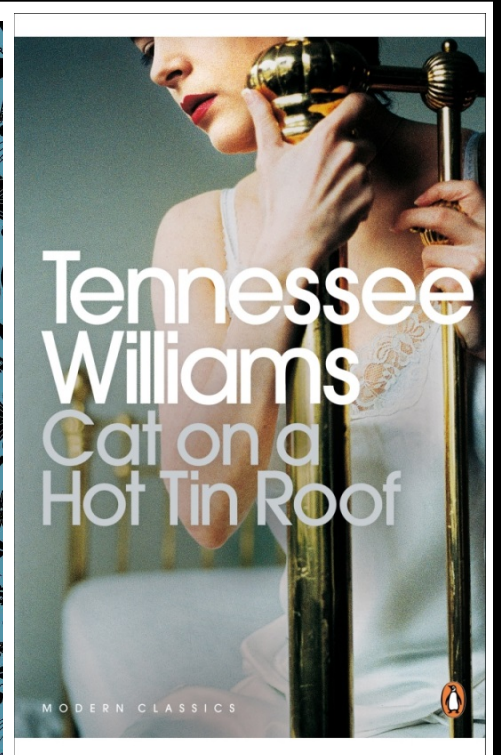
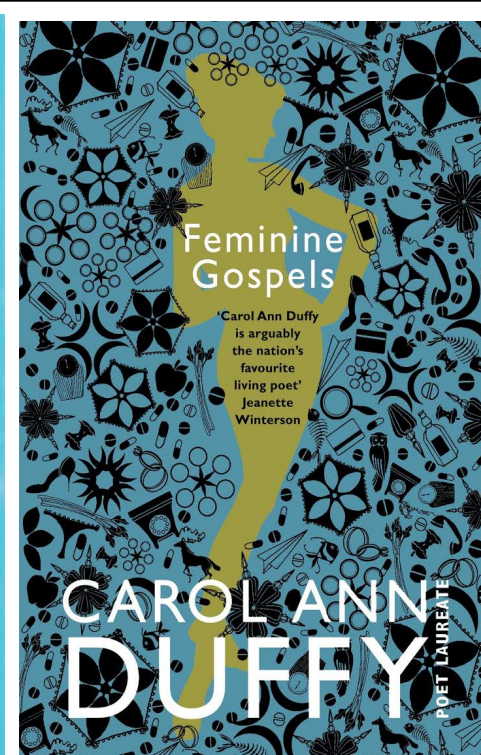
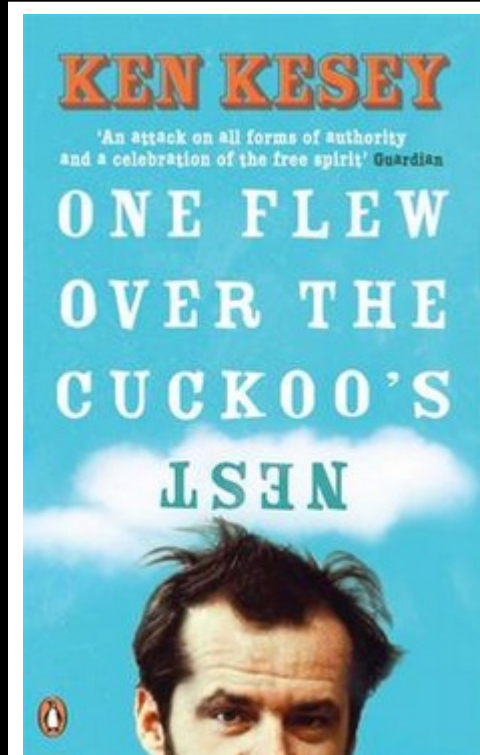


AQA English Literature A

Love Through the Ages and Texts in Shared Contexts

Student Handbook
Bishop Justus Church of England School



Contents

Overview of the Course.....	p. 2
Texts.....	p. 3
Form of Assessment.....	p. 4
Handing in Work.....	p. 4
Programme of Study.....	p. 5
Assessment Cover Sheet.....	p. 6
Planning Sheet for Essays.....	p. 7
AQA Sample Papers.....	p. 8
AQA Band 5 Response on Othello.....	p. 18
Love through the Ages Prose Booklet.....	p. 20
Timeline	p. 48
Key Stage 5 Reading List.....	p. 50

Overview

Our main aim is to foster an appreciation and enjoyment of literary texts by developing your ability to make an **informed and fresh personal response**. You will need to respond to a range of **genres and periods** and to understand the ways in which writers' **choice of form, structure and language** shape meanings. For the course you will be expected to become proficient in the following: knowing a text well by **reading independently**; organising your workload to meet **deadlines**; doing background **research** and critical reading by collecting and using **quotations**; taking time to construct arguments carefully by **taking notes** in class and **planning essays**.

Transitioning from GCSE to A Level will be easier if you **read texts before the start of the course** and prepare yourself thoroughly for lessons. The texts will not be read in the classroom, but you are required to read texts outside lessons. In class, you will be expected to **carry all your notes and information to every lesson** as teachers will keep referring to information in your folders from previous lessons and it will aid you in your examinations later on in the course.

You should try to **read a wide range of critical works** relevant to the set texts so that you will be able to discuss a variety of interpretations and to demonstrate knowledge of the contexts in which literary works are written and understood. Mostly importantly, it is important to gain your own **interest in fiction** by reading as widely as possible as it will help you to analyse texts in their contexts. Unseen post-1945 literature will be examined and it is vital, therefore, that you are prepared in advance.

All the texts and revision guides should be **purchased before the start of the term** to ensure that you are engaging with the text. In every lesson, you must ensure that you have a study guide and copy of the text. By annotating your own copy and referring to other examples in the text, you will be engaging most effectively with the course to maximise your potential.

You will be expected to have read the text before the start of the course as lessons will focus on discussing what you have already read. Please **purchase the exact editions** as shown above before the start of your term. The reasoning behind choosing these particular texts is that the pages match those in

the York Notes study guides and the school will provide the same editions in the examinations. You will notice that some of the units are open book examinations.

For the coursework unit, you will be expected to choose your own novel to compare with Frankenstein. Please refer to the **Key Stage 5 Reading List** later in this document.

What texts will be examined and which texts will I need to purchase?

Othello by William Shakespeare (Heinemann)

The Great Gatsby by Scott Fitzgerald (Wordsworth)

The Feminine Gospels by Carol Ann Duffy (Picador)

Cat on a Hot Tin Roof by Tennessee Williams (Penguin)

One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest by Casey (Penguin)

Frankenstein by Mary Shelley (Penguin)

AQA pre-1900 Poetry Anthology (provided by the school)

What revision guides should I purchase to help me with my studies?

The Great Gatsby York Notes

Othello Advanced York Notes Advanced

Cat on a Hot Tin Roof York Notes

Frankenstein York Notes

You will be expected to purchase these revision guides. Naturally, there is funding to help any who may find this difficult. Please contact the Head of Department (Mrs. Hamilton) if necessary.

Form of Assessment

	Paper 1 (3 hours) Love through the Ages 40%	Paper 2 (2 hours 30) Texts in Shared Contexts 40%	Independent Critical Study 20%
Section A	<u>Othello</u> (a passage based question with a linked essay)	<u>The Feminine Gospels</u>	<u>Frankenstein</u> compared with a novel of your choice (One <u>extended essay</u> of 2,500 words which includes a bibliography)
Section B	Unseen Poetry: Compare two <u>unseen poems</u>	Unseen prose extract (post-1945) AND	
Section C	Compare <u>The Great Gatsby</u> * with three <u>poems</u> from the pre-1900 AQA Anthology*	Compare <u>Cat on a Hot Tin Roof</u> * with <u>One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest</u> *	
Open Book exam*			

Handing in Work

On the A Level course, you will naturally be studying fewer subjects and will have more directed time outside lessons compared to Key Stage 3 and 4. Part of this intentional study window is to focus your attention on researching ideas and texts in great detail as well as researching critical theory. The key to producing high quality essays begins in the research process by reading different parts of texts, taking notes and recording others' critical viewpoints. Please see **A Level Planning** sheet below to help you. Hint: keep the planning sheet because it is excellent revision for the examinations.

In every term (about five weeks on average) you will produce a **minimum of two essays** per subject (between **1000 and 1200 words**). You will be expected to spend **at least two hours researching** your ideas and **two hours writing** your essay. Even though you will not have the privilege of this directed time in the actual examination, it is important to learn the skill of writing high quality essays before you practise essay writing in timed conditions. Don't worry, there will be the opportunity to practise timed essays on the course!

Before handing work in, you must **staple the graded self-assessment sheet** (see below) to your essay and make sure that the essay is printed off and returned to your folder. Keep all essays that have been marked in your folder for regular checks. These should be brought to every lesson. If some students prefer to hand in essays via email, they must still be printed off and placed in the folder if this is the case. If the teacher has given written feedback online, it must be printed off with the teacher's comments. Hint: print off quite a few copies of the

Sample Papers and Model AQA Response (Band 5)

The SPECIMEN papers below will give you a good indication of the types of questions that will crop up in your examination. Spend much time examining the student responses on your course and the mark scheme to help you prepare your own.

Programme of Study

As you should notice from the long-term plan below, you will be studying two texts simultaneously. This normally means that you have two English teachers at a time, depending on teacher timetables.

If you are in Year 12, there will be the opportunity to revisit the texts in your second year of A Level with two PPE examinations: one after Christmas, and the other in the Summer term. In Year 13, you will have a PPE exam after Christmas, and then your PPE around Easter.

Long-term Plan (subject to change)						
	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5	Term 6
Year 12 (2017-18)	<i>Gatsby</i>	<i>Gatsby</i>	Pre-1900 Poetry through the Ages	Pre-1900 Poetry through the Ages	Unseen Prose (post 1945) and Wider Reading Unit	EXAMS Frankenstein
	<i>Othello</i>	<i>Othello</i>	<i>Cat on a Hot Tin Roof</i>	One Flew over a Cuckoo's Nest	Cat and Cuckoo	EXAMS and Wider Reading Unit
Year 13 (2017-18)	Frankenstein	Duffy	Duffy	Unseen Poetry	REVISION: Othello	Exams
	One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest	Cat on a Hot Tin Roof	Cat on a Hot Tin Roof and One Flew Comparison	Gatsby and Pre-1900	Unseen Prose (post 1945)	Exams
Year 13 (2018-19)	<i>Frankenstein</i>	<i>Cat and Cuckoo</i>	Gatsby and Poetry	Othello	Revision	Exams
	<i>Duffy</i>	<i>Duffy</i>	Unseen Poetry	Unseen Prose	Revision	Exams