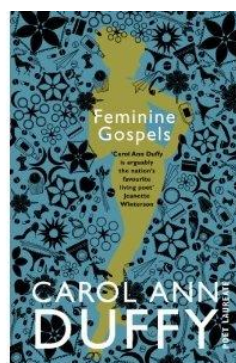
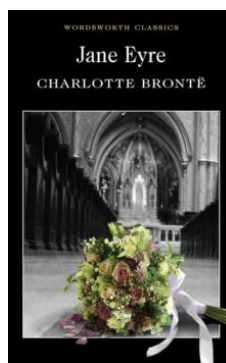
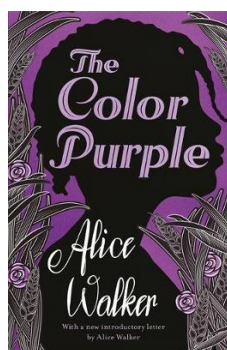
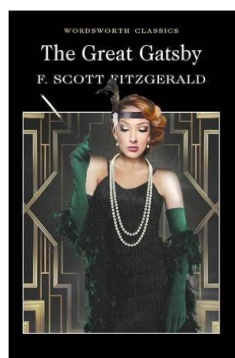
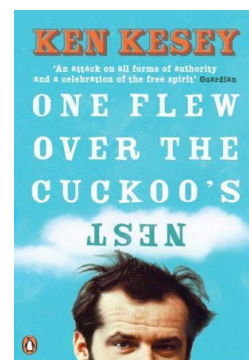
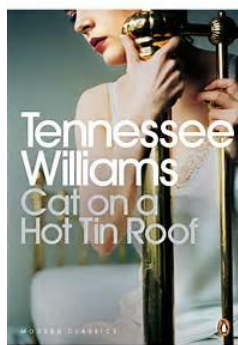


The Gryphon School

Sixth Form

English Literature A Level Handbook



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Course content

AQA A Level English Literature A

1. Love Through the Ages

- One prose text – either *Jane Eyre*, Charlotte Bronte OR *The Great Gatsby*, F. Scott Fitzgerald
- A Shakespeare play – *Othello*
- *Love through the Ages* AQA poetry anthology – pre-1900

2. Modern Literature

- *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, by Ken Kesey
- *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, by Tennessee Williams
- *Feminine Gospels*, by Carol Ann Duffy

3. Texts Across Time

- An extended comparative critical essay of 2500 words based on two texts of the student's own choosing.

The Love Through the Ages and Modern Literature units will both begin in Year 12 and be taught on through Year 13. The Texts Across time essay will be introduced in Year 12 and finalised in the first term of Year 13.

Course texts

A copy of the AQA *Love Through the Ages* poetry anthology will be provided. Students at A level **are expected to purchase their own copies of the other set texts** for use in class and annotation. Clean copies will be supplied by the school for examinations. The editions you need are as follows:

- *Othello* by William Shakespeare, (Oxford School Shakespeare) ISBN 0198328737
- *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* by Tennessee Williams (Penguin) ISBN 978-0-141-19028-0
- *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* by Ken Kesey (Penguin) ISBN 9780141187884
- *Feminine Gospels* by Carol Ann Duffy (Picador) ISBN 9781035038565

You will also need to buy ONE of the below. This will be confirmed once the course starts.

- *Jane Eyre*, by Charlotte Bronte (Wordsworth) ISBN 978-1853260209
- *The Great Gatsby*, by F Scott Fitzgerald (Wordsworth) ISBN 978-1853260414

Please do get these versions as it makes it much easier when referring to page numbers in class.

How the course is assessed

This is a linear qualification with all assessment in Year 13

1. 'Love through the Ages' – A 3 hour exam with 3 questions covering the set texts and two unseen poems (40% of A Level)
2. 'Texts in Shared Contexts' – A 2 hour and 30 minutes exam covering the set texts and an unseen prose extract (40% of A Level)
3. 'Texts across Time' - One Independent Critical Study (20% of A level)

AQA Literature A Specification:

Link to full specification: [A-level English 7712 | Specification | AQA](#)

How the course is delivered and expectations

At A level, students are taught through paired teaching with each teacher delivering one of the examined units, and one of them also supervising the independent critical essay. You will be required to attend nine teaching hours per fortnight.

This course encourages you to develop an interest in and enjoyment of English Literature, through reading widely, critically and independently, across centuries, genre and gender, and through experience of an extensive range of views about texts and how to read them. It is an accessible and stimulating course in which you will engage with a variety of spoken and written texts and it is essential that you engage with all aspects of your study in order to maximise your understanding. Any absences will require you to obtain work missed and be fully prepared for the ensuing lessons. Homework must be completed on time, as many lessons will require this as a prerequisite to contributing during the next lesson. Study requires an independent approach to analysing and commenting on texts, thus providing a firm foundation for study in Higher Education. It requires you to respond creatively to texts, both in coursework and examined units, whilst in addition, providing a high level of commitment to both work and reading beyond the classroom and an ability to meet strict deadlines.

Your success on this course will depend upon your willingness to engage in group discussions, to be involved in debates and to be enthusiastic about fulfilling your potential. You will need to be prepared to undertake presentations to your student group and to be willing to contribute significantly to the learning environment.

The A level learning environment is very different to the one you have experienced at GCSE, and as such, your own approaches will need to be different. Achieving well at an advanced level involves taking responsibility for your own learning, working independently and meeting all deadlines.

Induction task

1. Read at least one text from the reading list below and consider how the idea of **identity** and/or **love** is explored. This must not be a book you have read before. The aim of this exercise is to promote a commitment to working at an advanced level through the utilisation of independent study and exploration of wider reading. You will further explore how classic and modern literature helps reflect and mould social identities in the three units of the course.

If you have any questions about the course, please email Mr Glossop:

robert.glossop@gryphon.dorset.sch.uk (NB This email will only be checked during term time.)

A Level Literature Reading List

You should prepare for the three units of the A Level course by reading widely in the topic areas, engaging with texts from a range of authors and times. The following reading list is made up of texts that the teachers delivering your course have enjoyed, and which will give you a good foundation for the texts you will encounter as part of the Literature A Level. Some of these texts will be challenging in terms of meaning and/or content. If the thought of reading something challenging, that will potentially change your world view and make you think about ideas you have not considered before excites you, then you are on the right course!

Prose • Wuthering Heights, Emily Bronte • Northanger Abbey, Jane Austen • Cold Comfort Farm, Stella Gibbons • Gulliver's Travels, Jonathon Swift • Lady Chatterley's, Lover D H Lawrence • A Picture of Dorian Gray, Oscar Wilde • Silas Marner, George Eliot • Frankenstein, Mary Shelley • A Sicilian Romance, Ann Radcliffe • 1984, George Orwell • A Clockwork Orange, Anthony Burgess • Brave New World, Aldous Huxley • Vile Bodies, Evelyn Waugh • The Grapes of Wrath, John Steinbeck • The Outsider, Albert Camus • Brideshead Revisited, Evelyn Waugh • The Kite Runner, Khaled Hosseini • The God of Small Things, Arundhati Roy • Revolutionary Road, Richard Yates • Norwegian Wood, Haruki Murakami • Catcher in the Rye, J D Sallinger • The Handmaid's Tale, Margaret Atwood • Brighton Rock, Graham Greene • Never Let Me Go, Kazuo Ishiguro • Falling Man, Don DeLillo	Drama • Translations, Brian Friel • All My Sons, Arthur Miller • Long Day's Journey Into Night, Eugene O'Neill • The Caretaker, Harold Pinter • Arcadia, Tom Stoppard • I Have Been Here Before, J.B. Priestley • Our Country's Good Timberlake Wertenbaker • Top Girls, Carol Churchill • A Streetcar Named Desire Tennessee Williams • The Importance of Being Earnest, by Oscar Wilde • Who's Afraid Of Virginia Woolf? Edward Albee • Medea, Euripides • Waiting for Godot, Samuel Beckett • Hedda Gabler, Henrik Ibsen • The Cherry Orchard, Anton Chekhov Poetry • Tony Harrison, Selected Poems, 2013 Edition • New Selected Poems, Seamus Heaney • Birthday Letters, Ted Hughes • Ariel, Sylvia Plath • Skirrid Hill, Owen Sheers • Alan Ginsberg, Howl • Leaves of Grass, Walt Whitman • Complete Poems, Emily Dickinson
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Prose ctd.

- The Line of Beauty, Alan Hollinghurst
- Captain Corelli's Mandolin, Louis de Bernieres
- Breakfast at Tiffany's, Truman Capote
- The End of the Affair, Graham Green
- Oranges are not the Only Fruit, Jeanette Winterson
- Love in the Time of Cholera, Gabriel Garcia Marquez
- Clockwork Orange, by Anthony Burgess
- The Wasp Factory, by Iain Banks
- Regeneration, by Pat Barker
- Brave New World, by Aldous Huxley
- Enduring Love, by Ian McEwan
- The Bell Jar, by Sylvia Plath
- Nights at the Circus, Angela Carter
- Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance, Robert Pirsig
- On the Road, Jack Kerouac

- I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings, Maya Angelou
- The Bonfire of the Vanities, Tom Wolfe
- The Wrong Boy, Willy Russell
- The Wasp Factory, Iain Banks
- The Awakening, Kate Chopin
- Memoirs of a Geisha, Arthur Golden
- The Beach, Alex Garland
- The Time Traveller's Wife, Audrey Niffenegger
- Vernon God Little, DBC Pierre
- Life of Pi Yann Martell
- Black Swan Green, David Mitchell
- The Collector, John Fowles
- The Go-Between, L P Hartley
- Wide Sargasso Sea, Jean Rhys
- Beloved, Toni Morrison
- Written on the Body, Jeanette Winterson
- Trainspotting, Irvine Welsh
- The Sound and the fury, William Faulkner
- Mrs Dalloway, Virginia Woolf
- The Sun Also Rises, Ernest Hemingway
- This Side of Paradise by F. Scott Fitzgerald
- An American Tragedy by Theodore Dreiser