

AS English Literature: Study Pack



Welcome to English Literature!

I look forward to having you in my lessons soon.

To be a successful student in Literature, you need to be a passionate reader with plenty of opinions and bags of energy and enthusiasm! The key to your success is to read and re-read and always be prepared to offer strong opinions in class!

Over the course of two years, you will cover middle English texts, all the way through to Shakespeare and post modern texts in the A Level year. You will be well prepared for a very wide range of university courses by the end of second year.

AS English Literature is a one year course that introduces you to key concepts in literary studies. This year you will be working towards successfully completing 2 exams in summer 2021.

Paper 1B: Aspects of comedy	Paper 2A: Aspects of tragedy
<p>Study of one Shakespeare play (<i>Twelfth Night</i>) and one further drama text (<i>The Importance of Being Earnest</i>).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes• closed book• 50 marks• 50% of AS level <p>Questions</p> <p>Section A: one passage-based question on a Shakespeare text (<i>Twelfth Night</i>)</p> <p>Section B: one essay question on a drama set text (<i>The Importance of Being Earnest</i>)</p>	<p>Study of one prose text (<i>The Great Gatsby</i>) and one poetry text (<i>The AQA Poetry Anthology</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes• open book• 50 marks• 50% of AS level <p>Questions</p> <p>Section A: one essay question on poetry set text (<i>The AQA Poetry Anthology</i>)</p> <p>Section B: one essay question on prose set text (<i>The Great Gatsby</i>)</p>

Please complete the following tasks before the start of the course. Bring all your notes to your first lesson in September and be ready to share your work.

Comedy:

What do you already know about comedy? Can you think of a definition of comedy?



Now spend some time researching different examples of comedy. Try to find examples of comedy films, plays, books and poems. Use what you know already too!

Title	Genre (e.g. film/novel/poem/play)	Plot description: describe key events	What makes it a comedy? E.g. happy ending, humorous language

Tragedy

What do you already know about tragedy? Can you think of a definition of tragedy?

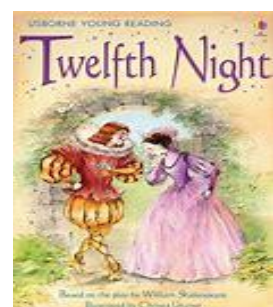
Now spend some time researching different examples of tragedy. Try to find examples of tragic films, plays, books and poems.

Title	Genre (e.g. film/novel/poem/play)	Plot description	What makes it a tragedy? (E.g. sad ending, dark tone)

Twelfth Night by William Shakespeare

Twelfth Night is a key text that you will need to have an in depth knowledge of for you exams in the summer.

- **Research the plot of *Twelfth Night*.** Make notes on key events that happen in the play.
- Watch some clips of *Twelfth Night* on You Tube. How far does this fit into the theme of comedy? Here are some to get you started
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YF97NGDN6H8>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AvL6LijKJQ>
- Is this what you expected of comedy? Explain your reasons.
- Read some passages here: http://shakespeare.mit.edu/twelfth_night/



The Importance of Being Earnest by Oscar Wilde

- Now watch some clips of *The Importance of Being Earnest*. How far does this fit into the theme of comedy?
- Is this what you expected of comedy? Explain your reasons.



Shakespeare context.

It is really important for you to have some knowledge of the time period in which Shakespeare was writing his most famous plays.

Research and make notes on the following areas –

- Gender roles and expectations about the relationships between men and women in Renaissance England.
- Religious attitudes towards marriage and relationships in Renaissance England.
- Make notes on Shakespeare's theatre. Draw and label a diagram of the Shakespeare's globe theatre in the 1600's.

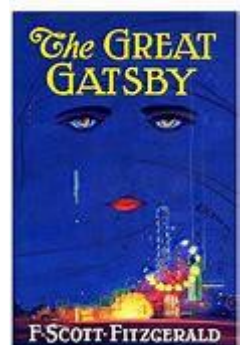


The Great Gatsby by F.Scott Fitzgerald.

We will be studying *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald for the tragedy exam in the summer.

In preparation, make notes on the following areas:

- Attitudes towards social class in 1920's America and the concept of 'new money' versus 'old money'
- The Jazz Age and the American 'boom years'
- Prohibition – what it was and why it was put in place, the problems with enforcing it and why it failed
- Changes in women's rights, life style and fashion in the 1920s
- The American Dream



Responding to Literature: On the course we spend a lot of time responding to different types of Literature.

Read the following extract and see if you can explain the effects of the techniques that have been identified. **The extract is from Charles Dickens's *Bleak House* (1853)**

Fog everywhere. Fog up the river, where it flows among green **aits** and meadows; fog down the river, where it rolls defiled among the tiers of shipping and the waterside pollutions of a great (and dirty) city. Fog on the Essex marshes, fog on the Kentish heights. Fog creeping into the **cabooses** of **collier-brigs**; fog lying out on the yards and hovering in the rigging of great ships; fog drooping on the **gunwales** of barges and small boats. Fog in the eyes and throats of ancient **Greenwich pensioners**, wheezing by the firesides of their **wards**; fog in the stem and bowl of the afternoon pipe of the wrathful skipper, down in his close cabin; fog cruelly pinching the toes and fingers of his shivering little **'prentice** boy on deck.

Charles Dickens, *Bleak House*

Explain the effects of the following:

- Repetition
- Minor Sentences (does not contain a verb)
- Balanced Sentences (clauses structured in the same way.)
- Alliteration
- Complex sentences

*This next text is a little more difficult so take your time to read carefully. The text is an extract from the play *Tamburlaine* by Christopher Marlowe.*

Write a short paragraph on the what you learn about the personality of each character.

Enter TAMBURLAINE leading ZENOCRATE, TECHELLES, USUMCASANE, AGYDAS, MAGNETES, LORDS, and SOLDIERS laden with treasure.

TAMBURLAINE

Come, lady, let not this appal your thoughts;
The jewels and the treasure we have ta'en
Shall be reserv'd, and you in better state
Than if you were arriv'd in Syria,
Even in the circle of your father's arms,
The mighty **Soldan of Aegyptia**.

ZENOCRATE

Ah, shepherd, pity my distressed **plight**!
(If, as thou seem'st, thou art so mean a man,)
And seek not to enrich thy followers
By lawless **rapine** from a silly maid,
Who, travelling with these Median lords
To Memphis, from my uncle's country of Media,
Where, all my youth, I have been governed,
Have pass'd the army of the mighty Turk,
Bearing his **privy-signet** and his hand
To safe-conduct us **thorough** Africa.

MAGNETES

And, since we have arriv'd in Scythia,
Besides rich presents from the **puissant** Cham,
We have his highness' letters to command
Aid and assistance, if we stand in need.

Christopher Marlowe, *Tamburlaine*

Writing clear essays and debates:

Learning to write opinions is also an important part of the course. Write up an answer to the following question and be ready to hand in when you start in September:

Literature is there simply for pleasure and entertainment. How far do you agree with this view?

You can write your answer up below: