

**English Literature**

**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.

**Note that you are not expected or encouraged to read the set texts prior to the start of the course. There are, however, several other tasks you are asked to complete.**

1. Create a timeline of English literature which includes the following texts, authors and movements: *Beowulf* (anonymous), *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*, *Le Mort D’Arthur*, Geoffrey Chaucer, William Shakespeare, The Enlightenment (or Age of Reason), Jane Austen, Romanticism, George Eliot, Thomas Hardy, Walt Whitman, Charles Dickens, Charles Darwin, Karl Marx, Theatre of the Absurd, Eugene O’Neill, JM Coetzee, Louise Gluck, Katherine Mansfield, Toni Morrison, Natasha Tretheway, Colson Whitehead, Derek Walcott, Virginia Woolf.
2. Watch an online production of The Tempest (there are a few to choose from on YouTube) and be prepared to discuss these questions:
	* In what ways is Prospero like an author, directing and shaping the plot and the other characters’ actions?
	* Does Prospero seem like a good ruler? Are his actions in the play just or justified?
	* To what extent do you think that the marriage between Miranda and Ferdinand will be a happy one? Why or why not?
	* Rank the characters from most to least powerful. From what source(s) is power derived in the play? Do the more powerful characters use their power for good or do they abuse it?
3. Read online summaries of the following Shakespeare plays: Othello, King Lear, Macbeth, The Tempest and The Winter’s Tale. Create a mind map/web which shows some of their similarities, including key themes, character types and symbols.
4. Research medieval European Knights, codes of chivalry and related myths (e.g. King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table). Make a list of at least 20 facts.
5. What was the American Underground Railroad? What are the key dates and names associated with it? Did anything surprise you about your what you discovered? Here are some good websites to start your research.
* [Detailed Timeline](https://www.nps.gov/wori/learn/historyculture/significant-events-of-the-underground-railroad.htm) Note that the American dates for Emancipation are different from those in Cayman (and in the rest of the British West Indies). This website has other useful pages linked at the bottom of the timeline.
* [Introduction](https://education.nationalgeographic.org/resource/underground-railroad/) and [map](https://education.nationalgeographic.org/resource/undergroundrailroad/)
* Information on [Harriet Tubman](https://www.womenshistory.org/education-resources/biographies/harriet-tubman) and the Underground Railroad
1. Attached is a past paper question. Annotate the passage in detail, noting the language, form and structure used, and the effects created. You do not need to actually write the essay.

**Unseen Question**

**Answer the following through annotation. It is not necessary for you to write an essay.**

**Comment closely on the presentation of the differing attitudes of Rosaline and Petruchio in the**

**following passage. Consider the writer’s choice of language, dialogue and dramatic methods in your answer.**

[A cymbal crash.

Blackout.

Bright candlelight.

ROSALINE, dressed in a man’s clothes, unrolls her bundle.

Swords clank out and lie gleaming dully in the night.]

Petruchio: Illegal weapons?

Rosaline: What do you bring, Petruchio?

Petruchio: This is an election.

Rosaline: It precedes a war.

Petruchio: It precedes a peace.

Rosaline: So you say.

Petruchio: Your clothes don’t make a man of you.

Rosaline: I wear the clothes to fight more easily.

I have no wish to be a man.

Petruchio: Are you challenging me?

Rosaline: There is nothing says a woman cannot be leader.

We’ve had women before.

Petruchio: A social role.

Rosaline: Our laws do not define the position by gender.

Prince or Princess they state.

Petruchio: Why, Rosaline?

Rosaline: Do the Montagues allow peace?

Helena tell him.

I don’t want peace.

Petruchio: I do.

Rosaline: Why?

Why?

Look at us.

Without weapons

What will we become?

Petruchio: I’d like to see.

Rosaline: And when you’ve seen

When you’ve seen

And we are all ordinary

And we have no purpose.

What then? It’ll be too late to turn back.

We’ll be out of the fighting way.

What tales then will we tell our children?

We’ll have no more heroes,

We’ll die old and wrinkled in our beds.

Love will be less sharp.

Petruchio: It wasn’t one of us you loved.

Rosaline: I don’t want to see our race decline.

Where will our poetry come from,

Hate ironed out of our souls,

Our fighting days done?

Blossom is more sweet today

If death comes tomorrow.

Petruchio: I want to watch the blossom bud;

I want to watch it flower;

I want to watch it fall;

A snow shower of petals on the ground;

And see the buds break next year too.

And the next.

And the next.

And taste the wine

From vines yet to be planted.