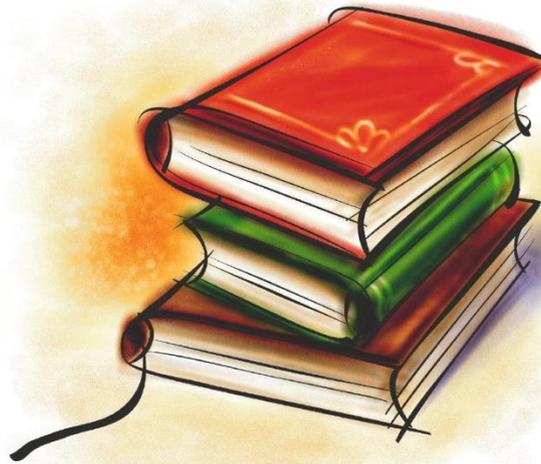


English Literature A Level

2017 -2019



Dear English A Level student,

Welcome to English A Level. In this booklet you will find information about the course layout, the department's expectations of you as an A Level student and your Summer induction tasks.

If you have any queries about the course or the induction tasks then please email Miss Parker kparker@rmgs.org.uk

Thank you

The English Department

June 2017

Expectations

By studying English Literature you will:

- Advance your knowledge of classic and contemporary literature
 - Learn how to analyse in detail using sophisticated literary terminology
 - Work independently to evaluate the structure of novels, poems and plays
 - Understand the context in which novels are written
 - Read closely to understand literary genre and narrative
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- English Literature A Level is a demanding course in which you will quickly notice a vast difference from the studies you completed at GCSE level. From the first lesson, you will be required to evaluate and question literary texts in a perceptive manner and make your own judgements about the meaning behind a writer's ideas.
 - It is essential that students of English have a keen interest in reading. This means reading beyond the set texts we study in lessons in order to develop your knowledge of literature independently. You should have good essay writing skills and be comfortable discussing and sharing your ideas with others.
 - You will be studying nine texts throughout the course and much of this reading should be completed outside of lesson time. In addition to these set texts, you will also be required to carry out further reading of novels and plays, which will enable you to broaden your knowledge of genre and style.
 - In your study time you will be expected to carry out a number of independent tasks which are linked to your study of English. These tasks are closely monitored by staff and expectations of the final results are high. The programme for these tasks will be given to you in your first week in September.
 - As part of the course, you will need to record and organise notes both in and outside of lesson time. You should bring with you to lessons: two A4 lever arch files (one for each teacher), A4 lined paper, pens and highlighters. Your folders will be checked by your teachers and it is your responsibility to ensure that you keep your revision notes in order.
 - At the end of each term, you will carry out a formal, timed assessment linked to your current studies. Throughout the course we will carefully monitor these results and this will help us to decide upon your UCAS grade at the beginning of Year 13.
 - To support the study of English Literature at A Level, the English department subsidises the cost of books to allow students to annotate the novels and plays they study. This allows them to revise in detail and supports their independent analysis. The total cost of this scheme to the English department is approximately £30 per student. In order to allow the department to fund this, we ask that parents

contribute £10 to the cost of reading materials; you will receive a letter regarding this payment in your first English lesson.

What will I be studying?

At RMGS we follow the AQA English Literature B A Level course. This is a two year linear course which is divided into three units. The course is centred on the study of genre and generic conventions.

How will I be assessed?

Paper 1: Aspects of Tragedy

A unit looking at the rise and fall of a tragic hero or heroine. Students will need to understand how particular aspects of the tragic genre are used and how they work in three set texts. From the conventions of Shakespeare's work through to the theatrical interpretations of Arthur Miller, teaching will be based around the aspects that make up tragedy.

2hr 30 mins exam worth 40% of the A Level. CLOSED book.

Studying: *Othello*, *Death of a Salesman* and the poetry of Keats.

Paper 2: Elements of Political and Social Protest Writing

All texts studied have issues of power and powerlessness at their core, with political and social protest issues central. All set texts foreground oppression and domination and they all look at the cultures we live in and have lived in over time. A crucial word in the title of this option is 'Elements' and students need to consider the specific elements that exist in each of their texts.

3hr exam worth 40% of the A Level. OPEN book.

Studying: *The Kite Runner*, *The Handmaid's Tale*, and the poetry of William Blake.

Non – exam assessment: Theory and Independence

In this unit students study the AQA Critical Anthology looking at areas such as feminism, marxism, post-colonialism and narrative theory. This forms the basis for two 1500 word essays which are centred on the application of the theories studied in the anthology. The title 'Theory and Independence' highlights the important idea that, within a literature course, students should have the opportunity to work as independently as possible in order to prepare them for university.

The essays are worth 20% of the A Level.

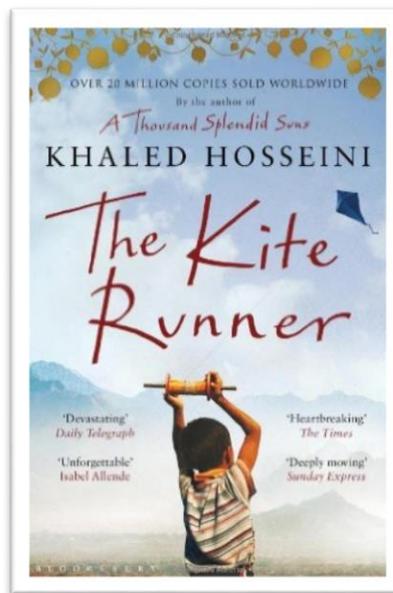
Year 12 English Literature Induction Tasks

Task 1: Research the background to the Shakespearean tragedy and the outline and plot of Othello. Research should be presented in the form of an A4 handout.

Task 2: Read *The Kite Runner* and complete a diary entry from the viewpoint of Soraya.

Info:

You may wish to purchase your own copy of *The Kite Runner* or copies are available for £5 from the English office. If you do buy your own copy please ensure you buy the Bloomsbury Paperbacks (2011) edition **ISBN-13:** 978-1408824856.



- All tasks are due in to teachers on your first English lessons in September.
- In your first lesson you will be given a letter regarding book funding. The English department subsidises the cost for your novels, poetry collections and plays so that you are able to save money; the charge is £10 per student. The normal cost of buying all the materials would be approx. £30
- If you have any questions about these tasks then please email Miss Parker kparker@rmgs.org.uk