



A Level English Literature: Information for Students and Summer Work



The Edexcel specification offers exciting possibilities in terms of both breadth and depth. However, students are expected to read extensively and it is essential that you get started on the wider reading over the long summer holiday.

A-Level Units

Exam

1. **Drama (30%)** – *A Streetcar Named Desire* by Tennessee Williams & *Othello* by William Shakespeare (separate essays) – 2 Hours and 15 Minutes
2. **Prose (20%)** – *The Picture of Dorian Gray* by Oscar Wilde & *Dracula* by Bram Stoker (comparative essay) – 1 Hour
3. **Poetry (30%)** – Comparative question on poetry from ‘Poems of the Decade’ anthology and unseen poetry & *The Less Deceived* by Philip Larkin (separate essays) – 2 hours 15 Minutes

Coursework

4. **NEA (20%)** – Theme: 20th Century America. One comparative essay on two 20th Century American texts (selected from a range of options) (2,500 – 3,000 words)

Exam Board Website

Here you will find a copy of the specification along with sample assessment material:

<http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/english-literature-2015.html>

Structure of the Course

Year 12

	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Teacher 1	Prose: The Supernatural: <i>The Picture of Dorian Gray</i> by Oscar Wilde and <i>Dracula</i> by Bram Stoker.				NEA: <i>The Great Gatsby</i> by F. Scott Fitzgerald and coursework writing workshops.	
Teacher 2	Drama: <i>A Streetcar Named Desire</i> by Tennessee Williams.		Poetry: A selection of 20 poems from the ‘Poems of the Decade’ Anthology and unseen poetry practice		NEA: <i>Death of a Salesman</i> by Arthur Miller.	

Year 13

To Be Confirmed – The set texts are listed above for those of you wanting to get ahead.

Set Texts

You will need to **purchase your own copies** of these texts. Second-hand copies can be purchased online and in second-hand bookshops for a very reasonable price. The ISBN number in brackets will direct you to the **specific edition** you need. These editions contain extra notes and useful information. **If there are any issues, such as cost, please have a quiet word with your English teacher and we will be able to help or get in touch with the school before the end of the summer term.**

[Please turn over.....]

Tennessee Williams, '*A Streetcar Named Desire*' (ISBN 9781408106044 – Student Edition with additional notes)

Oscar Wilde, '*The Picture of Dorian Gray*' (This **must** be the Norton Critical Edition – ISBN 9780393927542) (We will be studying the **1891** version)

Bram Stoker, '*Dracula*' (ISBN 978-0141439846 – Penguin Classic Edition)

Poems of the Decade: An Anthology of the Forward Books of Poetry (ISBN 978-0571325405)

[Please note although all of the exams are open book, you will have different editions of the novels and the play in the exam itself. The edition used in the exam have to contain minimal extra content such as introductions and supporting notes]

Compulsory Work

- **Read *A Streetcar Named Desire* by Tennessee Williams.**
- **Read *The Picture of Dorian Gray* by Oscar Wilde.**
- **Essay task: Explore how Oscar Wilde presents the character of Dorian Gray in the opening four chapters of the novel.** Please word process this if you can. This essay will be marked and used to give us an idea of your analysis skills. You should aim to write 500 – 1,000 words.
- **Knowledge Review: Compile a glossary of key poetic terminology.** This can be word processed if you prefer and will be approximately one or two sides of A4.

Note: There will be reading quizzes on both of the texts listed above at the start of term and we will be taking in the marks!

Sideways Reading for Examination texts

Those of you that would like to do some extra sideways reading may wish to read the following texts. They are all texts that link to the set examination texts:

- **Poetry:** Any of the poems in the anthology.
- **Prose:** Robert Louis Stevenson, *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*; any gothic novels from the 18th or 19th century – e.g. *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley.
- **Drama:** Tennessee Williams, '*The Glass Menagerie*' or any of his other plays.

We look forward to seeing you in September and to starting what will be an exciting and challenging course.

-The English Department