

Flying Start 2017

A-Level English Literature

AQA

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Introduction to the course

The Course

This course will encourage you to consider texts in a wider context and explore the relationships between different texts you have read. You will be introduced to literary criticism and will explore texts from new perspectives.

You will study texts for two papers: Love through the Ages and Modern Times.

Love Through the Ages

Othello

The Great Gatsby

AQA poetry anthology

Texts to buy

Please buy The Cambridge Shakespeare version of *Othello* and The Penguin Classics version of *The Great Gatsby* for September.

Modern Times

A Streetcar Named Desire or Translations

The Handmaid's Tale

Feminine Gospels

Assessment

A 3 hour exam – 40% of the A Level.

A 2 and a half hour exam – 40% of the A Level.

Non-exam assessment (a comparative essay) – 20% of the A Level.

Tasks to prepare you for September

Read one of the books on the suggested reading list below. Complete a page for your reading journal (guidance on the final page of this booklet). You will be expected to complete one entry to your reading journal every term in addition to reading set texts.

Other suggested tasks

Reading widely will benefit you for both the unseen element of the course and for your NEA (coursework). Please see the suggested reading list below. Feel free to read any of the course set texts too.

Watch a version of *Othello* (the Kenneth Brannagh version is recommended).

Watch the Marlon Brando version of *A Streetcar Named Desire*.

Suggested reading – You will find lots of these second hand in charity shops or online, as well as in local libraries.

Fahrenheit 451 - Ray Bradbury

Frankenstein - Mary Shelley

Catch 22 - Joseph Heller

The Suitable Boy - Vikram Seth

Catcher in the Rye - J.D Salinger

The God of All Small Things - Arundhati Roy

Jane Eyre - Charlotte Bronte

Pride and Prejudice - Jane Austen

Persuasion – Jane Austen

To Kill A Mockingbird - Harper Lee

1984 - George Orwell

Jacob's Room and/or *Mrs Dalloway* -Virginia Woolf

Wuthering Heights - Emily Bronte

Lord of the Flies - William Golding

Great Expectations and/or *Little Dorrit* - Charles Dickens

Middlemarch - George Elliot

History of the World in 10 ½ Chapters - Julian Barnes

Enduring Love and/or *Atonement* - Ian McEwan

Bell Jar - Sylvia Plath

Robinson Crusoe - Daniel Defoe

Canterbury Tales - Chaucer

Clockwork Orange - Anthony Burgess

Death of A Salesman - Arthur Miller

Don Quixote - Miguel de Cervantes

Captain Corelli's Mandolin - Louis de Bernieres

Vernon God Little - DBC Pierre

The Kite Runner and/or *A Thousand Splendid Suns* - Khaled Hosseini

The Reader - Bernhard Schlink

The Bloody Chamber (short stories) - Angela Carter

Birdsong - Sebastian Faulks

Never Let Me Go -Kazuo Ishiguro

Tender is the Night - F. Scott Fitzgerald

The Awakening – Kate Chopin

The Rotter's Club – Jonathan Coe

The Mill on the Floss – George Eliot

Tess of the D'Urbervilles – Thomas Hardy

Rebecca – Daphne Du Maurier

Key information

Title:

Author's name:

Date of publish:

Genre:

Contextual information

Record any relevant information about the context, e.g. information about the author, key dates/events that might have influenced the author.

Plot

Briefly summarise the plot.

Narrative

What type of narrator does the novel have? What is interesting about the narrative?

Characters

Who are the key characters? How are they presented?

Themes

What are the key themes of the text? How do they develop?

Opinion

What is your opinion of the text? Explain why you did/didn't like it.

Connections

How does this text connect to other texts you have read?

