

Welcome to A Level English Literature

We will be studying Renaissance drama and poetry and Dystopian prose over this two year course.

What texts will I read?

Year 1:

Renaissance Drama: *Hamlet* by William Shakespeare

Renaissance Drama: *The Duchess of Malfi* by John Webster

Renaissance Poetry: *Paradise Lost Books IX and X* by John Milton

Drama: *A Streetcar Named Desire* by Tennessee Williams

Assessment: There will be a Renaissance end of year (internally assessed) exam and a piece of Coursework (1,000 words) of a close analysis of *A Streetcar Named Desire*.

Year 2:

Dystopian Prose: *The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood

Dystopian Prose: *A Clockwork Orange* by Anthony Burgess

Dystopian Unseen: a range of extracts from the dystopian genre.

Assessment: There will be two exams (externally assessed) at the end of the year - one Renaissance, one Dystopian.

Your coursework will be a comparative essay of 2,000 words between a prose piece and collection of poems (either post 1900 or post 2000).

How can I prepare for September?

It goes without saying that reading is a crucial part of studying English Literature, so reading these texts prior to starting your course will put you in a very advantageous position (It is recommended that you begin with *Hamlet*).

Link to OCR Specification: <https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-and-a-level/englishliterature-h072-h472-from-2015/#as-level>

Watch an adaptation of *Hamlet* to aid your understanding of the play.

Recommended versions include:

The RSC – *Hamlet* (Paapa Essiedu)

The RSC – *Hamlet* (David Tennant)

Or watch:

Benedict Cumberbatch on *Hamlet*: [Benedict Cumberbatch - Hamlet Interview \[42 mins\]](#)

Discovering *Hamlet*: [Discovering Hamlet \(Theatre Documentary\)](#)

What Topics and Skills will we start with first?

Below are some of the topics and skills that we will cover in September and October:

Introduction to Renaissance Literature

- Understanding of genre conventions and literary tradition/movements.
- Establishing key terms and ideas/concepts.
- Close analysis of dramatic effects and language choices.
- Engaging with critical interpretations, theories, and adaptations.

Contact information:

If you have questions regarding this or any other A Level course at Burnley

College, please contact alevels@burnley.ac.uk or call 01282733373.

We look forward to seeing you in September!