



Queen Elizabeth's Girls' School

Educating Women of the Future

English Literature Key Stage 5 Curriculum 2021/22

	Topic/Big Question	Focus
Year 12	Hamlet (Shakespeare)	At the start of Year 12, we study this key text for Paper 1 Section A. We read the play together, watch it in performance as we go and learn to interpret the text from a range of different perspectives. We teach the students how to analyse extracts from the play in response to exam questions and to discuss and write responses to the views of critics.
	A Doll's House (Ibsen)	We study 'A Doll's House' for Literature Paper 1 Section B. We read the play together and watch it in performance. We teach them a wide range of contextual information about Ibsen and Victorian drama and discuss and evaluate the ways in which the play has been received and interpreted through the years. We teach this text after the Rossetti poetry because the exam question is a comparison of the drama and the poetry so, during our study of the play, we refer back to the poems to make links and connections.
	Rossetti Poetry	We study Rossetti's poetry during the first term of Year 12. We teach them a wide range of contextual information about Rossetti and discuss and evaluate the ways in which her work has been received and interpreted through the years. We make links between the poems throughout our study.
	Tess of the D'Urbervilles (Hardy)	We study this key text as part of our study of the 'Women in Literature' theme for Literature Paper 2 Section B. We work through the text using a range of questions as a stimulus for discussion and exploration of the themes, characters and ideas. Students are taught a range of contextual information about the text and Hardy's contextual influences. They are also taught how to consider and explore the text from a range of perspectives and respond to various literary critics through the years.
	Sense & Sensibility (Austen)	We study this key text as part of our study of the 'Women in Literature' theme for Literature Paper 2 Section B. We work through the text using a range of questions as a stimulus for discussion and exploration of the themes, characters and ideas. Students are taught a range of contextual information about the text and Austen's contextual influences. They are also taught how to consider and explore the text from a range of perspectives and respond to various literary critics through the years.
	Unseen	To prepare students for the unseen analysis required in Paper 2 Section A, students work through an anthology of extracts and contextual information linked to literature by and about women from 1800 to the present day. We cover this at various points in Year 12.

	Coursework	Throughout Year 12, students are encouraged to read widely and to choose from novels, plays and poems from the literary canon. All coursework texts must have been written post 1900 and one must be post 2000. During the summer students start focusing on poetry in preparation for Task One.
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	Topic/Big Question	Focus
Year 13	Hamlet	In Year 13, we return to Hamlet to revise and further develop student's understanding of the text. We focus specifically on the demands of the two exam questions and teach the students the specific skills required to analyse the text and to respond knowledgeably and confidently to the views of critics over time.
	Tess of the D'Urbervilles and Sense & Sensibility	In Year 13, we return to the two key novels taught in Year 12 and revise them alongside each other in preparation for the exam question in Paper 2 Section B. This exam requires students to respond to a generic view of women's literature using both texts comparatively. They will be taught how to plan and structure their response and to incorporate critics and relevant context.
	Unseen	At specific points in Year 13, students are taught how to respond to an unseen prose text written by or about women written any time from 1800 to the present day. They will practise analysis and application of context using past papers and their anthologies of extracts and contextual information.
	Ibsen & Rossetti	In Year 13, we return to the play and the poetry texts taught in Year 13 and revise them alongside each other in preparation for the exam question in Paper 1 Section B. There will be a focus on context and interpretation and we will look at and respond to critics over time.
	Coursework	In Year 13, students will complete both parts of their coursework portfolio. The text choice will be independent and there will be individual tutorials with students to help with text choice and planning. They will be taught how to write a comparative essay and to incorporate all of the assessment objectives, including language analysis, context and interpretation.