



Future A Level English Students

Welcome to English at A Level

You may have already decided on an English course for A Level or you may just want to pursue your interest over the coming weeks but whatever your situation, here are some ideas as to how you can use your time to best prepare. This document contains just some ideas that you can dip in and out of or use as a starting point to lead you to other resources you find interesting.

Resources are organised into those suitable for the English Language and Literature course and those for English Literature.

The English A Level Team



MOOCs

Massive Online Open Courses are free to access and will provide a great starting point for getting to grips with some A Level subject knowledge and developing your skills. *Future Learn* has a number of free courses you can complete. *The Open University* also has courses which might prove useful as a 'way into' more advanced study. For English Language and Literature there is a course to develop your own creative writing skills 'Start Writing Fiction' and for English Literature there is a course to help develop unseen poetry analysis. The other two courses on approaching prose and plays and the Shakespeare introduction would be suitable for both A Level courses.



British Council
Exploring English: Shakespeare
Improve your English language skills by looking at the life and works of William Shakespeare and his enduring popularity.

6 weeks 2 hrs per week
Included in Unlimited

Find out more



The Open University
Start Writing Fiction
Get started with your own fiction writing, focusing on the central skill of creating characters, with this hands-on course.

8 weeks 3 hrs per week
Included in Unlimited

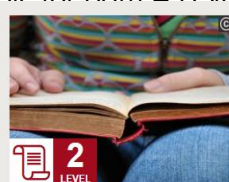
Find out more



University of Reading
A-level Study Boost: Unseen Poetry and the Creative Process
Discover effective techniques to analyse unseen poetry and learn about the creative writing process.

2 weeks 3 hrs per week
Included in Unlimited

Find out more



History & The Arts

Approaching prose fiction

Do you want to get more out of your reading? This free course, *Approaching prose fiction*, is designed to develop the analytical skills you need for a more...

Free course 20 hrs



History & The Arts

Approaching plays

Do you want to get more out of drama? This free course, *Approaching plays*, is designed to develop the analytical skills you need for a more in-depth study of...

Free course 15 hrs



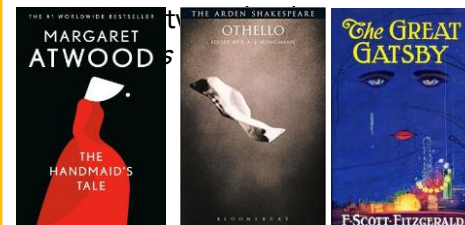
WHAT WILL YOU STUDY?



These are the literary texts you will study in Year 12

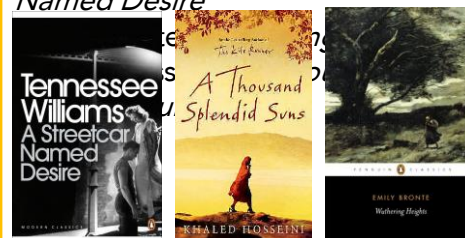
English Language and Literature

F Scott Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby*
Shakespeare, *Othello*



English Literature

Tennessee Williams, *A Streetcar Named Desire*



HAVE A GO!

Bingo!

Have a go at some of these tasks- the full details and resources can be found on the S Drive: English/Distance Learning/KS5/A Level Preparation



14. Dive into the world of short stories, listen to interview and discussion about it	12. Investigate what an essay actually is, find some great examples and write one of your own about any subject you want	24. Immerse yourself in a university lecture	7. Try exploratory writing
18. Write a graphic novel version of one of your school texts. How well can you get across what is most important and distinctive? What gets lost?	19. Put together a short anthology of poems and write the introduction to the collection	20. Listen to literature (audio books)	2. Read an emotive article and select 3 interesting points to share
11. Read a prize-winning novel – just for pleasure	15. Visit a virtual library – the British Library's Discovering Literature website	16. Take a risk by sharing an idea you're not sure about	1. Let a poem brew over time
22. Collate a taster anthology of your favourite books to tempt another reader into giving them a try	4. Watch a play online and write the script for a podcast/online discussion reviewing it	3. Watch a film or TV adaptation of a novel you know. Then write a pitch for a novel you think would make a great film adaptation. Explain why!	13. Listen to a literature podcast and share what you found interesting with a classmate/your teacher
10. Play with a text, messing about and transforming it in 2 or 3 different ways. What do you learn about the original?	5. Experts in the spotlight – watch a selection of chatClips	21. Take part in a 'Critics' Conference' role play	17. Create a 'Five Books' list and publish your list
8. Read the opening pages of 2 or 3 books about literature and explain which you'd most like to go on to read	25. Explore the art of the review – read 3 or 4 online reviews for a novel you enjoyed, then either write your own or write a response to one of them	9. Write a poem in response to a poem	6. Take a risk with your reading and read a novel outside your comfort zone and write or record a review

WHAT TO READ?

Wider Reading



English Language and Literature

David Crystal 'Rediscover Grammar'

Frank Kermode 'The Age of Shakespeare'

Antonia Fraser 'The Weaker Vessel: The Woman's Lot in Seventeenth Century England' Introduction and chapter one 'How Weak?'

F. Scott Fitzgerald *The Beautiful and the Damned*
and *Tender is the Night*

English Literature

British Library

Preparation for *Wuthering Heights*

<https://www.bl.uk/romantics-and-victorians/articles/walking-the-landscape-of-wuthering-heights>

Khaled Hosseini *The Kite Runner* and *The Mountains Echoed*

Tennessee Williams, *Memoirs*

Tennessee Williams, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*

WHAT TO WATCH?

English Language and Literature

Ted Talk on Shakespeare

<https://youtu.be/khVubNlgS0o>

Ted Talk on How not to hate Shakespeare

<https://youtu.be/Kh3gMcOUFao>

Emma Smith's introduction to Othello

<http://writersinspire.podcasts.ox.ac.uk/content/othello>

Interview with Margaret Atwood

<https://youtu.be/rn2pq3SiqHc>

Watch any of the RSC Shakespeare adaptations available on BBC iPlayer

English Literature

Sheila Hancock BBC Documentary on The Brontes Preparation for *Wuthering Heights* and Coursework Text – *Jane Eyre*

<https://youtu.be/dLI1Bm6rNuc>

Interview with Khaled Hosseini on becoming a writer

<https://youtu.be/2oWstZMSMVo>

NT Live at home *A Streetcar Named Desire*:

<http://ntlive.nationaltheatre.org.uk/productions/ntlout7-a-streetcar-named-desire>



FURTHER IDEAS

Preparing for Coursework in Year 13



English Language and Literature

The overall title of the coursework is 'Entrapment' – you will create fiction and non fiction pieces on this theme. Begin to gather articles from newspapers, online journals etc. on any aspect of entrapment. There are lots now on covid lockdowns across the world, but also look at issues surrounding mental health, age, illness, gender entrapment etc. Also biographies of people who have been entrapped by childhood or events that have 'frozen' their lives etc.

English Literature

You will study *Jane Eyre* and then you link to a text of your choice, this could be a great time to start reading texts that could be used:

Wide Sargasso Sea; Pride and Prejudice; Great Expectations; Rebecca; The Bloody Chamber – all of the short stories, not just the title one; *A Handful of Dust*