

GCE AS/A level English Literature 2015

Specification at a glance: A level and AS level

A level

Component 1: Drama

Content	Assessment
<p>Students study:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One Shakespeare play • One other drama <p>from the categories of tragedy or comedy.</p> <p>Students also study critical commentary related to their selected Shakespeare play, supported by the free resource "Shakespeare Critical Anthology: Comedy" or "Shakespeare Critical Anthology: Tragedy"</p>	<p>Paper length: 2 hours and 15 minutes</p> <p>Section A: Shakespeare A choice from two questions on the studied Shakespeare text. Students produce an essay response. AO1, AO2, AO3, AO5 assessed. 35 marks</p> <p>Section B: Other drama A choice from two questions on the studied drama text. Students produce an essay response. AO1, AO2, AO3 assessed. 25 marks</p>

Component 1: Drama texts

Selection of two texts (one Shakespeare play and one other drama) from the genres of Tragedy and/or Comedy. **Both texts may be selected from the same genre OR one text from tragedy and one text from comedy**

Shakespeare: A Critical Anthology, by Pearson and University College London – critical essays to enrich the study of Shakespeare's plays available free of charge.

Tragedy

William Shakespeare: *Antony and Cleopatra*, *Hamlet*, *King Lear*, *Othello*

Other drama: *The Duchess of Malfi*, John Webster; *A Streetcar Named Desire*, Tennessee Williams; *Doctor Faustus*, Christopher Marlowe; *The Home Place*, Brian Friel

OR

Comedy

William Shakespeare: *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Measure for Measure*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, *Twelfth Night*

Other drama: *The Importance of Being Earnest*, Oscar Wilde; *The Pitmen Painters*, Lee Hall; *The Rover*, Aphra Behn; *Waiting for Godot*, Samuel Beckett

Component 2: Prose

Content	Assessment
Students study: <ul style="list-style-type: none">two prose texts from a chosen theme, including at least one pre 1900 text.	Paper length: 1 hour A choice of two questions on the studied prose text. Students produce an essay response. AO1, AO2, AO3, AO4 assessed. 40 marks

Component 2: Prose texts

Selection of **two** texts (including at least one pre-1900) on a chosen theme. Both pre-1900 texts may be studied is desired.

Childhood

Pre-1900: *What Maisie Knew*, Henry James; *Hard Times*, Charles Dickens

Post-1900: *Atonement*, Ian McEwan; *The Color Purple*, Alice Walker

Colonisation and its Aftermath

Pre-1900: *Heart of Darkness*, Joseph Conrad; *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, Mark Twain

Post-1900: *A Passage to India*, E M Forster; *The Lonely Londoners*, Sam Selvon

Crime and Detection

Pre-1900: *Lady Audley's Secret*, Mary Elizabeth Braddon; *The Moonstone*, Wilkie Collins

Post-1900: *In Cold Blood*, Truman Capote; *The Murder Room*, P D James

Science and Society

Pre-1900: *Frankenstein*, Mary Shelley; *The War of the Worlds*, H G Wells

Post-1900: *Never Let Me Go*, Kazuo Ishiguro; *The Handmaid's Tale*, Margaret Atwood

The Supernatural

Pre-1900: *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, Oscar Wilde; *Dracula*, Bram Stoker

Post-1900: *The Little Stranger*, Sarah Waters; *Beloved*, Toni Morrison

Women and Society

Pre-1900: *Wuthering Heights*, Emily Brontë; *Tess of the D'Urbervilles*, Thomas Hardy

Post-1900: *Mrs Dalloway*, Virginia Woolf; *A Thousand Splendid Suns*, Khaled Hosseini

Component 3: Poetry

Content	Assessment
<p>Students study:</p> <p>a selection of poetry from a post-2000 collection</p> <p>AND</p> <p>either</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a range of poetry from a literary period <p>or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a range of poetry by a named poet from within a literary period. 	<p>Paper length: 2 hours and 15 minutes</p> <p>Section A: Contemporary Poetry A choice of two questions on an unseen poem in comparison with a named poem from the studied contemporary collection. AO1, AO2, AO4 assessed. 30 marks</p> <p>Section B: Poetry Collections A choice of two questions on the studied poetry period or author. Students produce an essay response. AO1, AO2, AO3 assessed. 30 marks</p>

Component 3: Poetry texts

<p>Contemporary Poetry</p> <p>A selection of poems from: <i>Poems of the Decade. An Anthology of the Forward Books of Poetry 2002–2011*</i></p>	
<p>Poetry Collections</p> <p>A selection of poems from: EITHER the named collection OR the named poet within the chosen period*</p>	
<p>The Medieval Period (1350–1500) <i>Everyman and Medieval Miracle Plays</i>, editor A C Cawley (Everyman, 1993) This edition has normalised spelling but these poetic dramas can also be read with the original spelling in <i>English Mystery Plays: A Selection</i>, editor Peter Happe (Penguin Classics, 1975). Either edition is permissible. OR Geoffrey Chaucer <i>The Wife of Bath's Prologue and Tale</i>, editor J Winny (Cambridge, 1994)</p> <p>The Metaphysical Poets (1600–1690) <i>Metaphysical Poetry</i>, editor C Burrow and C Ricks (Penguin, 2006) OR John Donne <i>John Donne Selected Poems</i> (Penguin Classics, 2006)</p>	<p>The Victorians (1837–1900) <i>The New Oxford Book of Victorian Verse</i>, editor C Ricks (OUP, 2008) OR Christina Rossetti <i>Christina Rossetti Selected Poems</i>, editor D Roe (Penguin, 2008)</p> <p>Modernism (1900–1939) <i>The Great Modern Poets</i>, editor M Schmidt (Quercus, 2014) OR T. S. Eliot <i>T. S. Eliot Selected Poems</i> (Faber, 2009)</p> <p>The Movement (1950–1970) <i>The Oxford Book of Twentieth Century English Verse</i>, editor Philip Larkin with foreword by A Motion (OUP, 1973) OR Philip Larkin</p>

<p>The Romantics (1780–1830) <i>English Romantic Verse</i>, editor D Wright (Penguin Classics, 1973) OR John Keats <i>Selected Poems: John Keats</i>, editor J Barnard (Penguin Classics, 2007)</p>	<p><i>The Less Deceived</i> (Faber, 2011)</p>
<p>*For the list of poems to be studied, please see the A level specification, Appendix 5</p>	

Component 4: Coursework	
<p>Students study: a free choice* of two texts linked by theme, movement, author or period. Chosen texts may be selected from poetry, drama, prose or literary non-fiction.</p> <p>*please note that texts in translation are not permitted in this component.</p>	<p>Coursework One extended comparative essay referring to two texts 2500-3000 words 60 marks</p>

AS Level

(Please note that all of the AS poetry, drama and prose texts are taken from the A level options, allowing for complete co-teachability.)

Component 1: Poetry and Drama	
Content	Assessment
<p>Students study:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a selection of contemporary poetry from a published collection. • one chosen drama from a prescribed list (either tragedy or comedy). 	<p>Paper length: 2 hours</p> <p>Section A: Poetry One comparative essay question on a named poem from the studied collection, plus a free choice of second poem AO1, AO2, AO3 assessed 24 marks</p> <p>Section B: Drama One essay style question on a chosen play. AO1, AO2, AO3, AO5 assessed 48 marks</p>
Component 1: Texts	
<p>Poetry Text:</p> <p>A selection of poems from: <i>Poems of the Decade. An Anthology of the Forward Books of Poetry 2002–2011*</i></p>	
<p>Drama texts: Selection of ONE text from any of the following:</p> <p>Tragedy: <i>The Duchess of Malfi</i>, John Webster; <i>A Streetcar Named Desire</i>, Tennessee Williams; <i>Doctor Faustus</i>, Christopher Marlowe; <i>The Home Place</i>, Brian Friel</p> <p>Comedy: <i>The Importance of Being Earnest</i>, Oscar Wilde; <i>The Pitmen Painters</i>, Lee Hall; <i>The Rover</i>, Aphra Behn; <i>Waiting for Godot</i>, Samuel Beckett</p>	
<p>*For the list of poems to be studied, please see the AS level specification, Appendix 4</p>	

Component 2: Prose

Content	Assessment
<ul style="list-style-type: none">two prose texts from a chosen theme, including at least one pre 1900 text.	Paper length: 1 hour A choice of two questions on the studied prose texts. Students produce an essay response AO1, AO2, AO3, AO4 assessed 44 marks

Component 2: Prose texts

Selection of **two** texts (including at least one pre-1900) on a chosen theme.

Childhood

Pre-1900: *What Maisie Knew*, Henry James; *Hard Times*, Charles Dickens

Post-1900: *Atonement*, Ian McEwan; *The Color Purple*, Alice Walker

Colonisation and its Aftermath

Pre-1900: *Heart of Darkness*, Joseph Conrad; *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, Mark Twain

Post-1900: *A Passage to India*, E M Forster; *The Lonely Londoners*, Sam Selvon

Crime and Detection

Pre-1900: *Lady Audley's Secret*, Mary Elizabeth Braddon; *The Moonstone*, Wilkie Collins

Post-1900: *In Cold Blood*, Truman Capote; *The Murder Room*, P D James

Science and Society

Pre-1900: *Frankenstein*, Mary Shelley; *The War of the Worlds*, H G Wells

Post-1900: *Never Let Me Go*, Kazuo Ishiguro; *The Handmaid's Tale*, Margaret Atwood

The Supernatural

Pre-1900: *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, Oscar Wilde; *Dracula*, Bram Stoker

Post-1900: *The Little Stranger*, Sarah Waters; *Beloved*, Toni Morrison

Women and Society

Pre-1900: *Wuthering Heights*, Emily Brontë; *Tess of the D'Urbervilles*, Thomas Hardy

Post-1900: *Mrs Dalloway*, Virginia Woolf; *A Thousand Splendid Suns*, Khaled Hosseini