



Homework in English at A Level: A Level English Literature

Homework at A Level is fundamental to students' success and to their transition to becoming more independent learners. This independent work allows students to develop their own confident knowledge and understanding of the topics and texts and to engage with the increasingly academic content of the course. Homework tasks at A Level will:

- allow students to prepare for forthcoming lessons by completing reading or preparatory research tasks;
- build on and reinforce learning from class: recap and revision of content, key themes, ideas;
- develop students' independent learning skills through extended projects and other opportunities which require research skills;
- allow students to consolidate the skills required for examinations and develop their own academic essay writing style.

How much homework is set?

- **A Level:** Students will be set homework in most lessons that will reinforce learning in a lesson, or help to prepare the students for coming lessons. Essays will also be set regularly. They will also have a schedule of work to complete in Private Study.

Homework Activities and Tasks

A Level English Literature

Students will be set a range of tasks to develop and extend their knowledge and understanding of particular texts, topics, or concepts:

- **Essay tasks:** Students will be set regular exam-style essays to practise their essay technique, but also to practise responding to a task. On occasion, these will be timed essays. This is a key skill in Literature and it takes time and application over the course for students to develop their own confident, academic style.
- **Knowledge tasks:** Students will be set short answer questions on topics or texts to deepen their understanding. These may be as a revision tool or as preparation for upcoming lessons. They may also be set the task of generating questions.
- **Research tasks:** In order for students to get the most out of the course and to deepen their understanding of texts, it is important that students complete research on particular topics. Sometimes, this will require presenting to the class.
- **Wider reading:** For students to develop a holistic understanding of literature, it is important that they read around the topic or texts we are studying. This may mean other writing by the same author, texts about the same topic, or literary criticism. We see wider reading as an important part of the course as it prepares students well for life-long learning and university.

To help students focus their reading, we provide a reading list at the start of the course and will direct some of their reading.

- **Non-Examined Assessment:** As part of the course, students will complete an NEA assignment independently (similar to what used to be known as coursework). Students have the opportunity to choose their own tasks and one of the texts they will be using. They will be given clear instructions and support when they get to this part of the course.

Sixth Form Private Study Tasks

Students are expected to use their private study sessions to complete relevant work each week. These private study tasks will be issued to students on a termly basis and this will be monitored by their teacher.

Support from Parents and Carers

Parental support continues to be an important contributor to success at A Level. In particular, where NEA deadlines are concerned, liaison between school, student and home is important in ensuring that students remain on track.