

OCR English Literature A level

<http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-a-level-gce-english-literature-h072-h472-from-2015/>

Course Element		Genre	Texts	
H472/01 Drama and Poetry pre 1900 EXAM 2 Hours 30 minutes	Section 1	Shakespeare A – extract analysis B – whole text question	Twelfth Night	
	Section 2	Drama and Poetry 1 comparative question	Drama Ibsen A Doll's House	Poetry Christina Rossetti
H472/02 Comparative and Contextual Study EXAM 2 hours and 30 minutes	Section 1	Topic based Q1 – write a critical appreciation of unseen passage on topic Q2 – choice of 3 whole text comparative questions	American Literature 1880 – 1940 Question 2 set texts are: The Great Gatsby and Sister Carrie	
H473/03 Literature post 1900 Coursework (one text written after 2000)	Piece 1 1 text close reading	poetry	Either a creative piece, or a close analysis based on the poetry of Duffy, Angelou, Heaney or Edward Thomas	
	Piece 2 2 texts comparative	Drama and prose	The seven Acts of Mercy by Anders Lustgarten compared with a novel of your choice	

If you have any queries about your summer assignment please contact Mrs Wells

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Summer Assignment 1

Read one of the following texts (any edition)

American Literature 1880 – 1940 (to compliment The Great Gatsby)

Henry James The Portrait of a Lady (1881); Mark Twain The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn (1884); William Dean Howells The Rise of Silas Lapham (1885); Stephen Crane Maggie: A Girl of the Streets (1893); Sarah Orne Jewett The Country of the Pointed Firs (1896); Kate Chopin The Awakening (1899); Frank Norris The Octopus: A Story of California (1901); W.E.B. DuBois The Souls of Black Folk (1903); Jack London Call of the Wild (1903); Upton Sinclair The Jungle (1906); Gertrude Stein Three Lives (1909); James Wheldon Johnson The Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man (1912); Willa Cather My Antonia (1918); Edith Wharton The Age of Innocence (1920); Sinclair Lewis Babbitt (1922); John Dos Passos Manhattan Transfer (1925); Anzia Yezierska Bread Givers (1925); Ole F. Rolvaag Giants In the Earth (1927); Ernest Hemingway A Farewell to Arms (1929); Nella Larsen Passing (1929); William Faulkner The Sound and the Fury (1929); Henry Roth Call It Sleep (1934); Margaret Mitchell Gone With The Wind (1936); Zora Neale Hurston Their Eyes Were Watching God (1937); John Steinbeck The Grapes of Wrath (1939); Raymond Chandler The Big Sleep (1939); Richard Wright Native Son (1940); Eugene O'Neill Long Day's Journey Into Night (1940); Ernest Hemingway For Whom The Bell Tolls (1940)

Create a power point that makes links between the following themes and the novel you have read. You should include relevant quotes to support the points made. Your power point should have between 8 – 12 slides.

Historical narrative

Very generally, nineteenth century texts may feature the build-up of wealth on the Eastern seaboard, often introducing social concerns that mirror those of Europe. A date early in the twentieth century may foreground the rise of realism and or the work of the first significant generation of writers from Continental Europe (eg Dreiser and Cather). The twenties may feature angst at the legacy of the First World War and/or hedonistic lifestyles during the economic boom. The thirties are likely to mirror economic depression. The literature of the South is likely to revisit the Civil War and possibly the legacy of slavery.

Class

Class is sometimes downplayed in American literature, but where almost everyone pursues the rewards of capital, social divisions rapidly widen. In John Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath* where the mid-West meets California, the clashes are essentially between have and have nots, but so they are in Wharton's pedantically snobbish New York, or in Henry James, where a bequest turns moderately well-off Isabel Archer overnight into a Princess.

Cultural diversity

Novels often foreground the cultural diversity of America. They may introduce clashes between partially established racial groups (such as Jews and Irish in the Northeast); they may offer a cultural panorama listing the diversity of those who enter the 'melting pot'; there may be a sense of an amorphous if tentative American identity in spite of (or because of) diversity, that an American is more than the sum of his or her parts. Remember that the further you go back in time (eg to Henry James) the more likely you are to be dealing with mainly White Anglo Saxon Protestants.

A society 'on the move'

Much American writing will introduce you to a society on the move, crowded with the details and energy of technological progress, the opening up of the Pacific Coast by railway, the coming of cinema, telephone and typewriter, mass production of the automobile. You might look for hints that people are desperate to get somewhere, and never put down roots.

American Dream

The American Dream is so celebrated a feature of this period you may be tempted to pass it off as a cliché, but it covers a complex bundle of aspirations and frustrations, and is never more potent than in the work of those writers, like F Scott Fitzgerald, who endorse and satirise it simultaneously. It most often shows itself in literary texts as a Romantic desire to impose yourself on the universe, no matter how often and brutally you are disappointed in the attempt. American Dreamers are thus rarely happy, and subject to agonies of fruitless longing. But the disappointments are offset by a fixed belief in the importance of the individual, indeed his centrality. The American Dream is (as Whitman put it) a Song of Myself.

Summer Assignment 2

Create a timeline of Shakespeare's life. On it include important political, social and literary contextual information with dates. Use the website below to get yourself started.

<http://www.elizabethan-era.org.uk/>

<https://www.nosweatshakespeare.com/resources/jacobean-drama-theatre/>

https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/arts/ren/projects/elizabethan_jacobean_drama/

<http://elizabethanenglandlife.com/elizabethan-and-jacobean-eras.html>

OCR English Literature Book List for year 12

Most A level students prefer to buy their own books so they can make extensive notes in them. However if you would like us to provide you with a copy of the set texts we will gladly do so. Please email Mrs Wells if you would like an English Faculty copy before July 14th. We will begin the course with *The Great Gatsby* and *Sister Carrie*. Please ensure you have a copy (or have requested a copy) ready for the first week of study in September.

Compulsory

Selected Poems by Christina Rossetti (Penguin Classics 2008) * please see Appendix 1 for a list of the named poems released by the exam board. (An Anthology will be provided for you)

Twelfth Night by William Shakespeare (RSC edition)

The Great Gatsby by F Scott Fitzgerald (Penguin Popular Classics 2007) Please purchase your copy in advance ready to start in your first lesson. If you would like the English Faculty to purchase a copy for you please email Mrs Wells before July 14th swells@fromecollege.org

Sister Carrie by Theodore Dreiser Please purchase your copy in advance ready to start in your first lesson. If you would like the English Faculty to purchase a copy for you please email Mrs Wells before July 14th swells@fromecollege.org

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At least one text from the following: American Literature 1880 – 1940 (to compliment *The Great Gatsby*) Any edition...

Henry James, *The Portrait of a Lady*, Mark Twain, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, Willa Cather, *My Ántonia*, Edith Wharton, *The Age of Innocence*, William Faulkner, *The Sound and the Fury*, Ernest Hemingway, *A Farewell to Arms*, Richard Wright, *Native Son*

A Doll's House https://www.amazon.co.uk/Dolls-House-Student-Editions/dp/1408106027/ref=sr_1_2?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1467633586&sr=1-2&keywords=a+dolls+house+henrik+ibsen

Optional Wider Reading

Christina Rossetti – A literary Biography by Jan Marsh (Faber and Faber)

ISBN 978 0571296118

Gatsby A level Revision (CGP publications)

ISBN 978 1847626684

Twelfth Night (Shakespeare Criticism) James Schiffer

https://www.amazon.co.uk/Twelfth-Night-Shakespeare-Criticism-Schiffer-x/dp/1138828475/ref=sr_1_10?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1495524108&sr=1-10&keywords=twelfth+night+criticism

Twelfth Night (Critical Essays) Stanley Wells

https://www.amazon.co.uk/d/Books/Twelfth-Night-Critical-Essays-Chairman-Stanley-Wells/1138850810/ref=sr_1_15?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1495524108&sr=1-15&keywords=twelfth+night+criticism

Montgomery /Durant/Fabb/Furniss/Mills – **Ways of Reading**, Routledge (978 0415346344)

Malcolm Peet and David Robinson – **Leading Questions:** a Course in Literary Appreciation, Nelson (0 174 323379)

Robert Eaglestone – **Doing English**, Routledge (0 415 28423 6)

David Lodge – **The Art of Fiction**, Penguin (0 140 17492 3).

Appendix 1

Christina Rossetti-*Selected Poems*

Song: When I am dead, my dearest

Remember

From the Antique ['It's a weary life, it is, she said']

Echo

Shut Out

In the Round Tower at Jhansi (Indian Mutiny)

A Birthday

Maude Clare

Up-hill

No, thank you, John

Good Friday ['Am I a stone and not a sheep?']

Goblin Market

Twice

Winter: My Secret

Soeur Louise de la Miséricorde