

Course:	English Literature
Specification and code:	AQA B 7717
Exam Board website:	AQA English AS and A-level English Literature B
Course outline:	In Year 12 you will study the literary genre of tragedy and you will begin your non-exam assessment (NEA) linked to critical theory. In Year 13, you will finish your NEA and study further texts from the genre of political and social protest).
Core texts studied over Year 12:	<p><i>Please buy your own copy of the texts so you can write notes straight into them. Contact Miss Rollick or Mrs Wright if you need financial aid with this, we will be happy to help.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shakespeare: 'Othello' • Play: 'Death of a Salesman' by Arthur Miller • Poetry: Keats • TBC 'Tess of the D'Urbervilles'
Summer Bridging tasks:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Buy a folder and label it 'Tragedy'. 2. Create an A4 page of notes on the history of tragedy literature. Tragedy Definition, Examples, History, Types, & Facts Britannica 3. Start the reading log – note down anything you've read over the last two years. 4. Download the Goodreads app and create an account. You can log anything you have previously read, update progress on current books you are reading and explore more reading inspiration and recommendations. 5. Read at least 1 book – you could pick something from the attached reading list. 6. Find and bring in a copy of a poem that you think fits into the genre of tragedy.
Background research and understanding (online)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See the attached reading list.
Extra background reading/ support:	<p>The Connell Guides (www.connellguides.com): short, accessible, but fascinating.</p> <p>Advanced York Notes: useful prompts and overviews of the texts</p> <p>The Arden Shakespeare: Othello. Lots of excellent critical analysis in this edition to support analysis of the play. Particularly suitable for students wishing to secure the top grades at A Level.</p> <p>Routledge's New Critical Idiom books: these are detailed, useful introductions to genre (i.e., the gothic, comedy, tragedy, etc.) Again, by reading these books you will give yourself a head-start.</p> <p>Peter Barry, Beginning Theory (Manchester University Press): an excellent introduction into the fascinating world of critical theory. Older editions are available cheaply online.</p> <p>Oxford University Press' 'Very Short Introductions': These books offer good introductions to theories and genres, but can sometimes be a little heavy-going.</p> <p>Abrams Glossary of Literary Terms: You will find a second-hand copy reasonably cheaply online.</p>

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Suggested reading list to support GCSE English literature

‘Othello’ by William Shakespeare

‘O’ – film directed by Tim Blake Nelson
 ‘All Night Long’ – film directed by Basil Dearden

[BBC Radio 3 - The Shakespeare Sessions, Othello: What it means to be a Moor](#)

[Othello | University of Oxford Podcasts](#)

[The Othello Podcast Series - Overview of Othello and its characters - YouTube](#)

[Othello: Representation of race in National Theatre productions of Othello on Apple Podcasts](#)

‘Death of a Salesman’ by Arthur Miller

‘The Crucible’ Arthur Miller
 ‘All My Sons’ Arthur Miller
 ‘A View from the Bridge’ Arthur Miller
 ‘Hamlet’ Shakespeare
 ‘Wit’ Margaret Edson
 ‘Medea’
 ‘The Laramie Project’ Moises Kaufman
 ‘A Long Way Down’ Nick Hornby

[Arthur Miller interview on "The Death of a Salesman" \(1999\) - YouTube](#)

‘The Kite Runner’ by Khaled Hosseini

‘A Thousand Splendid Suns’ Khaled Hosseini
 ‘And the Mountains Echoed’ Khaled Hosseini
 ‘Born Under a Million Shadows’ Andrea Busfield
 ‘The Wasted Vigil’ Nadeem Aslam
 ‘Earth and Ashes’ Atiq Rahimi
 ‘My Life With The Taliban’ Abdul Salam Zaeef
 ‘Prisoners of Geography’ Tim Marshall
 ‘An Unexpected Light: Travels in Afghanistan’ Jason Elliot
 ‘Burnt Shadows’ Kamila Shamsie
 ‘Born Under a Million Shadows’ Andrea Busfield
 ‘Reading Lolita in Tehran’ Azar Nafasi
 The Kabul Beauty School Deborah Rodriguez
 The Patience Stone Atiq Rahimi
 Butcher and Bolt David Loyn
 A Fort of Nine Towers Qais Akbar Omar
 Caravans James A Michener

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b03srddf>

William Blake – poetry

Poets of Romanticism era: William Wordsworth;
 Percy Bysshe Shelley; John Keats; Samuel Taylor Coleridge

Artists of Romanticism era:

JMW Turner; John Constable; Henry Fuseli; James Barry;
 John Hamilton Mortimer

(Podcast) The Forum – The Life and Works of William Blake:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/w3cswps4>

Online tours available for most London art galleries and museums

Les Miserables – Victor Hugo (or watch the film)

‘The Handmaid’s Tale’

The Testaments Margaret Atwood (sequel)
Brave New World Aldous Huxley
Fahrenheit 451 Ray Bradbury
A Clockwork Orange Anthony Burgess
The Giver Lois Lowry
Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep? Philip K Dick

John Keats – poetry

‘Bright Start’ (2009) – film directed by Jane Campion

[The Keats-Shelley Podcast | a podcast by Keats-Shelley Podcast \(podbean.com\)](#)

[John Keats | University of Oxford Podcasts](#)

[The Romantic Reputation of John Keats | History Today](#)

[“I shall ever be your dearest love”: John Keats and Fanny Brawne - Houghton Library - Harvard College Library](#)

Feminist theory

A Vindication of the Rights of Women Mary Wollstonecraft
The Female Eunuch Germaine Greer
The Color Purple Alice Walker
Frankenstein Mary Shelley
Cat's Eye Margaret Atwood
Interlunar Margaret Atwood poetry collection
A Room of One's Own Virginia Woolf
The Bell Jar Sylvia Plath
The Yellow Wallpaper Charlotte Gilman
This Bridge Called My Back
The Awakening Kate Chopin
Ain't I A Woman? Sojourner Truth
Jane Eyre Charlotte Bronte
The Bloody Chamber Angela Carter
 Poetry of Christina Rossetti
Dracula Bram Stoker

Postcolonial theory

Brick Lane Monica Ali
Half of a Yellow Sun Chimamanda Adichie
East is East Ayub Khan-Din
White Teeth Zadie Smith
The God of Small Things Arundhati Roy
The Namesake Jhumpa Lahiri
The Pleasures of Exile George Lamming
Natives: Race and Class in the Ruins of Empire Akala
John Crow's Devil Marlon James
Surfacing Margaret Atwood
The Bluest Eye Toni Morrison
The Rose That Grew From Concrete Tupac Shakur
The Buddha of Suburbia Hanif Kureishi
The Sign of Four Arthur Conan Doyle
Heart of Darkness Joseph Conrad
Things Fall Apart Chinua Achebe
The River Between Ngugi wa Thiong'o

Marxist theory

The Communist Manifesto Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels
Das Kapital Karl Marx
1984 George Orwell
Animal Farm George Orwell
The Heart Goes Last Margaret Atwood
 Any Charles Dickens novel

Ecocriticism

Wuthering Heights Emily Bronte
Solar Ian McEwan
 Any poetry or novel around the theme of nature.