



## **19<sup>th</sup> century novel:**

Students will study **one** novel from the list of seven set texts. Students should study the whole text.

Robert Louis Stevenson - The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde  
Charles Dickens - A Christmas Carol  
Charles Dickens - Great Expectations  
Charlotte Brontë - Jane Eyre  
Mary Shelley - Frankenstein  
Jane Austen - Pride and Prejudice  
Sir Arthur Conan Doyle - The Sign of Four

## ***Modern texts and poetry***

### **Modern texts:**

Students will study **one** from a choice of 12 set texts, which include post-1914 prose fiction and drama. Students should study the whole text.

JB Priestley - An Inspector Calls  
Willy Russell - Blood Brothers  
Alan Bennett - The History Boys  
Dennis Kelly - DNA  
Simon Stephens - The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time (play script)  
Shelagh Delaney - A Taste of Honey  
William Golding - Lord of the Flies  
AQA Anthology - Telling Tales  
George Orwell - Animal Farm  
Kazuo Ishiguro - Never Let Me Go  
Meera Syal - Anita and Me  
Stephen Kelman - Pigeon English

### **Poetry:**

Students will study one cluster of poems taken from the AQA poetry anthology, Poems Past and Present. There is a choice of two clusters, each containing 15 poems. The poems in each cluster are thematically linked and were written between 1789 and the present day.

The titles of the two clusters are:

- Love and relationships
- Power and conflict.

Students should study all 15 poems in their chosen cluster and be prepared to write about any of them in the examination.

In preparing for the unseen poetry section of the examination students should experience a wide range of poetry in order to develop their ability to closely analyse unseen poems. They should be able to analyse and compare key features such as their content, theme, structure and use of language.

## Key Skills

In studying the set texts students should have the opportunity to develop the following skills:

### Reading comprehension and reading critically

- literal and inferential comprehension: understanding a word, phrase or sentence in context; exploring aspects of plot, characterisation, events and settings; distinguishing between what is stated explicitly and what is implied; explaining motivation, sequence of events, and the relationship between actions or events.
- critical reading: identifying the theme and distinguishing between themes; supporting a point of view by referring to evidence in the text; recognising the possibility of and evaluating different responses to a text; using understanding of writers' social, historical and cultural contexts to inform evaluation; making an informed personal response that derives from analysis and evaluation of the text.
- evaluation of a writer's choice of vocabulary, grammatical and structural features: analysing and evaluating how language, structure, form and presentation contribute to quality and impact; using linguistic and literary terminology for such evaluation.
- comparing texts: comparing and contrasting texts studied, referring where relevant to theme, characterisation, context (where known), style and literary quality; comparing two texts critically with respect to the above.

### Writing

- producing clear and coherent text: writing effectively about literature for a range of purposes such as: to describe, explain, summarise, argue, analyse and evaluate; discussing and maintaining a point of view; selecting and emphasising key points; using relevant quotation and using detailed textual references.
- accurate Standard English: accurate spelling, punctuation and grammar.

## How will my work be assessed?

The GCSE in English Literature is 100% examination-based.

Candidates will sit two examinations as follows:

### Paper 1 – Shakespeare and the 19<sup>th</sup> century novel

This is a written examination worth 64 marks and makes up 40% of the GCSE. The duration of the examination is 1 hour 45 minutes.

Section A Shakespeare: students will answer one question on their play of choice. They will be required to write in detail about an extract from the play and then to write about the play as a whole.

Section B The 19<sup>th</sup>-century novel: students will answer one question on their novel of choice. They will be required to write in detail about an extract from the novel and then to write about the novel as a whole.

## Paper 2 – Modern texts and poetry

This is a written examination worth 96 marks and makes up 60% of the GCSE. The duration of the examination is 2 hours and 15 minutes.

Section A Modern texts: students will answer one essay question from a choice of two on their studied modern prose or drama text.

Section B Poetry: students will answer one comparative question on one named poem printed on the paper and one other poem from their chosen anthology cluster.

Section C Unseen poetry: Students will answer one question on one unseen poem and one question comparing this poem with a second unseen poem.

