

Curriculum Overview

Subject: A Level English
Language and Literature
Year Group: 12 (2024-25)

CURRICULUM INTENT: In Year 12 students will begin studying the AQA ‘Paris’ anthology, learning to identify and comment on the conventions of transcripts and encountering a wide range of linguistic terminology covering five language levels. They will simultaneously study an AQA-specified collection of poetry from Carol Ann Duffy’s ‘Mean Time’, applying the linguistic terminology they learn from both units to increase familiarity and confidence.

Students will continue to study ‘Paris’ and ‘Mean Time’, whilst alternating lessons between ‘Paris’ and ‘The Great Gatsby.’ Studying ‘The Great Gatsby’ will break up the ongoing short-text analysis to maintain interest and engagement with subject.

Students will then approach ‘A Streetcar Named Desire’, considering it through the lens of developments in U.S. culture from the 1920s of Gatsby to the 1950s of Streetcar’s setting. Students will apply their understanding of social class in North American culture to the characters of Streetcar to enhance their character analysis.

Students will then be introduced to the Non-examined assessment task (NEA). Addressing the requirements of the NEA and studying research skills will give students maximum time to consider and select their texts for the coursework unit. Also in Half Term 6, students will research and share their findings about the context of ‘The Handmaid’s Tale’.

TERM 1	TERM 2	TERM 3
<p>KEY ASSESSMENTS</p> <p>1.1: Paris / Paper 1 Section A: Ideas about visiting Paris as a tourist</p> <p>1.2: Gatsby / Paper 2 Section B: extract from Chapter 1</p>	<p>KEY ASSESSMENTS</p> <p>2.1: Paris / Paper 1 Section A: Ideas about the history and legacy of Paris</p> <p>2.2: Gatsby / Paper 2 Section B: extract from Chapter 5</p> <p>2.3: Duffy / Paper 1 Section B: Ideas about time in Before you Were Mine and a second poem of choice</p> <p>2.4: Paris / Paper 1 Section A: Ideas about Paris for children and families</p> <p>2.5: Gatsby / Paper 2 Section B: extract from Chapter 9</p> <p>PPE: Paper 1 Sections A and C; Paper 2 Section A to be sat in class – made papers</p>	<p>KEY ASSESSMENTS</p> <p>3.1: Duffy / Paper 1 Section B: Ideas about identity in Captain of the 1964 Top of the Form Team and a second poem of choice</p> <p>3.2: Streetcar / Paper 2 Section B: Explore how Williams presents marital conflict in the play</p> <p>3.3: Streetcar / Paper 2 Section B: End of unit assessment choice of two questions on themes in the play</p> <p>3.4: NEA / Research question</p>

<p>KNOWLEDGE/SKILLS Half term 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paris Anthology – introduction to language levels, cultural stereotypes; use of the anthology contextual notes; written/mixed modes; conventions of transcripts; grammatical features; writing essay openings • Duffy Poetry – introduction to Duffy’s anthology titled ‘Mean Time’ analysis of poetic devices, grammar, semantics, phonology, Duffy’s presentation of poetic voice and themes. <p>Half term 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paris Anthology – analysing graphology; conventions of online texts, conventions of memoirs, blogs, journals; independent annotation; pair/group work; comparative essay structure • The Great Gatsby – Chapters 1-4: Old Money / New Money; setting; homodiegetic narration; Nick as unreliable narrator; creating character voice through lexical choices; character voice: Tom; how to analyse own recreative writing; how to write own commentary. 	<p>KNOWLEDGE/SKILLS Half term 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paris Anthology – contexts of reception; the French Revolution; the 1968 Paris riots; conventions of non-fiction reference texts, news reports; R.P.; independent annotation and analysis • The Great Gatsby – Chapters 5-8, Veblen’s Theory of Conspicuous Consumption / Theory of the Leisure Class; 1920s Prohibition; adaptation of a base text; revision of minor characters: recasting; choosing appropriate audience, choosing appropriate form; symbolism; retelling events through second-hand accounts; Nick’s disillusionment <p>Half term 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paris Anthology – independent annotation, analysis, comparison; timed exam practice; revision of weaker texts • The Great Gatsby – Chapter 9: geography of the novel, voicing minor characters; timed exam practice • A Streetcar Named Desire – context: Tennessee Williams’ biography; Southern Gothic; Plastic Theatre; contexts of reception and production. 	<p>KNOWLEDGE/SKILLS Half term 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Streetcar Named Desire – contexts of reception; historical context; genre conventions; independent annotation and analysis of key themes and characters. • Duffy Poetry Revision – analysis of poetic devices, grammar, semantics, phonology, Duffy’s presentation of poetic voice and themes <p>Half term 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Streetcar Named Desire – analysis of key themes. Critical theory: Mulvey’s Male Gaze theory; Tannen’s Speech Theory; Connell’s Gender Theory. • The Handmaid’s Tale – contexts: history of dystopian fiction; dystopian conventions; Atwood biography; the Cold War; Second Wave Feminism; Roe v. Wade and Dobbs vs. Jackson Women’s Health Organisation; Phyllis Schlafly and the ERA; Nicolae and Elena Ceaușescu / Romanian nationalism; Christian Puritanism. Research skills; presentation skills • Introduction to NEA – task requirements; which texts can’t be used; structure of the project; WAGOLL exploration; how to choose a topic; question construction; keeping a bibliography: Harvard referencing.
--	--	--

Extended reading suggestions and external resources:
Paris: The Lonely Planet – Paris; Bill Bryson – Made in America; Antonia Fraser – Marie Antoinette: The Journey; Ned Rorem – The Paris Diary; Edmund White – The Flaneur; Lucy Knisley – French Milk; Elizabeth Bard – Lunch in Paris: a Delicious Love Story, with Recipes
Fitzgerald / Gatsby: This Side of Paradise; The Beautiful and the Damned; Echoes of the Jazz Age – [Echoes of the Jazz Age, by F. Scott Fitzgerald](#)
Duffy Poetry: Carol Rumens’s Poem of the Week – <https://www.theguardian.com/books/series/poemoftheweek>
Streetcar: Tennessee Williams –The Cambridge Companion to Tennessee Williams; National Theatre Live – A Streetcar Named Desire (2014); Film: A Streetcar Named Desire (1951)
The Handmaid’s Tale: Dystopian Genre: George Orwell – 1984, Aldous Huxley – Brave New World, Kazuo Ishiguro – Never Let Me Go; Margaret Atwood – The Testaments; Agata Krezel – The Power of Language – [The Handmaid’s Tale. The Power of Language | by Agata Krezel | Medium](#); HBO: The Handmaid’s Tale Season 1 (2017)