



Queen Elizabeth's Girls' School

Educating Women of the Future

English Literature Key Stage 5 Curriculum

	Topic/Big Question	Focus
Year 12	Hamlet (Shakespeare)	At the start of Year 12, we study this key text for Paper 1. 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 will be focussing on developing the students' confidence in developing their own views and interpretations of the text and responding to the views of critics and theatre directors.
	The Duchess of Malfi (John Webster)	We study 'The Duchess of Malfi' for Literature Paper 1. We read the play together and watch it in performance. We teach them a wide range of contextual information about John Webster and discuss and evaluate the ways in which the play has been received and interpreted through the years. We will look at Webster's use of language and dramatic techniques.
	John Keats Poetry	We study a range of Keats' poetry in Year 12. We teach them a wide range of contextual information about Keats and discuss and evaluate the ways in which his work has been received and interpreted through the years. We make links between the poems throughout our study. They will extend their skills of analysis. Poems include 'The Eve of St Agnes' and 'Ode to a Nightingale'.
	Tess of the D'Urbervilles (Hardy)	We study this key text as part of our study of the 'Women and Society' theme for Literature Paper 2. 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.
	A Thousand Splendid Suns (Hosseini)	We study this key text as part of our study of the 'Women and Society' theme for Literature Paper 2. 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 Hosseini'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.
	Modern Poetry and Unseen	To prepare students for Paper 3, students work through an anthology of modern post 1900 poetry. They will be taught how to respond to and analyse each of the poems. They will also be taught how to approach an unseen poem and compare it to one of the poems in the anthology.

	Coursework	Throughout Year 12, students are encouraged to read widely and to choose from novels, plays and poems from the literary canon in preparation for their NEA essay which they will write in Year 13.
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	Topic/Big Question	Focus
Year 13	Hamlet	In Year 13, we return to the Shakespeare text to revise and further develop student's understanding of the text. We focus specifically on the demands of the exam question 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 and apply context.
	Tess of the D'Urbervilles and A Thousand Splendid Suns	In Year 13, we return to the two key novels taught in Year 12 and revise them alongside each other in preparation for the comparative exam question in Paper 2. This exam requires students to respond to a generic theme using both texts comparatively. They will be taught how to plan and structure their response and to incorporate critics and relevant context.
	Poetry	In Year 13, we will complete our study of all the poems in the anthology and do detailed preparation for Paper 3 which requires close analysis and comparison of modern poems.
	The Duchess of Malfi	In Year 13, we return to the play taught in Year 12 and revise it in preparation for the exam question in Paper 1. 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 their coursework essay (2,500 - 3,000 words). 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.