A Level/BTEC Subject Year 12 Transition Work: English Literature

Why study English Literature?

English Literature allows you to study works of literature in greater depth than before, such as novels, plays, and poetry. You will think critically and analytically about the texts you are studying, thinking about the meaning and influence of them. The course covers three areas - telling stories, exploring conflict and making connections - covered across a mixture of coursework assignments and exams.

Studying at KS5 gives individuals the chance to not only appreciate the use of our language in different genres and for different purposes, but also how society has been crafted and commentated on through literature.

The qualification opens up wide opportunities, due to its dual discipline nature. Students will be able to evaluate, explore, analyse and develop personal critiques of some of the best pieces of fiction and non-fiction ever written. This will allow clear progression at Post-18 education: the ability to analyse and evaluate any subject matter and appreciate the author's intention in a range of text types.

English Literature at a glance

Content overview

Paper 1: Love through the ages: Poetry Anthology, Prose and Shakespeare play - The study of three texts (one Shakespeare text, one pre-1900 prose text, a range of love poetry through the ages) - 40%

Paper 2: Texts in Shared Contexts: Option 2B Modern times literature from 1945 to the present day. The study of three texts (one prose, one poetry and one drama of which one must be written post 2000) - 40%

NEA Component 3: Independent critical study – Texts Across Time – In Texts Across Time, students write a comparative critical study of **two** texts - 20% - Coursework marked by teachers, moderated by AQA.

How the subject is assessed

Papers 1 & 2 are assessed by written examinations. The papers include a balance of unseen texts and prepared texts. You are only allowed to take clean (no annotation) copies of the texts into the exam.

Component 3 is an independent coursework folder and you are given freedom of choice on your coursework texts for the creative tasks. Please note the specification criteria for which books you would be allowed to include in your NEA Coursework and note which books you are

not allowed to include here: https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/as-and-a-level/english-literature-a-7711-7712/subject-content-a-level/independent-critical-study-texts-across-time

The purpose of the transition work

The transition work will include the reading of one of the core texts so that you develop your knowledge of this novel ahead of studying it in Year 12. You will be using your knowledge to develop your analytical and evaluation skills based on your reading. You will also compare two non-fiction texts in detail, focussing on the authorial intention and audience reaction. This will ease the transition from the texts studied at GCSE to the more advanced and challenging texts of A level. You will need to bring your completed work to the first lesson in September.

Please contact Miss Munda if you have any further questions at – smunda@holytrinitycrawley.org.uk

Transition tasks:

Task 1:

Read The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Attwood. If you are unable to find a physical copy, please borrow one from the library.

At the end of each chapter, create a timeline of events. Keep this to narrative order for now, rather than chronological. Annotate this with key quotations and ideas about key themes you feel are being explored here.

Keep character notes, using evidence from the novel. This will be required for the next task.

Task 2:

Choose two of the main characters and write a response to the following task:

Evaluate the methods Orwell uses to portray characters in **The Handmaid's Tale.**

- **Characterisation** - what kinds of characters are they? How are gender roles manipulated? Does Atwood intend the reader to find them sympathetic characters?
- **Style and Language** - comment on the writer's style and use of voice. Who is the narrator and how does the reader respond to the narrator?
- **Evaluate** how successful you have found the book- your own considered critical opinions are welcome.

Create a presentation on these, so you will be able to communicate these in your first week of the course.

Task 3:
Read one the following two books:
VOX_BookClubKit.pdf (christinadalcher.com)

The books are -
Vox by Christina Dalcher – the book can be read here - Vox By Christina Dalcher - PDF, ePUB Free Download (worldfreebooks.com)

OR

'Brave New World' by Aldous Huxley – which can be read here - Brave New World by Aldous Huxley

You need to:

- Identify the genre, audience and purpose for each text
- Explain how you know this giving detailed analysis of the evidence you will use to prove your point.
- Explore the use of devices which illustrate the audience it is aimed at.
- Compare why each author chose to portray the subject in the way that they did.
- Explain why they are the same or different.
- Evaluate how successful each of the authors were in fulfilling their purpose.

This should be in an essay format; you will have annotated/made notes on the texts. Ensure you have a sufficient introduction and conclusion. You will be peer assessing these in your first week on the course. The work will be marked using the marking criteria of AQA.
There are 5 levels:
Band 1: largely irrelevant, largely misunderstood, largely inaccurate
Band 2: simple/generalised
Band 3: straightforward/relevant
Band 4: coherent/thorough
Band 5: perceptive/assured

Further details of the marking criteria can be found here:

https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/sample-papers-and-mark-schemes/2021/november/AQA-77122B-MS-NOV21.PDF

Task 4:

You have almost finished the bridging work for English Literature. Before you go, we would like you to write a paragraph on what you hope to get out of studying English Literature for the next two years.

English Literature Wider Reading:

The specification for AQA English Literature:https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/as-and-a-level/english-literature-a-7711-7712/specification-at-a-glance

There are also some really useful blogs to have a look at:

https://blog.oxforddictionaries.com/ - gives some interesting insights into new words and the changing uses of existing words.

http://flashfictiononline.com/main/ - useful website for looking at short pieces of creative writing. This will prove useful as you start preparing for coursework.

https://www.theguardian.com/media/mind-your-language - interesting blog that looks at attitudes towards the ways in which language is used.

If you want to consider why we read and write, this is a quick (quite blistering) synopsis of why we study Literature: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MSYw502dJNY

TED Talks:

You may want to also watch some TED talks on the topic of English Literature found here: https://www.ted.com/playlists/346/the_power_of_fiction_1.

EMC Emagazine Philip Allan English Review www.englishandmedia.co.uk

Some suggested novels – or any other text by the same authors:

Author	**Book**
Achebe, Chinua	Things Fall Apart
Atwood, Margaret	The Handmaid's Tale
Austen, Jane	Pride and Prejudice
Banks, Iain	The Wasp Factory
Barker, Pat	Regeneration
Brontë, Charlotte	Jane Eyre
Brontë, Emily	Wuthering Heights
Burgess, Anthony	A Clockwork Orange
Carter, Angela	The Bloody Chamber
Conrad, Joseph	Heart of Darkness
Dickens, Charles	Great Expectations
Eugenides, Jeffrey	The Virgin Suicides
Faulks, Sebastian	Birdsong
Fitzgerald, F. Scott	The Great Gatsby
Hardy, Thomas	Tess of the D'Urbervilles
Heller, Joseph	Catch 22

Ishiguro, Kazuo	The Remains of the Day
Kesey, Ken	One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest
McCarthy, Cormac	The Road
McEwan, Ian	Atonement
Mitchell, David	Cloud Atlas
Morrison, Toni	Beloved
Orwell, George	1984
Plath, Sylvia	The Bell Jar
Smith, Zadie	White Teeth
Stoker, Bram	Dracula
Tartt, Donna	The Secret History
Wilde, Oscar	The Picture of Dorian Gray
Woolf, Virginia	Mrs Dalloway

Reference Books
A Dictionary of Literary Terms by Martin Gray
Doing English by Robert Eaglestone
How to Write Better Essays by Bryan Greetham
Oxford Concise Companion to English Literature by Margaret Drabble and Jenny Stringer