



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>Ethan Frome</i> by Edith Wharton	
Teacher 2	Poetry: A selection of 20 poems from the ‘Poems of the Decade’ Anthology and unseen poetry practice		Drama: <i>A Streetcar Named Desire</i> by Tennessee Williams.		NEA: The Poetry of Robert Frost	

Year 13

	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1
Teacher 1	NEA: <i>The Great Gatsby</i> by F Scott Fitzgerald	Drama: <i>Othello</i> by William Shakespeare and course consolidation/examination preparation			Examination preparation
Teacher 2:	NEA: <i>Death of a Salesman</i> by Arthur Miller	Poetry: <i>The Less Deceived</i> by Philip Larkin and course consolidation/examination preparation			Examination preparation

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 *The Picture of Dorian Gray* by Oscar Wilde.
- Complete research into the literature of the fin-de-siècle and create a suitable resource outlining your findings. This should include examples of the texts within this time period; features of the literature; relevant contextual factors that influenced the literature.

Note: There will be plot tests on Wilde's novel within the first term.

Other suggested activities:

- Read *A Streetcar Named Desire* by Tennessee Williams
- Read *Dracula* by Bram Stoker
- Compile a glossary of poetic terminology.

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