

Curriculum Overview

Subject: A Level English
Language and Literature
Year Group: 13 (2024-25)

CURRICULUM INTENT: In Year 13 students will complete their close analytical study of ‘The Handmaid’s Tale’, interleaving revision of the Paris anthology to maintain and improve knowledge of Year 12 content. Completing this unit will allow them to sit a full Paper 1 for November’s PPE, yielding a more reliable data set for assessment and grade estimation. This will enable class teachers to better identify areas for targeted support and adapted revision content.

Students will simultaneously begin their independent study for non-examined assessment (the NEA). Conducting this research project in the second year of the course will facilitate students to draw upon the wide range of linguistic and literary approaches they have encountered in Year 12.

‘The Great Gatsby’ represents the last new content of the A Level curriculum. Students will draw upon their linguistic knowledge from their study of the Paris anthology and ‘The Handmaid’s Tale’ to inform their analytical commentaries for Paper 2 Section A Q6.

TERM 1	TERM 2	TERM 3
<p>KNOWLEDGE/SKILLS Half term 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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; presentation skills. Chapters 18-46; historical notes; close linguistic analysis; characters analysis, internalised misogyny; extract analysis; essay planning; linking to contexts • NEA: structure of the project; WAGOLL exploration; how to choose a topic; question construction; keeping a bibliography: Harvard referencing; extract selection and annotations <p>Half term 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Great Gatsby – Chapters 1-4: Old Money / New Money divide; setting: East/West Egg; 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; use of the base text • NEA: literature review; introduction and aims 	<p>KNOWLEDGE/SKILLS Half term 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Great Gatsby – Chapters 5-7: theme of social class; Veblen’s Theory of Conspicuous Consumption / Theory of the Leisure Class; 1920s Prohibition; Manifest Destiny; theme of illusion vs. reality; character voice, adaptation of a base text; revision of minor characters: Mr. Sloane, Michaelis the Greek; death of Myrtle Wilson; recasting: choosing appropriate audience, choosing appropriate form. • NEA: mark scheme requirements; review and analysis; how to self-evaluate; use of terminology; how to evidence AO4 comparison • Revision: Paper 1, Paper 2, informed by QLA <p>Half term 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Great Gatsby – Chapters 8-9: geography of the novel, timed exam practice • NEA: conclusion; how to evaluate; self-review: identifying gaps; final drafting 	<p>KNOWLEDGE/SKILLS Half term 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revision: Paper 1, Paper 2

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revision: Paper 1, Paper 2 (QLA-informed); self-assessment and target-setting 	
<p>KEY ASSESSMENTS</p> <p>1.1: The Handmaid's Tale / Paper 1 Section B:</p> <p>1.2: NEA Question</p> <p>1.3: NEA Literature Review</p> <p>1.4: NEA Introduction and Aims</p> <p>PPE: Paper 1, all sections; Paper 2, Section A only – made paper</p> <p>1.5: Gatsby / Paper 2 Section B: extract from Chapter 1</p>	<p>KEY ASSESSMENTS</p> <p>2.1: Gatsby / Paper 2 Section B: extract from Chapter 5</p> <p>2.2: NEA Review and Analysis</p> <p>2.3: NEA Conclusion</p> <p>PPE: Paper 1, all sections; Paper 2, all sections (June 2024 series)</p>	<p>KEY ASSESSMENTS</p> <p>QLA-Targeted Live Feedback:</p> <p>3.1: Paris / Paper 1 Section A: ideas about things for families to do in Paris</p> <p>3.2: The Handmaid's Tale / Paper 1 Section B: surveillance; loving relationships</p> <p>3.3: Duffy / Paper 1 Section B: identity; loss</p> <p>3.4: Gatsby / Paper 1 Section A: extract from Chapter 9 / Owl Eyes</p> <p>3.5: Streetcar / Paper 1 Section C: violence; gender</p>
<p>Extended reading suggestions and external resources:</p> <p>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: a Stroll Through the Paradoxes of Paris.</p> <p>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</p> <p>Duffy Poetry: Carol Rumens's Poem of the Week – https://www.theguardian.com/books/series/poemoftheweek</p> <p>Streetcar Tennessee Williams – The Glass Menagerie, Jacqueline O'Connor – Dramatizing Dementia: Madness in the Plays of Tennessee Williams, Matthew C. Roudane (ed.) – The Cambridge Companion to Tennessee Williams</p> <p>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</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> HBO: The Handmaid's Tale Season 1 (2017) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AQA NEA with examiner commentary – Orwell's 1984: Answers and commentary (A-level) : Component 3 NEA Making connections - Sample set 1 		