



DIXONS
SIXTH FORM
ACADEMY

SUMMER WORK:

A LEVEL ENGLISH LITERATURE

20

23

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About the Summer Work

This booklet contains a number of tasks that students are expected to complete to a good standard in order to be able to be enrolled in this subject.

The work handed in should be:

- written in black or blue ink on A4 lined paper
- written in full sentences with no copying and pasting from external sources
- have all compulsory tasks completed
- have students' full names on each sheet
- multiple sheets should be connected together

You should have completed all tasks in this booklet by the first day in September. Do not hand it in on enrolment day, just bring it with you to your first ever English Literature lesson when you have been given your timetable.

This booklet also contains significant additional information and a range of optional wider reading tasks. We would encourage you to complete all the tasks including the optional ones to fully prepare for Sixth Form study.

You will need access to at least one novel. There are links to free versions on line if you do not wish to buy your own copy at this stage.

Welcome to English Literature

Subject outline

English Literature relies upon your love for reading and your desire to access texts which will stretch your understanding and appreciation of the written word. We cover an array of topics and texts within this course which include:

- Hamlet, William Shakespeare – Drama - Paper 1
- Frankenstein, Mary Shelley – Prose - Paper 2
- Never Let Me Go, Kazuo Ishiguro – Prose – Paper 2
- The Less Deceived, Philip Larkin – Poetry – Paper 3

Many of the texts above explore issues/topics that we are often faced with as a society in 2022. We explore the relationship between gender and society, class structures, 'otherness', religion vs science and much more!

The assessments are broken up into three exam papers and coursework; you will complete three exams at the end of Year 2.

Paper 1 – You answer questions on Hamlet and another piece of drama

Paper 2 – You compare Frankenstein and Never Let Me Go.

Paper 3 – You answer questions on The Less Deceived and some unseen poetry

Your Coursework - This is worth 20% of your final grade; you choose two texts from a prescribed list and write an essay of comparison about them between 2800-3000 words in length.

In order to be successful at Literature, you need to read the texts in detail and then become confident with:

- The context in which they were written in
- The language used and the characters/events/themes displayed
- How the text could be interpreted differently
- How you could compare the texts together
- How audiences would react to the texts

Your assessments are made up with extended essays of analysis so this is a skill we will work on throughout the course. This bridging work will give me a good understanding of your ability to analyse and write informed paragraphs.

Careers & Higher Education

The study of English literature focuses mainly on analysis, debate and critical theorising about a large number of published works, be they novels, poems, plays or other literary works.

Given this number of genres, it is perhaps unsurprising that a degree in English literature can be incredibly wide-ranging; two students on the same degree course can choose to study very different things outside of their core modules and progress into vastly different careers.

What are my career opportunities following this A-Level?

In terms of career opportunities, media and publishing can be a good fit for an English literature graduate, as they offer a good way to apply your knowledge of the written language. These skills will also serve you well in advertising and marketing, even within retail, manufacturing or education-based settings.

Teaching is another option; from primary education right up to tertiary, English as a subject is considered important at all stages.

You may be considering a career in Medicine, Psychology, Law, or even dentistry and therefore wonder whether Literature is the right choice for you. However, due to the skills associated with A Level Literature, it is considered a 'facilitating subject'. This means that many universities hold this course in high regard.

Generally speaking, English literature is a degree well respected by potential employers owing to the numerous transferable skills it demonstrates.

Where are the most jobs in Bradford? How does this tie in with A-Level Literature?

When taking into consideration the local labour market in Bradford, English Literature can stand you in good stead for marketing careers within the 1,200 manufacturing businesses within Bradford. You may also consider a career in the classroom, as education is another sector that is sought for the area of Bradford. Health and Social care settings are also on the rise in terms of job availability within Bradford, and with the skills you develop in Literature you will be fit for a degree in a Health and/or Social care.

Links to key information:

English Literature Course Information Guide:

<https://www.dixons6a.com/uploads/files/English-Literature.pdf>

Edexcel Specification:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/A%20Level/English%20Literature/2015/Specification%20and%20sample%20assessments/GCE2015-A-level-Eng-Lit-spec-Issue-6.pdf>

Summer work tasks

Task 1

Look at the short list of YR1 texts below, choose one and read it.

- Frankenstein, Mary Shelley – Prose - Paper 2
- Never Let Me Go, Kazuo Ishiguro – Prose – Paper 2

You can either get it from the library (Bradford Library offer eBooks now), read a free a copy online or purchase one from a bookstore/Amazon.

Frankenstein: <https://www.gutenberg.org/files/84/84-h/84-h.htm>

Never Let Me Go: <https://www.swgs.wilts.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Never-Let-Me-Go-by-Kazuo-Ishiguro.pdf>

Task 2

Write up a summary of the text and explore: the characters, the themes, the setting, and the conventions used - 300 words in total.

Task 3

Read poem below by Philip Larkin (the first two stanzas). Write an analysis of what you think the poem is about; focus on key poetic features you think are important. Try to include some structural devices from GCSE as well as language devices. 200 words.

Marrying left your maiden name disused.
Its five light sounds no longer mean your face,
Your voice, and all your variants of grace;
For since you were so thankfully confused
By law with someone else, you cannot be
Semantically the same as that young beauty:
It was of her that these two words were used.

Now it's a phrase applicable to no one,
Lying just where you left it, scattered through
Old lists, old programmes, a school prize or two
Packets of letters tied with tartan ribbon -
Then is it scentless, weightless, strengthless, wholly
Untruthful? Try whispering it slowly.
No, it means you. Or, since you're past and gone,

Task 4

Read the below extract and annotate it, focusing on what techniques the writer has used to create meaning and effect.

Try and identify the following techniques:

- **light imagery**
- **personification**
- **natural imagery**

You may also identify interesting word classes and structural features. Then, write your annotations into a 300-word essay analysis.

It was completely dark when I arrived in the environs of Geneva; the gates of the town were already shut; and I was obliged to pass the night at Secheron, a village at the distance of half a league from the city. The sky was serene; and, as I was unable to rest, I resolved to visit the spot where my poor William had been murdered. As I could not pass through the town, I was obliged to cross the lake in a boat to arrive at Plainpalais. During this short voyage I saw the lightning playing on the summit of Mont Blanc in the most beautiful figures. The storm appeared to approach rapidly, and, on landing, I ascended a low hill, that I might observe its progress. It advanced; the heavens were clouded, and I soon felt the rain coming slowly in large drops, but its violence quickly increased.

I quitted my seat, and walked on, although the darkness and storm increased every minute, and the thunder burst with a terrific crash over my head. It was echoed from Salève, the Juras, and the Alps of Savoy; vivid flashes of lightning dazzled my eyes, illuminating the lake, making it appear like a vast sheet of fire; then for an instant every thing seemed of a pitchy darkness, until the eye recovered itself from the preceding flash. The storm, as is often the case in Switzerland, appeared at once in various parts of the heavens. The most violent storm hung exactly north of the town, over the part of the lake which lies between the promontory of Belrive and the village of Copêt. Another storm enlightened Jura with faint flashes; and another darkened and sometimes disclosed the Môle, a peaked mountain to the east of the lake.

Reading list

Year 1 Texts:

Frankenstein, Mary Shelley

Never Let Me Go, Kazuo Ishiguro

The Less Deceived, Philip Larkin

Wider Reading:

Romantic Outlaws: The Extraordinary Lives of Mary Wollstonecraft and Mary Shelley,
Charlotte Gordon

Clone: The Road to Dolly and the Path Beyond, Gina Kolata

Larkin's Bibliography: <https://philiplarkin.com/bibliography/>

Podcasts for wider study:

Frankenstein, In Our Time: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m00051n6>

Philip Larkin, In Our Time: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b01k9q6v>

Never Let Me Go, Book Club: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000qxm4>