

# GCSE ENGLISH LITERATURE

Overview and Advice

# The Course

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- Unit 1 – Exam (40%) Exploring modern texts
  - Section A: Modern prose or drama (20%)
  - Section B: Exploring cultures (20%)
- Unit 2 – Exam (35%) Poetry across time
  - Section A: Poetry cluster (23%)
  - Section B: Responding to an unseen poem (12%)
- Unit 3 – Controlled Assessment (25%) – The significance of Shakespeare and the English Literary Heritage

# Unit 3: Shakespeare and the English Literary Heritage

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- ◉ Worth 25% of the GCSE
- ◉ Controlled assessment on a study of a Shakespeare play and one other literary text.
- ◉ This should be have been completed by this point.

# Unit 1: Exploring Modern Texts

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- ◉ 1 hour 30 mins
- ◉ Two Sections
  - Section A: Modern prose or drama (20%) 45 mins
  - Section B: Exploring cultures (20%) 45 mins
- ◉ Date: 20<sup>th</sup> May

# Unit 1: Exploring Modern Texts

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- Section A (Modern prose or drama): *An Inspector Calls*
- Pupils will answer **one** question from a choice of two on their text.

E.g.

- Arthur Birling says, 'If we were all responsible for everything that happened to everybody we'd had anything to do with, it would be very awkward, wouldn't it?'  
How does Priestley present ideas about responsibility in *An Inspector Calls*?

OR

- How do you respond to Gerald in *An Inspector Calls*? How does Priestley make you respond as you do by the ways he writes?

# Unit 1: Exploring Modern Texts

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- Section B (Exploring cultures): *Of Mice and Men*
- Pupils will answer **one** question. The question will be in two parts:
  - Part a will ask pupils to respond to a passage from the text.
  - Part b will ask pupils to link this passage to the whole text.

E.g.

- **Part (a)**  
How does Steinbeck use details in this passage to present the bunkhouse and its inhabitants?
- **and then Part (b)**  
In the rest of the novel, how does Steinbeck present the lives of ranch workers at that time?

# Unit 1: Exploring Modern Texts

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Your son/daughter could be asked on:

- ◉ Ideas, themes and issues
- ◉ Characterisation
- ◉ Settings

They must also be able to comment on:

- ◉ Language
- ◉ Structure
- ◉ Form
- ◉ Context (section B)

# How to Prepare

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- ◉ Make sure they are familiar with the texts e.g. Themes, characters, settings, context.
- ◉ Practise exam questions
- ◉ Revising from and adding to notes from lessons.
- ◉ Come up with original interpretations of the texts.
- ◉ Practise writing using PETER/PELI.
- ◉ Attend the revision classes.



# Useful books and websites

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- Revision Guides:

- CGP
- York Notes

- Websites:

- AQA <http://web.aqa.org.uk/>
- GCSE Bitesize <http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/>
- Sparknotes (Of Mice and Men)  
<http://www.sparknotes.com/lit/micemen/>
- Gradesaver (An Inspector Calls)  
<http://www.gradesaver.com/an-inspector-calls/study-guide/>
- Get Revising <http://getrevising.co.uk/>
- NLS website  
<http://northleamingtonschool.warwickshire.sch.uk/>

# Unit 2: Poetry Across Time

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- ◉ 1 hour 30 mins
- ◉ Two Sections
  - Section A: Poetry Cluster from Anthology (23%) 45 mins
  - Section B: Unseen Poem (12%) 30 mins
- ◉ Date: 23<sup>rd</sup> May

# Unit 2: Poetry Across Time

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- Section A (Cluster from Anthology):
  - **Relationships** (11X1 Miss Garcha; 11Y2 Mrs Jardine)
  - **Conflict** (11Y1 Miss Holmes; 11X2 Dr Raffell)
- Pupils will answer **one** question from a choice of two on their cluster.
- The question will ask candidate to compare a named poem with another poem, chosen by the student, from the same cluster.

E.g.

- Compare how poets use language to present strong feelings in 'Poppies' (page 41) and **one other poem from Conflict**.

OR

- Compare how poets show attitudes to war in 'Futility' (page 42) and **one other poem from Conflict**.

# Unit 2: Poetry Across Time

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- Section B (Unseen Poem)
- Pupils will be given one compulsory unseen poem. There will be a different poem on each tier.
- Pupils will answer one compulsory question on the poem.
  - E.g. What do you think is the poet's attitude towards the way we live and work in the modern world **and how does she present this attitude to the reader?**
- For the **foundation** paper, the question will be split into two parts.

# Unit 2: Poetry Across Time

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Your son/daughter must be able to comment on:

- ◉ Ideas, themes and issues.
- ◉ Form, structure and language (including sound and imagery).

They must also be able to **compare poems** for section A.

# How to Prepare

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- Make sure they are familiar with the poems from their cluster.
- Practise making links between poems.
- Practise annotating and commenting on a range of unseen poems.
- Practise using STRIVE/SMILE to analyse poetry.
- Attend the revision classes.

# Useful books and websites

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- Revision Guides:

- CGP *Unseen Poetry*

- Websites:

- AQA <http://web.aqa.org.uk/>
- GCSE Bitesize  
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/>
- Get Revising <http://getrevising.co.uk/>
- NLS website  
<http://northleamingtonschool.warwickshire.sch.uk/>
- Youtube <http://www.youtube.com/>