

# 2015 A level English Literature launch event





# Agenda

1. The changes
2. Our approach
3. Our draft specification
4. Supporting you through the changes
5. Contact information



# The changes



# Changes to all A Levels

- In new A level the AS level will be a separate, linear qualification and the grade will not contribute to the overall A level Grade
- The content of the AS can be a subset of the A level content to allow co-teachability with the A level
- HE/Russell Group involvement in subject content.

## Timeline

	2014	2015	2016	2017
Current specification	Summer series as normal	Summer series as normal	Final AS and A2 examinations	
New specification	Specifications in centres	First teaching	First AS examinations	First A level examinations



## Changes to subject criteria

- 20% coursework at A level – no AS coursework
- 8 texts – reduced from 12, to facilitate in-depth reading and move away from ‘secondary texts’
- 6 reduced to 4 at AS
- Changes to dates ranges: post-1990 becomes post-2000; greater emphasis on pre-1900 texts (3 out of 8)
- Unseen assessment will be a compulsory requirement
- Less emphasis on comparison in favour of ‘connections’



# Changes to Assessment Objectives

		AS/A level %
<b>AO1</b>	Articulate informed, personal and creative responses to literary texts, using associated concepts and terminology, and coherent, accurate written expression	20-30
<b>AO2</b>	Analyse ways in which meanings are shaped in literary texts	20-30
<b>AO3</b>	Demonstrate understanding of the significance and influence of the contexts in which literary texts are written and received	20-30
<b>AO4</b>	Explore connections across literary texts	10-15
<b>AO5</b>	Explore literary texts informed by different interpretations	10-15



# Our approach



## Our focus for English Literature

- A clear subject vision underpinning the specification content
- Co-teachable AS and A level
- Selecting engaging texts, themes and content
- Maintaining the current A level standard – no ‘recalibration’
- Holistic mark schemes which have been trialled to ensure they’re as clear as possible
- Holistic assessment – equal coverage of assessed AOs





# Our specification



## Key principles

- The text at the heart of the subject
- Clear focus on each of the three main genres
- Meaningful comparisons
- A clear and distinctive approach to criticism
- Maximum choice and flexibility
- Tasks which maximise the benefits of coursework, but are appropriate to its reduced weighting



## A and AS level at a glance

Component	Assessment Method	Weighting
<b>A level</b>		
1 – Drama	Examination	30%
2 – Prose	Examination	20%
3 – Poetry	Examination	30%
4 – Coursework	Coursework	20%
<b>AS level</b>		
1 – Drama and Poetry	Examination	60%
2 – Prose	Examination	40%



# A Level English Literature



# Content: Components 1 and 2

Component 1: Drama	Component 2: Prose
<p>Students study:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• One Shakespeare play</li><li>• One other drama from the categories of <b>either</b> tragedy <b>or</b> comedy.</li></ul> <p>Students also study essays and critical commentary related to their selected Shakespeare play.</p> <p>Students preparation is supported by "Shakespeare Critical Anthology: Comedy" or "Shakespeare Critical Anthology: Tragedy"</p>	<p>Students study:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Two prose texts from a chosen theme, including at least one pre-1900 text.</li></ul>



## Components 3 and 4

### Component 3: Poetry

Students study:

- a selection of poetry from a post-2000 collection

**and**

- a range of poetry from:  
*either*  
a literary period  
*or*  
a named poet from within a literary period.

### Component 4: Coursework

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.



# Texts: Drama

## Tragedy:

Shakespeare: Hamlet, King Lear, Othello, Anthony and Cleopatra

Other drama: The Duchess of Malfi, A Streetcar Named Desire, Doctor Faustus, The Home Place

**OR**

## Comedy:

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

Other drama: Waiting for Godot, The Importance of Being Earnest, The Pitmen Painters, The Rover

**Texts may be selected from within or across sub-categories, selecting one tragedy and one comedy, or two texts from the same category.**



# Prose themes

- Childhood
- Colonisation and its aftermath
- Crime and Detection
- Science and Society
- Women and Society
- The Supernatural



Selection of two prose 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



# Poetry texts

*Poems of the Decade: An Anthology of the Forward Books of Poetry 2002–2011.*

The Medieval Period  
(1350-1500)  
**OR**  
Geoffrey Chaucer

The Victorians  
(1837-1900)  
**OR**  
Christina Rossetti

The Metaphysical Poets  
(1600-1690)  
**OR**  
John Donne

Modernism  
(1900-1939)  
**OR**  
T.S.Eliot

The Romantics  
(1780-1830)  
**OR**  
John Keats

The Movement  
(1950-1970)  
**OR**  
Philip Larkin

Please see the appendix 5 of the [A level specification](#) for the list of poems to be studied for each anthology.



# Assessment

Overview of assessment		
1	<p>Paper length: 2 hours and 15 minutes</p> <p>Section A: Shakespeare One essay question from a choice of two on the studied Shakespeare text. (AO1, AO2, AO3, AO5 assessed)</p> <p>Section B: Other drama One essay question from a choice of two on the studied drama text. (AO1, AO2, AO3 assessed)</p>	<p>30%,</p> <p>60 marks</p> <p>Section A 35 marks</p> <p>Section B 25 marks</p>
2	<p>Paper length: 1 hour</p> <p>One essay question from a choice of two on the studied prose text. (AO1, AO2, AO3, AO4 assessed)</p>	<p>20%,</p> <p>40 marks</p>



# Assessment

Overview of assessment		
3	<p>Paper length: 2 hours and 15 minutes</p> <p>Section A: Contemporary Poetry One essay question from a choice of two comparing an unseen modern poem and one named poem from the studied collection (AO1, AO2, AO4 assessed).</p> <p>Section B: Poetry Collections One essay question from a choice of two on the studied poetry period or author. (AO1, AO2, AO3 assessed)</p>	<p>30%, 60 marks</p> <p>Section A 30 marks</p> <p>Section B 30 marks</p>
4	<p>Coursework One extended comparative essay referring to two texts (2500-3000 words) (AO1, AO2, AO3, AO4, AO5)</p>	<p>20%, 60 marks</p>



# AS Level English Literature



# Content

## Component 1 – Poetry and Drama

Students study:

- A selection of poetry from a post-2000 collection.
- **one** chosen drama from a prescribed list (either tragedy or comedy).

## Component 2 – Prose

Students study:

- **two** prose texts from a chosen theme, including at least one pre-1900 text.



# Texts

AS texts are taken from the A level options:

- 2 x prose texts, including at least 1 pre-1900 text (same themes and texts as A level)
- 1 x other drama text (same other drama texts as A level)
- 1 x collection of poems from *Poems of the Decade: An Anthology of the Forward Books of Poetry 2002–2011*

Allows for complete co-teachability



# Co-teachability

## Example of content for the delivery of a co-taught AS and A level cohort

Year 1	Year 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• One collection of post-2000 poetry</li><li>• 1 Drama text (non-Shakespeare)</li><li>• 2 prose texts (including at least one pre-1900 text)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• One Shakespeare play plus selection of related essays from the Shakespeare Critical Anthology</li><li>• Approaches to unseen poetry</li><li>• One collection of poetry from a selected time period, either by movement or poet</li></ul>

Teachers may wish to begin preparation for the coursework with A level 2-year students towards the end of year 1, whilst the AS students prepare for their AS examinations. Therefore, the 2 coursework texts may be covered in year 1, year 2 or a combination of both, as appropriate.





# Assessment

Overview of assessment		
1	<p>Paper length: 2 hours</p> <p>Section A (poetry) One essay from a choice of two on a named poem from the studied collection, plus a free choice of second poem (AO1, AO2, AO4 assessed)</p> <p>Section B (drama) One essay from a choice of two on their studied play. (AO1, AO2, AO3, AO5 assessed)</p>	<p>60%,</p> <p>72 marks</p> <p>Section A 24 marks</p> <p>Section B 48 marks</p>
2	<p>Paper length: 1 hour</p> <p>One essay from a choice of two on the studied prose texts. (AO1, AO2, AO3, AO4 assessed)</p>	<p>40%,</p> <p>44 marks</p>



# Supporting you through the changes



# Supporting you through the changes

- Planning and delivery
- Teaching and learning
- Understanding the standard
- Personal support
- Tracking progress
- Training from Pearson



# Planning and delivery

We will provide you with the best support:

- a range of course planners, outlining different delivery approaches
- editable schemes of work, with a range of accompanying lesson plans, to save you time
- a Getting Started guide, with exemplars and detailed guidance
- support packs for new topic areas
- additional sample assessment materials.



# Teaching and learning

## Shakespeare Critical Anthology

- Free hard copy to every student
- Essays on the genres of tragedy and comedy, as well as specific writing on the students' selected play.
- Produced in association with University College London.

## Two free online poetry resources

- Unseen poetry resource including a wide range of contemporary poetry, essays on approaching unseen poetry, making links and connections across poems, and marked student exemplar responses.
- Contemporary poetry teacher guide including teaching and learning points, discussion and activity ideas on every named poem within the Forward Anthology



# Understanding the standard

We will provide you with information and support to help you understand the standard:

- Example student work with examiner commentaries, prior to first teaching
- Clear mark schemes that have been developed following research and trialling.



## Endorsed resources

We are committed to helping teachers deliver our Edexcel qualifications and students to achieve their full potential.

To do this, we aim for our qualifications to be supported by a wide range of high-quality resources, produced by a range of publishers, including ourselves.

However, it is not necessary to purchase endorsed resources to deliver our qualifications.

A list of all endorsed resources will be available on [edexcel.com](https://www.edexcel.com)



# Personal support

Subject Advisors – Clare Haviland and her team will help keep you up to date about:

- training events and support materials
- news and government announcements affecting our qualifications
- key dates and entry deadlines
- new qualifications and resources.

## Curriculum and centre support

- **Curriculum Development Managers** are curriculum experts who provide information and guidance to senior management.
- **Curriculum Support Consultants** provide invaluable support to our existing heads of department.

[www.edexcel.com/contactus](http://www.edexcel.com/contactus)





## Tracking progress

### ResultsPlus

- Our new qualification will be accompanied by an additional set of papers prior to first teaching, for you to use as a mock exam or earlier in the course.
- ResultsPlus provides the most detailed analysis available of your students' exam performance. It can help you to identify topics and skills where students could benefit from further learning.
- Mock Analysis provides analysis of past exam papers which can be set as mock exams.

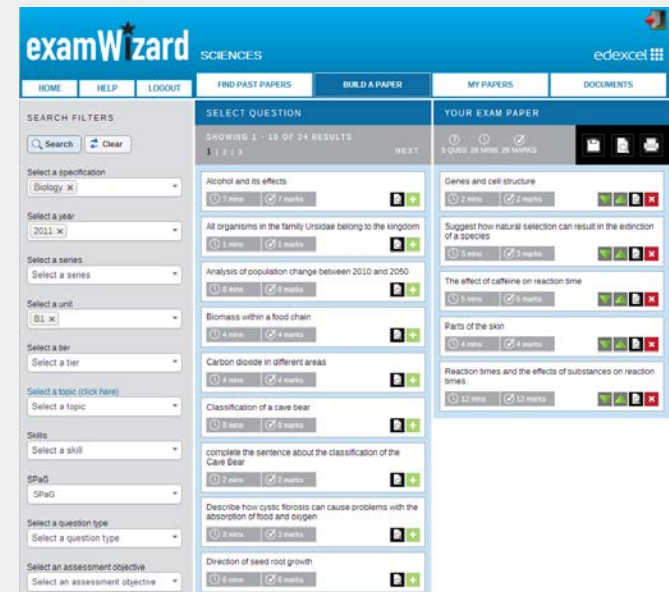
[www.edexcel.com/resultsplus](http://www.edexcel.com/resultsplus)



# Tracking progress

ExamWizard – help track progress

- allows you to create your own tests online using FREE past paper questions.
  - Contains a huge bank of past Edexcel exam questions and support materials to help you create your own mock exams, topic tests, homework or revision activities.
  - Helps you search for past papers, mark schemes and examiners' reports.



[www.examwizard.co.uk](http://www.examwizard.co.uk)



# Training from Pearson

Events in a timely manner to help you prepare to teach the new specification:

- Getting ready to teach events in early 2015.
- Professional development events with a focus on developing expertise to support good teaching and learning.

[www.edexcel.com/training](http://www.edexcel.com/training)





# Contact information



## Contact information

- Subject Advisor email: [TeachingEnglish@pearson.com](mailto:TeachingEnglish@pearson.com)
- Subject Advisor telephone number: 0844 372 2188
- Subject page link:  
<http://www.edexcel.com/quals/gce/gce15/eng-lang/Pages/default.aspx>
- [www.edexcel.com/contactus](http://www.edexcel.com/contactus)
- [www.edexcel.com/learningforabetterfuture](http://www.edexcel.com/learningforabetterfuture)