

Course:	English Literature
Specification and code:	AQA B 7717 (7716 AS)
Exam Board website:	http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/as-and-a-level/english-literature-b-7716-7717
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 and genres (with elements of crime or political/social protest).
Essential Reading:	Shakespeare: <i>King Lear</i> (this text is essential. Be sure to read it or watch it). Hardy: Tess of the D'Urbervilles Arthur Miller: Death of A Salesman Various: The AQA Poetry Anthology (https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/english/AQA-7716-7717-TRAGEDY-ANTHOLOGY.PDF). Chaucer, The Monk's Tale / Milton, Paradise Lost / Tennyson, Tithonus / Rossetti, Jessi Cameron / Yeats, The Death of Cuchulain / Hardy, Convergence of the Twain / Frost, 'Out, Out -' / Auden, Miss Gee / John Betjeman, Death in Leamington
Background reading:	The Connell Guides (www.connellguides.com): these are my new favourite critical studies. They are short, accessible, but never less than fascinating. Highly recommended. 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. 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. 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. Oxford University Press' 'Very Short Introductions' : although short, the font is very small in these books and as a result, they often feel a lot longer than 'very short'. These books offer good introductions to theories and genres, but can sometimes be a little heavy-going. That said, if you want to stretch yourself, feel free! Abrams Glossary of Literary Terms: essential. You will find a second-hand copy reasonably cheaply online.
Summer Task on Tragedy:	A sound understanding of the genre of Tragedy is essential. Therefore, read about the history of the genre, from Aristotle's original ideas through to Shakespeare's adaptation of the form and up to the present day, using this link: https://www.britannica.com/art/tragedy-literature Using the article, complete the following tasks in no more than 1000 words <i>each task</i> : 1. How can we define tragedy? 2. Create a timeline to help you map out the history of tragedy. 3. How has tragedy changed over time, from the ancient Greeks to the modern day? 4. What forms of tragedy can you identify? You can use examples from historical tragedy or modern tragedy. Watch, read or see a live performance of a Shakespearian tragedy such as <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> , <i>Macbeth</i> , <i>Othello</i> and read as many of the texts listed above as you can.
Summer Tasks relating to the non-exam assessment	Read to widen your appreciation of English Literature – and for pleasure. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> You might consider these novelists: Charles Dickens, Hilary Mantel, Graham Greene, Ian McEwan, Margaret Atwood, Khaled Hosseini, Jim Crace, Ali Smith, Kate Atkinson. Visit a bookshop and explore the shelves thoroughly. Find authors you enjoy! Read other contemporary poets such as Phillip Larkin and Simon Armitage, as well as the established figures such as T.S. Eliot, Edward Thomas, Robert Frost, W.H. Auden, Keats, Coleridge, Byron, Browning, Rossetti etc. Go to the theatre and see a play. Read the arts section of a quality newspaper such as <i>The Times</i> or <i>The Guardian</i>