

**English Literature**

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| **Key skills developed in this work:**By completing this work, you will:* Gain background knowledge about the texts to be studied, particularly their historical and social context.
* Develop your knowledge of the authors and the literary traditions of the texts.
* Improve your ability to read complex texts like classic literature.
* Develop your analysis and essay-writing skills.
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| **Research work:*** Find out what happened at the Evacuation of Dunkirk (World War II).
* Investigate the British class hierarchy/system in the early 20th century.
* Shakespearean comedy and gender in Shakespeare’s plays.
* Past productions of *Measure for Measure*.
* Medieval European Knights, codes of chivalry and related myths (e.g. King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table).
* Critical theory – find out what the term means and research the following critical literary theories and lenses: Marxist, Historical, Postcolonial, Archetypal, Structuralist and Deconstructionist theory; Feminist.
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| **Website links:****William Shakespeare, Measure for Measure*** <https://www.bl.uk/works/measure-for-measure>
* <https://www.rsc.org.uk/measure-for-measure/>
* <https://www.bl.uk/shakespeare/articles/an-introduction-to-shakespeares-comedy>

**Ian McEwan, Atonement*** <http://ianmcewan.com/index.html>

**Simon Armitage, Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*** <https://www.simonarmitage.com/>
* <https://www.bl.uk/works/sir-gawain-and-the-green-knight>

**General Essay Writing Guidance and Literary Techniques*** <https://literarydevices.net/>
* <https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/purdue_owl.html>
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| **Appropriate additional reading:**The three texts you will be studying at AS are: * Atonement by Ian McEwan.
* Measure for Measure by William Shakespeare
* Sir Gawain and the Green Knight by Simon Armitage

Copies of the books will be available for purchase from the school office at the start of term. You will want to read other texts by the same author; other authors’ texts which share a genre, theme or setting; a wide range of novels, short stories, poetry, drama and nonfiction. Here are some starting points for each unit of the course:* **Ian McEwan, *Atonement***
	+ Other novels and nonfiction set in World War II, e.g. *A Separate Peace* by John Knowles, *Spies* by Michael Frayn, *The Book Theif* by Markus Zusak, *The Silver Sword* by Ian Serraillier. *The Machine Gunners* by Robert Westall, *Night* by Elie Wiesel, *The Hiding Place* by Corrie Ten Boom, *The Diary of Anne Frank.*
* **Simon Armitage, *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight***
	+ You can find links to the text in its original Old English and to prose translations on [Luminarium](http://www.luminarium.org/medlit/gawaintx.htm)
	+ Armitage has produced modern versions of other famous ancient texts; of particular interest would be: [The Death of King Arthur](https://www.simonarmitage.com/the-death-of-king-arthur/) and [Pearl](https://www.simonarmitage.com/pearl/)
	+ *Beowulf* by Seamus Heaney
	+ *The Once and Future King*, T.H. White
* **William Shakespeare, *Measure for Measure***
	+ Read his other plays and his sonnets here: <https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/> or <http://www.shakespeare-online.com/plays/>
	+ Two good plays to start with are *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* and *The Tempest*.
* **Unseen Paper** - Read a range of poems, prose and drama to help you with this part of the course. A few suggestions to start with are listed below (those in bold are from the current AS or IGCSE set text list). Free e-books are available for some; hover over the link to see where.
	+ *The Penguin Book of the British Short Story: 2: From P.G. Wodehouse to Zadie Smith* UK ed. Edition, Kindle Edition **ASIN:** B00YO70ITI
	+ *Poetry Please Kindle* Edition **ASIN:** B00ER809SE
	+ ***All My Sons* and *A View from the Bridge* by Arthur Miller**
	+ **Selected Poems by Robert Browning**
	+ **Selected Poems by Gillian Clarke**
	+ [***Howard’s End***](http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/2946) **by E.M. Forster**
	+ [***Mansfield Park***](http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/141)and [*Pride and Prejudice*](http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/1342)**by Jane Austen**
	+ [***My Antonia***](http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/242)**by Willa Cather**
	+ [***Hard Times***](http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/786)**and**[***Great Expectations***](http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/1400)**by Charles Dickens**
	+ ***Cry, the Beloved Country* by Alan Paton**
	+ ***A Raisin in the Sun* by Lorraine Hansberry**
	+ *Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe
	+ *The Handmaid’s Tale* by Margaret Atwood
	+ [*Jane Eyre*](http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/1260) by Charlotte Bronte
	+ *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald
	+ *An Inspector Calls* by J.B. Priestley
	+ *Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley
	+ *The Namesake* by Jhumpa Lahiri
	+ *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee
	+ *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck
	+ *Nineteen Eighty-Four* by George Orwell
	+ *Wide Sargasso Sea* by Jean Rhys
	+ *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou
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| **Tasks to complete:*** Create a literature timeline from the year 1000AD to the present day and include key authors and texts. Remember to include texts/authors from around the world. You may also wish to include the names of major literary eras or movements, e.g. Romanticism.
* Develop an information page on the following literary genres: gothic, fabliaux, medieval romance, Shakespearean tragedy, Shakespearean comedy, bildungsroman.
* Watch and summarise (including major themes) productions of plays by famous playwrights, particularly William Shakespeare, Arthur Miller and Tennessee Williams. Many can be found on YouTube.
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| **Other:**Syllabus and materials from CIAE: <https://www.cambridgeinternational.org/programmes-and-qualifications/cambridge-international-as-and-a-level-english-literature-9695/> |