

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 your teachers / Heads of Sixth Form / Heads of English if you need financial aid with this. We will be happy to help.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shakespeare: ‘King Lear’ • Play: ‘Death of a Salesman’ by Arthur Miller • Poetry: Keats • Thomas Hardy: ‘Tess of the D’Urbervilles’ (TBC)
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: <i>King Lear</i>. 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, <i>Beginning Theory</i> (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>

Suggested reading list to support A Level English literature

'King Lear' by William Shakespeare

'Shakespearean Tragedy' by AC Bradley
Peter Brook's 1971 film adaptation of the play
'Dunbar' by Edward St Aubyn – a modern retelling
RAN – Akira Kurosawa's 1985 Japanese film
R4's 'In Our Time' exploration [here](#)
R4's 'In Our Time' looking at the tragic genre [here](#)

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 Zaef
'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

Online version of *The Critical Anthology* [here](#)

An overview of *The Critical Anthology* [here](#)

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

Online version of *The Critical Anthology* [here](#)

An overview of *The Critical Anthology* [here](#)

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

Online version of *The Critical Anthology* [here](#)

An overview of *The Critical Anthology* [here](#)

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

Online version of *The Critical Anthology* [here](#)

An overview of *The Critical Anthology* [here](#)

Wuthering Heights Emily Bronte

Solar Ian McEwan

Any poetry or novel around the theme of nature.