



# A LEVEL ENGLISH LITERATURE

Holy Family Catholic School and Sixth Form  
Induction booklet

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## Contact Information

You can contact your teacher via email if you have any questions.

You **must do so in advance** if you know you are going to be absent from a lesson.

Our email addresses are:

- Ms Duffy: [s.duffy@holyfamily.waltham.sch.uk](mailto:s.duffy@holyfamily.waltham.sch.uk)
- Ms Maris: [L.Maris@holyfamily.waltham.sch.uk](mailto:L.Maris@holyfamily.waltham.sch.uk)
- Mr Myers: [A.Myers1@holyfamily.waltham.sch.uk](mailto:A.Myers1@holyfamily.waltham.sch.uk)
- Mr Parry (Curriculum Leader): [gnathansonparry@hfcs.w.uk](mailto:gnathansonparry@hfcs.w.uk)

# Introduction

English Literature A-Level involves the study of a wide range of texts, from Shakespeare to modern day literature. It includes poetry, prose (novels and short stories) and drama, as well as literary criticism. Through the study of literature, you will develop essential skills that will benefit you in your other A Level subjects and as you progress beyond Holy Family.

English Literature is a highly respected A level, one of the Russell group 'facilitating' subjects. Students of Literature might go on to study for University degrees in a range of subjects including: History, Sociology, Psychology, Drama and Theatre Studies and Law.

It is also very effective in developing transferable skills such as interpretive abilities, communication, an understanding of how language works, close analysis, and the ability to construct a well-argued case.

These are highly valued in a range of graduate careers such as Business and Finance, Journalism, Publishing, Teaching and Politics.

## Historicism

The guiding principle of your course is **historicism**.

This is a way of looking at texts which starts with the idea that novels, plays and poetry don't exist in isolation. Instead, they are products of the time in which they are written.

An individual text does not exist in a vacuum but is shaped by the **historical contexts** in which it is written.

When you study A-Level English, you will always be asked to think about how your interpretations of a text could be shaped and extended by an understanding of the world which created the text – whether it was Shakespeare's England or F Scott Fitzgerald's New York City. You will also need to think about how that world is different from the world you inhabit.

Possible contexts fall into several main categories, including:

**place, time, genre, gender, class and race.**

# Overview of the Course

You will study AQA A Level English Literature Specification A (7712)

## YEAR 12

### Paper 1 Love through the Ages

- *Othello* by William Shakespeare (play)
  - *The Great Gatsby* by F Scott Fitzgerald (novel)
  - AQA love poetry anthology (Pre-1900 Poetry)
- } These texts will be compared
- You will also prepare for a comparison of two unseen love poems.

## YEAR 13

### Paper 2 Texts in Shared Context

#### Modern times: literature from 1945 to the present day

- *A Streetcar Named Desire*, by Tennessee Williams (play)
  - *The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood (novel)
  - *Feminine Gospels* by Carol Ann Duffy
- } These texts will be compared
- You will also prepare for an unseen prose extract taken from post-1945 literature, which could be from any time since WW2.

**NEA unit** (non-examined assessment – i.e. coursework) - will be required to prepare, plan and start a 2500 word comparison of two texts, one of which must be pre-1900.

## Specification in brief

Unit Title	Texts	Assessment Method – all examinations June 2018	Total Marks/Percentage of A Level
<p><b>Paper 1:</b> Love Through the Ages Shakespeare &amp; Poetry (7712/1)</p>	<p><i>Othello</i> (William Shakespeare)</p> <p><i>The Great Gatsby</i> (F Scott Fitzgerald))</p> <p><i>AQA Anthology – Pre 1900 Love Poetry</i></p> <p>Unseen Poetry</p>	<p>Exam – (3 hours)</p> <p>Section A: <i>Othello</i>: one passage-based question with linked essay (25 marks)</p> <p>Section B: Unseen poetry: compulsory essay question on two unseen poems (25 marks)</p> <p>Section C: Comparing texts: one essay question linking <i>The Great Gatsby</i> and the AQA anthology pre-1900 love poetry (25 marks)</p>	<p>75 marks</p> <p>40%</p>
<p><b>Paper 2:</b> Modern times: literature from 1945 to the present day (7712/2B)</p>	<p><i>A Streetcar Named Desire</i> (Tennessee Williams)</p> <p><i>The Handmaid's Tale</i> (Margaret Atwood)</p> <p><i>Feminine Gospels</i> (Carol Ann Duffy)</p> <p>Unseen prose extracts</p>	<p>Exam – (2 hours 30 minutes)</p> <p>Section A: One essay question on <i>A Streetcar Named Desire</i> (25 marks)</p> <p>Section B: Contextual linking one compulsory question on an unseen post-1945 extract (25 marks) one essay question linking <i>The Handmaid's Tale</i> and <i>Feminine Gospels</i> (25 marks)</p>	<p>75 marks</p> <p>40%</p>
<p><b>NEA:</b> Independent critical study of texts across time</p>	<p>Comparative critical study of two texts, at least one of which must have been written pre-1900</p>	<p>One extended essay (2500 words, with bibliography) <b>to be completed by end of summer term 2017</b></p> <p>Assessed by teachers, moderated by AQA</p>	<p>50 marks</p> <p>20%</p>

# Assessment Objectives

You will be assessed against five objectives:

- o **AO1:** Articulate creative, informed and relevant responses to literary texts, using appropriate terminology and concepts, and coherent, accurate written expression.

*You will be able to structure an argument and focus on the task through a high quality of analytical writing and expression, and your ability to use key terms accurately.*

- o **AO2:** Analyse ways in which meanings are shaped in literary texts.

*You will analyse form, structure and language techniques and the effect they have on the reader.*

- o **AO3:** Demonstrate understanding of the significance and influence of the contexts in which literary texts are written and received.

*You will be able to examine key areas of social, historical, literary, political and religious context, and pick out the relevant points to integrate into your argument.*

- o **AO4:** Explore connections across literary texts.

*You will look at how texts can be linked – e.g. through the genre, or through the use of detailed settings, characters, narrator etc. This includes links within texts, such as the links between different acts of a Shakespeare play.*

- o **AO5:** Explore literary texts informed by different interpretations.

*You will examine lots of different interpretations rather than having one fixed view including the views of literary critics and how different interpretations could be made over time.*

# Extended reading list for English A Level

## Love through the Ages

### *Prose*

A Room with a View – EM Forster  
Anna Karenina – Leo Tolstoy  
Atonement – Ian McEwan  
Enduring Love - Ian McEwan  
Howards End – EM Forster  
Jane Eyre - Charlotte Brontë  
Lady Chatterley’s Lover - D.H. Lawrence  
Maurice – EM Forster  
On Chesil Beach – Ian McEwan  
Our Mutual Friend - Charles Dickens  
Persuasion - Jane Austen  
Rebecca - Daphne Du Maurier  
Sons and Lovers - D.H. Lawrence  
Tender is the Night Scott Fitzgerald  
Tess of the D’Urbervilles – Thomas Hardy  
The Awakening - Kate Chopin  
The Go-Between L.P. Hartley  
The God of Small Things - Arundhati Roy  
The Rainbow - D.H. Lawrence  
The Yellow Wallpaper –Charlotte Perkins Gilman  
Waterland - Graham Swift  
Women in Love - D.H. Lawrence  
Wuthering Heights - Emily Brontë

### *Drama*

A Streetcar Named Desire – Tennessee Williams  
A View from the Bridge – Arthur Miller  
Antony and Cleopatra - Shakespeare  
Cat on a Hot Tin Roof - Tennessee Williams  
Hedda Gabler- Henrik Ibsen  
Measure for Measure – Shakespeare  
The Crucible - Arthur Miller  
The Taming of the Shrew - Shakespeare  
The Winter’s Tale – Shakespeare

### *Poetry*

Birthday Letters - Ted Hughes  
Penguin's Poems for Love - Laura Barber (ed.)  
Selected Poems - Sylvia Plath  
Shakespeare’s sonnets

## Useful Websites

[www.aga.org.uk](http://www.aga.org.uk)

The exam board for your course.

[www.crossref-it.info](http://www.crossref-it.info)

A good general source of information.

[www.poetryarchive.org/poetryarchive/home.do](http://www.poetryarchive.org/poetryarchive/home.do)

A useful source for poetry.

[nfs.sparknotes.com](http://nfs.sparknotes.com)

No Fear Shakespeare – where the text is translated into contemporary English.

[www.shakespeare-online.com/plays/othelloscenes.html](http://www.shakespeare-online.com/plays/othelloscenes.html)

An excellent resource on Othello and Shakespeare in general.

[shakespeare.mit.edu/](http://shakespeare.mit.edu/)

The complete works of Shakespeare online.

# Holy Family Catholic School Curriculum Overview

## Year 12 – English Literature (A Level)



	Curriculum Content	Suggested Reading or Extension Activities
<b>Half Term 1 (Sept-Oct)</b>	Introduction to Love Through the Ages: key concepts and historicist approach. Poetic movements in history incorporating the pre 1900 love poetry anthology. Shakespeare's Othello.	Buy and regularly read from a good anthology of love poetry - e.g. Penguin or Faber. Viewing film versions of Othello. Reading articles on criticism and context.
<b>Half Term 2 (Nov-Dec)</b>	The Great Gatsby chapter by chapter plus periodically comparing to Pre 1900 Love Poetry Anthology . Shakespeare's Othello.	Read up on Othello online at <a href="https://www.shakespeare-online.com/">https://www.shakespeare-online.com/</a>
<b>Half Term 3 (Jan-Feb)</b>	The Great Gatsby comparison with Pre-1900 love poetry. Othello Unseen love poetry comparison	Read up on Othello online at <a href="https://www.shakespeare-online.com/">https://www.shakespeare-online.com/</a>
<b>Half Term 4 (Feb-Mar)</b>	The Great Gatsby comparison with Pre-1900 love poetry. Othello Unseen love poetry comparison	Using <a href="https://crossref-it.info/">https://crossref-it.info/</a> to gain greater insight into each text.
<b>Half Term 5 (Apr-May)</b>	The Great Gatsby comparison with Pre-1900 love poetry. Othello Unseen love poetry comparison	Look at exemplar essays to gain an insight into producing high quality exam answers.
<b>Half Term 6 (Jun-Jul)</b>	NEA preparation, using text selector and wider reading booklets. Students decide on their texts and question by the end of the term.	Using the wider reading booklet to select texts of interest and reading the full text independently.

<b>Examples of Home Learning Tasks</b>	Research tasks, pre reading tasks and essay practice.
<b>Assessment Tasks, Methods &amp; Frequency</b>	Written essays form the basis of all assessments. Six formal assessments in line with school assessment schedule. Regular essay homeworks.
<b>Equipment that Students Need</b>	Personal copies of all key texts in the correct editions.

<b>Parent / Carers can help their child by:</b>	Helping to buy texts, discussing the texts with students, supporting students to complete regular written work throughout the course, checking the online classroom regularly.
<b>Useful Websites</b>	<a href="https://www.englishandmedia.co.uk/e-magazine/emag-login">https://www.englishandmedia.co.uk/e-magazine/emag-login</a> <a href="https://www.massolit.io/">https://www.massolit.io/</a> <a href="https://crossref-it.info/">https://crossref-it.info/</a>
<b>Extra-Curricular Activities &amp; Career Opportunities</b>	Theatre trips, lecture trips to gain greater understanding of the texts studied. English literature is useful for any career that involves a need for strong communication skills, as well as law, journalism and marketing roles. Online booster sessions.

<b>Who Can I Contact?</b>	Head of English	Mr G Parry
	KS5 English Co-ordinator	Mr G Parry
	Teachers of Year 12 English Literature	Mr A Myers, Mr G Parry

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<b>Half Term 1 (Sept-Oct)</b>	A Streetcar Named Desire The Handmaid's Tale in comparison with Feminine Gospels by Carol Ann Duffy. NEA first draft and meetings with NEA supervisor.	Use online resources to deepen your understanding of the key contexts for your coursework texts.
<b>Half Term 2 (Nov-Dec)</b>	A Streetcar Named Desire The Handmaid's Tale in comparison with Feminine Gospels by Carol Ann Duffy. NEA redrafting and completion.	Use online resources to deepen your understanding of the key contexts for your coursework texts.
<b>Half Term 3 (Jan-Feb)</b>	A Streetcar Named Desire The Handmaid's Tale in comparison with Feminine Gospels by Carol Ann Duffy.	Use online resources to deepen your understanding of the key contexts for your coursework texts.
<b>Half Term 4 (Feb-Mar)</b>	Revision of year 12 texts. Completion of year 13 texts.	Using <a href="https://crossref-it.info/">https://crossref-it.info/</a> to gain greater insight into each text.
<b>Half Term 5 (Apr-May)</b>	Revision of the whole course.	Look at exemplar essays to gain an insight into producing high quality exam answers.
<b>Half Term 6 (Jun-Jul)</b>	Exam period.	Exam period.

<b>Examples of Home Learning Tasks</b>	Research tasks, pre reading tasks and essay practice.
<b>Assessment Tasks, Methods &amp; Frequency</b>	Written essays form the basis of all assessments. Six formal assessments in line with school assessment schedule. Regular essay homeworks.
<b>Equipment that Students Need</b>	Personal copies of all key texts in the correct editions.

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