

Welcome to A-Level English Literature!

Congratulations on making an excellent choice.

In the first year you will study:

- a selection of poetry by Keats
- the Shakespearean play, *Othello*
- *Death of a Salesman*, a play by the American playwright, Arthur Miller
- the classic American novel, *The Great Gatsby*

The theme linking all of these texts is **Tragedy**.

These are the Assessment Objectives for this course:

- *AO1: Articulate informed, personal and creative responses to literary texts, using associated concepts and terminology, and coherent, accurate written expression.*
- *AO2: Analyse ways in which meanings are shaped in literary texts.*
- *AO3: Demonstrate understanding of the significance and influence of the contexts in which literary texts are written and received.*
- *AO4: Explore connections across literary texts.*
- *AO5: Explore literary texts informed by different interpretations.*

At the end of your first year of study you will take the AS examination. This will not contribute to your final A-level grade but it will give both you and your teachers a good idea of the skills you need to develop before your final A-level examination at the end of two years.

You will also begin a research project on an area of literature at end of the AS year. This will be completed in your final year and will contribute towards your A-level.

One of the best things you can do as part of your preparation is immerse yourself in culture. Challenge yourself.

Read widely, everything and anything. It's a good idea to read the set texts, or texts written by the same authors, to give yourself a head start.

Watch films, especially those rated by film buffs.

Go to the theatre if you get the opportunity.

Go and look at art, listen to music, pay attention to architecture.

In literature, everything is connected.

Get in the habit of keeping a log of your observation of what you find out.

As well as this, we have a preparation task for you. It must be completed and ready to hand in for your first English lesson in September.

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Preparation Task Tragedy!

Research the concept of tragedy. What does it mean in literature?

What are the typical conventions?

Write your own explanation of the term, tragedy.

Make a note of any books, websites etc. that you have used in your research.

Then

You are to read, research and consider the linking idea of TRAGEDY in texts and another example.

Select something from each column in the table below.

You choose the way you are going to communicate your findings (see **Form**, in the grid), but you must include details of texts and other resources, so a bibliography is essential.

Write ideas up in your own words; make sure your writing is of the highest standard.

Text	Era	Other	Form
Novel	19 th Century	Music	Essay
Short story	Pre -19 th Century	Art	Report
Play	20 th Century	Real Life Incident	Website
Poetry	21 st Century	Theory	Presentation

The mark scheme for your task is on the next page.

Aim to be in expert in each of the categories!

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Preparation Task Mark Scheme

	Beginner: 1 point	Novice: 2 Points	Intermediate: 3 points	Expert: 4 points	Points
Content	Includes little essential information and one or two facts.	Includes some essential information with few citations and few facts.	Includes essential information with most sources properly cited. Includes enough detail to give readers an understanding of the topic.	Covers topic thoroughly and in depth. Includes properly cited sources and complete information. Encourages readers to know more.	
Understanding	Little attempt to present information in own words. Little understanding of source material.	Some evidence of rewriting with a heavy reliance on the original material. Some understanding evident.	Much of the information presented in own words. A clear understanding of source material.	An original interpretation of source material, demonstrating understanding, insight and personal response.	
Writing	Minimal evidence of considered choices of form and meanings. Basic knowledge of genre requirements.	Awareness and some understanding of form and style. Some control of genre requirements.	An informed understanding of form and style. Control of genre requirements.	Consistent and sophisticated control of form and style. Very assured control of genre.	
Mechanics	Includes more than 5 grammatical errors, misspellings, punctuation errors, etc.	Includes 3-4 grammatical errors, misspellings, punctuation errors, etc.	Includes 2-3 grammatical errors, misspellings, punctuation errors, etc.	Grammar, spelling and punctuation are correct. No errors in the text.	

Scale: 14 - 16=Expert 11 - 13=Intermediate

5 – 10=Novice 1 - 4=Beginner

Total Points

Expert – Well done! You have demonstrated you have the skills necessary to be most successful on this course. Don't be complacent, these skills need to be developed and there is plenty of new knowledge to acquire.

Intermediate – Good. You clearly have some good basic skills and are prepared to work at the required level. You now need to work hard to make the leap to the next level.

Novice – Fair. This is not a bad result at this point on the course. However, you clearly need to pay closer attention to detail when completing tasks and aim to always work to the very best of your ability.

Beginner – Poor. You need to seriously improve your organisation and motivation. If you have worked hard there are a number of basic skills you need to acquire in order to achieve some success on this course.

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