

A-Level English Literature

We're delighted to welcome you to the start of your A-Level journey in English Literature!

The texts you'll study are more than just words on a page; they are voices from throughout time, carrying the thoughts, struggles, hopes and fears of people who lived through extraordinary moments in history. Literature holds a mirror up to the world, reflecting its beauty and its flaws, challenging us to think critically, and offering insights that still shape our future.

This bridging work is designed to spark your curiosity, build your confidence, and introduce you to some of the ideas, themes and authors you'll encounter during the course. We can't wait to get started with you in September!

Understanding the course

Specification	AQA English Literature A Level https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/a-level/english-7712/specification/subject-content
Exams	All exams are at the end of Y13 Paper 1: Love through the ages – Othello, pre-1900 poetry anthology, Jane Eyre and unseen poetry 3 hours Paper 2b: Texts in Shared contexts - A Streetcar Named Desire, The Handmaid's Tale and Skirrid Hill poetry 2 hours Non-Exam Assessment: Coursework (2000 words)
Teacher	Ms Goodridge: sgoodridge@yateacademy.co.uk Mr Ponsford: sponsford@yateacademy.co.uk

Course requirements

Please come prepared to your first lesson with the following materials:

- Pencil case with black pens, pencils, ruler, rubber
- 2 lever arch folders (1 per paper)
- 1 blank, lined exercise book for independent study (we will provide an exercise book)
- A diary or planner

We will provide you with copies of the texts (although you are welcome to buy your own if you wish to). Please bring these to the lessons once we have given these to you.

Summer bridging work

To ensure you start the year as successfully as possible, please come to your first lesson having completed the following tasks.

Consolidate

Part of the course	Task	Done
Paper 1	Read Jane Eyre – make notes on key plot, characters and themes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● https://www.gutenberg.org/files/1260/1260-h/1260-h.htm ● Or as an audiobook: https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/brand/p07lbym6 	
	Watch Othello – make notes on key plot, characters and themes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● https://www.folger.edu/explore/shakespeares-works/othello/read/ 	
Paper 2	Read The Handmaid’s Tale - make notes on key plot, characters and themes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● https://archive.org/details/the-handmaids-tale_pdf/page/n9/mode/2up ● Or as an audiobook: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0pmWf1k-vFM 	
	Watch A Streetcar Named Desire - make notes on key plot, characters and themes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jMvh6_nysjk 	
	Read this guide to Skirrid Hill from Swansea University - make notes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● https://www.swansea.ac.uk/media/SkirridHill_01.pdf 	

Extend

Pick one (per paper) of the videos or podcasts in the list to listen to or watch. Summarise the key points.

Paper	What is it about?	Link	Done
Paper 1 Love through the ages	Listen to the Radio 4 programme 'In our time' and their special episode 'Jane Eyre'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/b05y11v8 <p>Watch time: 41 minutes</p>	
Paper 1 Love through the ages	Listen to the short podcast and make notes on 'Love across the racial divide' from BBC radio 4	<p>https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/b078xpf2 Watch time: 15 minutes</p>	
Paper 1 Love through the ages	Watch and make notes on 'Is Othello a racist play?'	<p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zAcMVH8vqZw</p> <p>Watch time: 8 minutes</p>	
Paper 2 Texts in Shared Contexts	Listen to Margaret Atwood talk about The Handmaid's Tale on BBC Radio 4 and make notes	<p>https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b0b4zf0w</p> <p>Listen time: 28 minutes</p>	
Paper 2 Texts in Shared Contexts	Listen to Owen Sheers talk about poetry, music and his life on Private Passions on BBC Radio 3 and make notes	<p>https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b06k9f26</p> <p>Listen time: 32 minutes</p>	
Paper 2 Texts in Shared Contexts	Listen to Great Lives from BBC Radio 4 on Tennessee Williams and make notes.	<p>https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/b00p8dkb</p> <p>Listen time: 28 minutes</p>	