Faulks). Section B: one compulsory essay question based on unseen literary prose and one essay question linking the chosen drama text (My Boy Jack by David Haig) and the chosen poetry anthology (The Oxford Book of War Poetry edited by Jon Stallworthy).

**Non-exam assessment (NEA): independent critical study: texts across time (20% of A Level)**

You will complete a comparative critical study of two texts, at least one of which must have been written pre-1900. (your teacher will choose this to best suit your class). The word count is 2500 plus a bibliography.

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| **Assessment objectives** | **Paper 1 (exam)** | **Paper 2****(exam)** | **Non-exam assessment** | **Overall weighting** |
| AO1 | Fluency | 11.2% | 11.2% | 5.6% | 28% |
| AO2 | Language, form and structure | 9.6% | 9.6% | 4.8% | 24% |
| AO3 | Context | 9.6% | 9.6% | 4.8% | 24% |
| AO4 | Connections / comparisons | 4.8% |  4.8% | 2.4% | 12% |
| AO5 | Different interpretations | 4.8% |  4.8% | 4.8% | 12% |
|  | Overall weighting of components | 40% | 40% | 20% | 100% |

**By the start of the course in September, you will need to have read** ***The Great Gatsby by F. Scott* Fitzgerald and two other whole texts from the list below (at least one to be a novel)**.

**As you read, make notes on any aspects of love – with page references, and then write a comparison of the texts, focusing on how love is presented in about 1000 words. You can write about the bigger picture of love, or you may choose to focus in on a specific element of love e.g. romantic love, desire, platonic love, parental love, obsession, unrequited love, marriage, lust, deceit, painful love, joyful love etc.**

There is a lot of reading in the A Level Literature course. If you don’t enjoy reading then think carefully about whether this course is the one for you! You will be examined on your wider reading so it needs to be something you enjoy.

**A Level Reading List June 2019**

**Louise May Alcott – Little Women**

**Kate Atkinson - Life After Life**

**Margaret Atwood – The Edible Woman**

**Jane Austen – Persuasion, Northanger Abbey, Mansfield Park, Sense and Sensibility**

**Louis de Bernieres - Captain Corelli’s Mandolin**

**Charlotte Bronte – Jane Eyre**

**Anne Bronte – The Tenant of Wildfell Hall, Agnes Grey**

**Emily Bronte - Wuthering Heights**

**Charlotte Bronte - The Professor, Agnes Grey, Villette**

**Jessie Burton - The Miniaturist**

**Samuel Butler – The Way of All Flesh**

**Tracey Chevalier - The Girl with the Pearl Earring**

**Kate Chopin – The Awakening**

**Wilkie Collins – The Moonstone, The Woman in White**

**Charles Dickens – Hard Times, A Tale of two Cities, David Copperfield, Great Expectations**

**Helen Dunmore – Exposure, Birdcage Walk**

**George Eliot – Middlemarch, The Mill on the Floss, Silas Marner**

**Sebastian Faulks - The Girl at the Lion d’Or**

**F. Scott Fitzgerald –The Great Gatsby, Tender is the Night**

**Gustave Flaubert - Madame Bovary**

**John Fowles - The French Lieutenant’s Woman**

**E.M. Forster – A Room with a View, Howard’s End, Where Angels Fear to Tread, A Passage to India**

**Charles Frazier - Cold Mountain**

**Elizabeth Gaskell – North and South, Wives and Daughters, Mary Barton**

**Matt Haig – How to Stop Time**

**Thomas Hardy – Jude the Obscure, Tess of the D’Urbervilles, Far From the Madding Crowd, The Mayor of Casterbridge**

**L.P. Hartley – The Go-Between**

**Khaled Hosseini - A Thousand Splendid Suns**

**Kazuo Ishiguru - Remains of the Day, Never Let Me Go**

**Henry James - Daisy Miller**

**D. H. Lawrence - Lady Chatterley’s Lover, The Rainbow**

**Daphne Du Maurier – Rebecca, Jamaica Inn, My Cousin Rachel, Frenchman’s Creek**

**Ian McEwan – Atonement, On Chesil Beach, Enduring Love, Amsterdam**

**Boris Pasternak - Dr Zhivago**

**Charlotte Perkins Gilman – The Yellow Wallpaper**

**Mary Shelley – Frankenstein**

**William Makepeace Thackeray – Vanity Fair**

**Arundhati Roy – The God of Small Things**

**Rose Tremain - The Road Home**

**Leo Tolstoy – Anna Karenina**

**Ann Tyler - Ladder of Years, Digging to America, Vinegar Girl**

**Carol Shields - The Stone Diaries, Happenstance**

**Evelyn Waugh – Brideshead Revisited**

**Niall Williams - Four Letters of Love**

**Virginia Woolf - The Lighthouse, Mrs Dalloway, Between the Acts**

**Oscar Wilde – The Picture of Dorian Gray**

**Short Stories**

**The Oxford Book of English Short Stories (Oxford Books of Prose and Verse) – edited by A. S. Byatt**

**Penguin Classics – 80p series**

**Drama**

**Steven Berkoff – Metamorphosis**

**George Bernard Shaw – Pygmalion**

**William Congreve – The Way of the World**

**John Ford – Tis Pity She’s a Whore**

**Oliver Goldsmith – She Stoops to Conquer**

**Henrik Ibsen – A Doll’s House, Hedda Gabler**

**William Shakespeare – The Taming of the Shrew, The Winter’s Tale, Measure for Measure, Much Ado About Nothing**

**Richard Brinsley Sheridan – The School for Scandal**

**Oscar Wilde – any play by this writer**

**Niall Williams – Four Letters of Love**

**Tennessee Williams – A Streetcar Named Desire**

**William Wycherley – The Country Wife**

**Poetry**

**Geoffrey Chaucer – ‘The Wife of Bath’s Tale’; ‘The Miller’s Tale’**

**Samuel Taylor Coleridge – ‘The Rime of the Ancient Mariner’**

**Samuel Taylor Coleridge – Poetry Collection**

**Carol Ann Duffy – The World’s Wife, Rapture, Feminine Gospels**

**Thomas Hardy – ‘Emma’ poems**

**John Keats – ‘Lamia’; ‘Isabella or the Pot of Basil’; ‘The Eve of St Agnes’; ‘Le Belle Dame Sans Merci’**

**Alfred Lord Tennyson – Collected Poems**

**William Wordsworth and Samuel Taylor Coleridge – Lyrical Ballads**

**The New Faber Book of Love Poems**

**The Nation’s Favourite Love Poems**