

# St Bede's Catholic College

Year 11 into 12  
Transition Work

English Literature



**Exam board:** AQA- English Literature A

**Course length:** Two years

**Specification:** <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/as-and-a-level/english-literature-a-7711-7712/specification-at-a-glance>

**Exam structure:**

### Subject content

#### Core content:

- 4.1 [Love through the ages](#) (page 14)
- 4.2 [Texts in shared contexts](#) (page 16)
- 4.3 [Independent critical study: texts across time](#) (page 20)

#### Options:

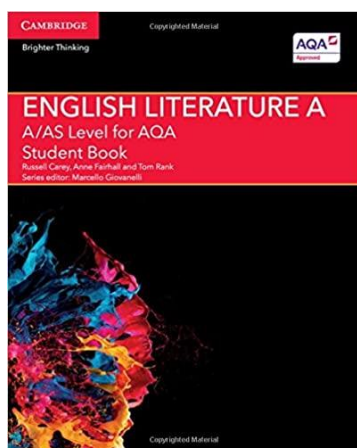
- [Option A: WW1 and its aftermath](#) (page 16)
- [Option B: Modern times: literature from 1945 to the present day](#) (page 18)

### Assessments

Paper 1: Love through the ages	+	Paper 2: Texts in shared contexts	+	Non-exam assessment: Independent critical study: texts across time
<p><b>What's assessed</b></p> <p>Study of three texts: one poetry and one prose text, of which one must be written pre-1900, and one Shakespeare play.</p> <p>Exam will include two unseen poems</p>		<p><b>What's assessed</b></p> <p>Choice of two options</p> <p>Option 2A: WW1 and its aftermath</p> <p>Option 2B: Modern times: literature from 1945 to the present day</p> <p>Study of three texts: one prose, one poetry, and one drama, of which one must be written post-2000</p> <p>Exam will include an unseen extract</p>		<p><b>What's assessed</b></p> <p>Comparative critical study of two texts, at least one of which must have been written pre-1900.</p> <p>One extended essay (2,500 words) and a bibliography</p>
<p><b>Assessed</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• written exam: 3 hours</li> <li>• open book in Section C only</li> <li>• 75 marks</li> <li>• 40% of A-level</li> </ul>		<p><b>Assessed</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes</li> <li>• open book</li> <li>• 75 marks</li> <li>• 40% of A-level</li> </ul>		<p><b>Assessed</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 50 marks</li> <li>• 20% of A-level</li> <li>• assessed by teachers</li> <li>• moderated by AQA</li> </ul>
<p><b>Questions</b></p> <p>Section A: Shakespeare: one passage-based question with linked essay (25 marks)</p> <p>Section B: Unseen poetry: compulsory essay question on two unseen poems (25 marks)</p> <p>Section C: Comparing texts: one essay question linking two texts (25 marks)</p>		<p><b>Questions</b></p> <p>Section A: Set texts. One essay question on set text (25 marks)</p> <p>Section B: Contextual linking</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• one compulsory question on an unseen extract (25 marks)</li> <li>• one essay question linking two texts (25 marks)</li> </ul>		

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

## Useful textbooks:



**A/AS Level English Literature A for AQA Student Book** (A Level (AS) English Literature AQA) Paperback – 12 Nov. 2015

Edited by Marcello Giovanelli Russell Carey , Anne Fairhall , Tom Rank (Author)

(There is no obligation to buy this book, you will be provided with a copy when you join St Bede's; however, if you'd like to get one to start learning some of the course already then please do so.)

## Useful websites:

- <http://writersinspire.org/writers>
- <http://cls.matrix.msu.edu/lecture/?personID=5B-236-13> (Lecture by Margaret Atwood- but also many other writers)
- <https://sites.google.com/stbcc.org/virtual-library> (St Bede's Library Website)

**Sample/past papers:** <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/as-and-a-level/english-literature-a-7711-7712/assessment-resources>

## Transition work:

### Aim:

To explore the social, cultural and historical context of Post-1945 writing. (Race, Globalisation, Identity, multiculturalism, etc.)

To read a range of the set texts in order to prepare you for the A-Level course.

To do wider reading of genres you enjoy, and others that might challenge you, in order to start the course with a greater breadth of knowledge and understanding of 'Literature' in general.

### 1) Texts to read:

'Wuthering Heights' by Emily Bronte (For Yr 12)

'Othello' by Shakespeare. (For Yr 12)

'The Handmaid's Tale' – By Margaret Atwood. (To get ahead for Yr 13)

'A Streetcar Named Desire' by Tennessee Williams (To get ahead for Yr 13)

### 2) Reading Task:

To read the novel- 'Wuthering Heights' and to complete 5 Reading Journal tasks.

To read the play –'Othello' and maybe watch a version of the play (if you have one or can find one online!)

Wider reading- see attached list to help you find some different options.

### What can I write in my reading journal?

Choose 5 of the following to complete while reading your book. Title the Page with the words in bold.

- Write a **description of the main character** – their looks, the way they dress, the way they talk and their personality. Find 8 quotations from different points in the novel. (Describe the first Cathy)
- Choose 3 **descriptive passages** from the beginning, middle and end of the book. Make a list of examples of vivid imagery, e.g. similes, metaphors, alliteration, personification, noun phrases, etc..
- Choose 3 **passages with atmosphere**. List the words and phrases used to create an atmosphere, e.g. a calm, surreal, tense.
- Find a passage revealing a character's thoughts. Rewrite the passage in a different **point of view**. (First person, Third Person, Omniscient) Rewrite about what a character might be thinking from a new Point of View. What is the effect? What are the strengths/weaknesses?
- Write about your **favourite part of a book** and why you liked it. Go into detail about the style of language.
- **Research the author**. How did the author find inspiration for the book? What is the author's background? What other types of books have been written by the author?
- Write a **diary entry** that a character might write after an incident in the story.
- Challenge yourself! Write a 50-word summary of a whole plot!
- Write a **Book Review** of the novel. Write about the positive and negative aspects of the novel. Also whether you would recommend the book or not, and why.

**First Lesson in September**, you will need to bring all the work that you have completed. 😊

## **6<sup>th</sup> Form Wider Reading List**

We Need To Talk About Kevin – Lionel Shriver.      Catcher in the Rye – JD Salinger  
Wuthering Heights – Emily Bronte.                      The Bell Jar- Sylvia Plath  
The Great Gatsby – F. Scott Fitzgerald.              Charlotte Grey – Sebastian Faulks  
Enduring Love – Ian McEwan.                              The Outsider – Albert Camus  
Atonement – Ian McEwan.                                      Time Machine – HG Wells  
Jane Eyre – Charlotte Bronte.                                The Help- Kathryn Stockett  
Wide Sargasso Sea – Jean Rhys.                            In Cold Blood – Truman Capote  
1984 – George Orwell.    Fahrenheit 451 – Ray Bradbury  
Wise Children – Angela Carter.                            Circe- Madeline Miller  
Brave New World – Aldous Huxley.                        The Wasp Factory – Ian Banks  
A Thousand Splendid Suns- Khaled Hosseini            Brick Lane – Monica Ali.  
The Handmaid's Tale – Margaret Atwood.              White Teeth – Zadie Smith.

Purple Hibiscus- Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie  
Half of a Yellow Sun- Chimamanda N-A  
A Farewell to Arms – Ernest Hemingway  
The Kite Runner – Khaled Hosseini.  
The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time – Mark Haddon.  
Oranges are Not The Only Fruit – Jeanette Winterson.  
Captain Corelli's Mandolin – Louis de Bernieres.  
Moll Flanders – Daniel Defoe.  
The Woodlanders – Thomas Hardy  
One Hundred Years of Solitude- Gabriel Garcia Marquez  
Bleak House - Charles Dickens  
Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf? - Edward Albee  
The Fifth Child - Doris Lessing  
Maps for Lost Lovers - Nadeem Aslam  
Digging to America - Anne Tyler  
Anna Karenina - Leo Tolstoy  
Sense and Sensibility/ Pride and Prejudice/ Emma- Jane Austen  
The Colour Purple- Alice Walker  
The Time Traveller's Wife- Audrey Niffenegger  
Do androids dream of electric sheep? - Philip K. Dick  
I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings- Maya Angelou  
Blindness- Jose Saramago  
One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest- Ken Kesey  
The Shipping News- Annie Proulx  
Sons & Lovers – D.H Lawrence.  
Waterland – Graham Swift.  
Fall of the House of Usher – Edgar Allen Poe  
Slaughterhouse 5 – Kurt Vonnegut  
A Clockwork Orange- Anthony Burgess  
Never Let Me Go- Kazuo Ishiguro  
The Bloody Chamber – Angela Carter  
Nights at the Circus – Angela Carter

**Mr Slocombe is Head of English. Please email him on [s.slocombe@stbcc.org](mailto:s.slocombe@stbcc.org) with any queries.**