



SIXTH FORM

FRAMWELLGATE SCHOOL DURHAM

Preparation for A Level English Literature

Specification: AQA Literature B

Course Title	English Literature		Exam Board	AQA
Module	Title	Weighting	Assessment Method	
Unit 1	Aspects of Tragedy (<i>Othello</i> , <i>Death of a Salesman</i> and Keats' poetry)	40%	Closed book exam	
Unit 2	Social and Political Protest Writing (<i>The Kite Runner</i> , <i>A Doll's House</i> and Harrison's poetry)	40%	Open book exam	
Unit 3	Theory and Independence	20%	Non-examined assessment (coursework)	

Resources needed for the first lesson in September:

If you wish to add detailed annotations to the set texts (*Othello* and *Death of a Salesman*) then you should buy your own copy. We can supply clean copies but these are not to be heavily annotated.

Recommended Textbook/revision guide:

York notes for set texts would be useful

Induction Tasks:

What follows is a range of tasks that will prepare you for the study of all Year 12 exam texts. You should use reliable sources and gather detailed information. You can choose in what format you present the information be it as mind maps, charts...etc

Task 1: Conventions of Tragedy – complete detailed notes on each of the following:

- Aristotle's definition of tragedy including key terms and their meanings;
- The key differences between Aristotle and Shakespeare's tragic heroes;
- The key differences between these and the modern tragic hero ('the common man');
- The Freytag Pyramid (tragic structure);
- The meaning of the following words: mimesis; catharsis; hamartia and peripeteia and
- Intended audience responses to tragedy.

Task 2: Research – Social & historical context of ‘Othello’

- What were the key features of ‘renaissance drama’?
- What are the typical ingredients of a Shakespearean tragedy?
- What is meant by the word ‘Moor’ and what are its origins?
- What beliefs did the Jacobean hold about Moors?
- What does the term ‘Machiavellian’ mean?
- Describe what Venice and Cyprus were like in the mid-late 16th century
- What religious beliefs dominated society at this time?
- What roles were ascribed to men and women in Jacobean society?
- What were the common beliefs about women and why?

Task 3: Plot – create a detailed timeline for events in the play.

Task 4: Character – create character profiles for Othello and Iago, detailing the key aspects of their personalities. Support your ideas with direct quotations from the text.

Task 5: Research – Social & historical context of *Death of A Salesman*

- The Great Depression and how it changed America society;
- The rise of consumerism in 1940s America;
- Arthur Miller’s political views and activities.

Task 6: Research John Keats - Social and historical context

Keats was writing during the Romantic period, a time when many writers were rebelling against the rationality of the earlier Enlightenment period.

- What were the key features of Romanticism?
- What were the key features of the Enlightenment era and how did Romanticism rebel against it?
- What were the main events of Keats’s life?
- What was the Industrial Revolution and how did it impact on the English countryside and culture?

Task 7: Texts

Read and annotate Keats’s poem “La Belle Dame Sans Merci”. Consider the following aspects of the poem:

- Semantic field of death and loss
- Symbolism (nature, the garlands)
- Structure (why is the ballad form used? Why is the final line of each stanza shorter than expected? What is the effect of only hearing the knight’s side of the story?)

Task 8: SMILE

Consolidate your ideas on “La Belle Dame” by creating a S.M.I.L.E. summary chart (Structure, Meaning, Imagery, Language, Effect).

Deadline Date: Tuesday 4th September