



DIXONS
SIXTH FORM
ACADEMY

SUMMER WORK

A LEVEL
ENGLISH
LITERATURE

STUDENT NAME:

20
24

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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, feel free to print out the resources
- 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:

- William Shakespeare – Drama - Paper 1
- Dr Faustus, Christopher Marlowe – 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
- Poems of the Decade and unseen poetry – Poetry – Paper 3

Many of the texts above explore issues/topics that we are often faced with as a society in 2024. 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 Shakespeare and Dr Faustus by Christopher Marlowe

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

Paper 3 – You answer questions on The Less Deceived, some unseen poetry and chosen poems from Poems of the Decade

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 us 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

These are large tasks and you will need to manage your time carefully. **DO NOT leave it until the end of the Summer. Spread your work out, spend between 2/3 hours each week on these tasks.**

Task 1

Read *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley. Aim to read 4 or 5 chapters a week, and answer the questions below as you go.

Here is a link to the [ebook](#)

Here is a link to the [audiobook](#)

Task 2

Answer the questions in [this document](#) in as much detail as you can. You need to demonstrate your understanding of the novel. Hand in your answers on a sheet of paper with your name on.

If you use the attached document you will need to make your own copy.

Task 3

Analyse and annotate the poems in [this document](#). You may wish to conduct wider reading and research to help you with this (for example from [here](#) and [here](#)).

Additionally

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>

[Tiny in all that air](#): Podcast on poet Philip Larkin



[You're Dead to me: Mary Shelley](#)

Reading list

Year 1 Texts:

Frankenstein, Mary Shelley

Never Let Me Go, Kazuo Ishiguro

The Less Deceived, Philip Larkin

Wider Reading:

- [Terry Eagleton, *How to Read a Poem* \(2006\)](#)
- [Terry Eagleton, *Literary Theory: An Introduction* \(1983\)](#)
- [Robert Barnard, *A Short History of English Literature*, 2nd edition \(1994\)](#)
- [Christopher Butler, *Postmodernism: A Very Short Introduction* \(2002\)](#)
- [Elaine Scarry, *The Body in Pain: The Making and Unmaking of the World* \(1985\)](#)
- [Charlotte Gordon, *Romantic Outlaws: The Extraordinary Lives of Mary Wollstonecraft and Mary Shelley* \(2015\)](#)