



English Literature A level: Edexcel

Exam dates:

Drama – Thursday 7th June (PM – 2hr15)

Prose – Tuesday 12th June (PM – 1hr)

Poetry – Friday 15th June (AM – 2hr15)

Exam overview:

Paper 1 – Drama

30% of qualification

60 marks

2 hrs 15 minutes

Paper 2 – Prose

20% of qualification

40 marks

1 hour

Paper 3 - Poetry

30% of qualification

60 marks

2 hrs 15 mins

Coursework

20% of qualification

60 marks

Guide to Exam Papers:

[Paper One-Drama \(2hrs 15mins\) Open Book \(Clean copies\)](#)

Answer one question from a choice of two on each section.

Section A-*Othello* (35 marks) AO1, AO2, AO3, AO5

- You should spend 1hr 15minutes on this question
- 10mins planning (aim for at least 6 points – 4-5 sides of A4)
- 1hr 5mins writing your response

Things you must do in this section of the exam:

- Clear focus on the question (use the wording of the question and synonyms of the words in the question throughout your response)
- A well-structured argument
- Integrated quotations
- Analysis of writer's methods (e.g. metaphors, oxymoronic language, dramatic devices, sentence structure, imagery, rhyming couplets etc.)
- Sophisticated terminology
- Effect on the audience
- Weave in contextual links and Shakespeare's intentions (e.g. Elizabethan era, patriarchal society, contemporary response contrasted with modern response etc.)
- Weave in critical argument

Section B- *Streetcar Named Desire* (25marks) AO1, AO2, AO3

- You should spend 1hr on this question
- 10mins to choose from two questions and plan your response listing key quotations to be used within your essay (aim for at least 5 points – 4 sides of A4)
- 50mins writing your response

Things you must do in this section of the exam:



- Clear focus on the question (use the wording of the question and synonyms of the words in the question throughout your response)
- A well-structured argument
- Integrated quotations
- Analysis of writer's methods (e.g. stage directions, metaphors, symbolism, dramatic devices, musical references, sentence structure, imagery etc.)
- Sophisticated terminology
- Effect on the audience
- Weave in contextual links and Williams' intentions (e.g. Old South - slavery / plantations / class structure, New America - WW2 / Immigration, TW background etc)
- **Do not** include critical argument

[Paper Two-Prose \(1hr\) Open Book \(Clean Copies\)](#)

Answer one question from a choice of two.

Never Let Me Go and Frankenstein (40 marks) AO1, AO2, AO3, AO4

- You should spend 10mins planning your answer and making links (aim for at least 3-4 comparative paragraphs – each paragraph must include two quotes from each text)
- You should spend 50mins writing your response (aim for 4 sides of A4)

Things you must do in this section of the exam:

- Clear point focusing on the question and making a connection between the novels throughout your essay. Then, in relation to the point you have made, analyse the first novel and then the second. Remember to do the following:
 - Integrate quotations
 - Analyse the writer's methods and the effects of literary features/structural features
 - Use sophisticated terminology
 - Comment on the effect on the reader
 - Make contextual links (writer backgrounds / developments in science / society in 2005 and 1818 etc)
 - Comment on the writer's intentions

[Paper Three-Poetry \(2hrs 15mins\) Open Book \(Clean Copies\)](#)

Section A-Post 2000 specified poetry (30 marks) AO1, AO2, AO4

Answer one question from a choice of two comparing an unseen poem with a named poem from the contemporary anthology.

- You should spend 1hr 15mins on this question
- 15mins analysing the unseen poem
- 10 mins planning (choose your poem from the anthology and make links with the unseen)
- 50 mins writing (aim for at least 3-4 comparative paragraphs – each paragraph must include two quotes or structural features from each poem. Aim for 4 sides of A4)

Things you must do in this section of the exam:

- Clear point focusing on the question and making a connection between the poems throughout your essay. Then, in relation to the point you have made, analyse the first poem and then the second. Remember to do the following:
 - Integrate quotations
 - Analyse the poet's methods and the effects of literary features/poetic devices/structural features
 - Use sophisticated terminology
 - Comment on the effect on the reader



- Comment on the poet's intentions

Section B- Specified poetry pre 1900 (30 marks) AO1, AO2, AO3

Answer one question from a choice of two.

- You should spend 1hr on this question
- 10mins planning (choose two poems from the anthology)
- 50mins writing (aim for at least 3-4 comparative paragraphs – each paragraph must include two quotes or structural features from each poem. Aim for 4 sides of A4)

Things you must do in this section of the exam:

- Clear point focusing on the question and making a connection between the poems throughout your essay. Then, in relation to the point you have made, analyse the first poem and then the second. Remember to do the following:
 - Integrate quotations
 - Analyse the poet's methods and the effects of literary features/structural features
 - Use sophisticated terminology
 - Comment on the effect on the reader
 - Make contextual links (CR background / C19th society / Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood etc)
 - Comment on the poet's intentions

Areas of Revision

- Themes
- Characters
- Context
- Terminology
- Quotes
- Sequence of events in prose and drama texts
- Poems with similar themes (Rossetti)
- Critical theory (Othello)

Revision Tips

- Mind map themes / character / poetry – try and mind map an essay plan for any conceivable question
- Use number lines or other memory strategies to remember locations of key events in texts
- Flashcards for quotes and terminology
- Create auditory revision that you can listen to – especially for quotes
- Watch YouTube clips or read A2 study guides on your texts or context and make revision notes
- Practise planning essays in time allowed
- Practise essay writing