



A Level Edexcel English Literature (WGSG)

1. Expectations for success are:

- Students will be expected to do preparatory reading; this is essential. The set examination novel, Bram Stoker's *Dracula* (Penguin Classics edition) should be read before the course commences or within a few weeks if a student has joined the course late. The second text to be studied in September is *A Streetcar Named Desire* (Methuen edition). Students need to purchase and read these texts before lessons commence to enable teacher and student to discuss the text holistically moving through the text at a good pace. This is unlike GCSE; for A level there is a responsibility on the student to always read in advance of the lesson and prepare notes. The Shakespeare text, *Antony and Cleopatra* will be studied for coursework and the study for this commences in June.
- Further reading is also essential for success. Students will have to read critical works on the texts they are studying. There are a number of excellent resources in the WGSG library and Mrs Ansell will support students and photocopy articles if requested. For the Shakespeare coursework, a contextual understanding of when the plays were written and set is also required and students will have to show this understanding in their coursework.
- Coursework Deadlines: Coursework study will commence in June/July and the deadline for the first draft will be given then.

2. The characteristics of an outstanding student in this subject are:

- The successful student will be one who enjoys literature and discussing their reading. They take responsibility for their own progress, reading ahead, making detailed notes and studying critical responses on the texts they are studying. They will be willing to engage in discussion in the class within a group and with their teacher. Reading other works by the writer they are studying will also be useful. The better prepared the students is for the lessons, the more able they will be to discuss and debate thus raising the standard of learning within the classroom. Work is always completed on time for the lesson and assignment deadlines met.
- A student must enjoy reading! The examination board expects that students will engage and enjoy the set texts and show their appreciation of the writers' skills and methods in their coursework and examination responses.

3. Wider Reading List (these are only suggestions):

Nineteenth Century

- Jane Austen:** *Pride and Prejudice; Sense and Sensibility; Emma*
- The Brontes:** *Jane Eyre; Wuthering Heights; Villette*
- Wilkie Collins:** *The Woman in White*
- Charles Dickens:** *Great Expectations; Oliver Twist, Hard Times, Bleak House* (or any Dickens novel)
- Dostoyevsky:** *Crime and Punishment*
- George Eliot:** *Middlemarch, Silas Marner*
- Elizabeth Gaskell:** *North and South*
- Thomas Hardy:** *Tess of the d'Urbervilles; The Mayor of Casterbridge; Far from the Madding Crowd* (or any Hardy novel)
- Henry James:** *The Turn of the Screw*
- Mary Shelley:** *Frankenstein*
- Leo Tolstoy:** *Anna Karenina*
- Little Women:** *Louisa May Alcott*

Twentieth Century

- Margaret Atwood:** *Alias Grace, The Handmaid's Tale*
- Pat Barker:** *The Ghost Road*
- Vera Britten:** *Testament of Youth*
- Louis de Bernieres:** *Captain Corelli's Mandolin, Birds without Wings*
- Kate Chopin:** *The Awakening*
- Daphne du Maurier:** *Rebecca*
- Sebastian Faulks:** *Birdsong*
- F Scott Fitzgerald:** *The Great Gatsby*
- John Fowles:** *The French Lieutenant's Woman*
- Michael Frayn:** *Spies*
- Joseph Heller:** *Catch 22*
- Khaled Hosseini:** *The Kite Runner, A Thousand Splendid Suns*
- Kazuo Ishiguro:** *The Remains of the Day*
- Harper Lee:** *To Kill a Mockingbird*
- Andrea Levy:** *Small Island*
- Daphne du Maurier:** *Rebecca*
- Ian McEwan:** *Atonement, Saturday, Enduring Love; The Cement Garden.*
- Iris Murdoch:** *A Severed Head; The Sea, the Sea, Bruno's Dream*
- George Orwell:** *1984*
- J. D Salinger:** *Catcher in the Rye*
- Vikram Seth:** *A Suitable Boy*
- John Steinbeck:** *The Grapes of Wrath*
- Jeanette Winterson:** *Oranges are not the only Fruit*
- Edith Wharton:** *The Age of Innocence*

4. Independent Study Ideas:

- **Critical works:** The English Magazine has excellent articles offering support in all aspects in the study and appreciation of English Literature and these are available in the WGSG library. There are also specific articles on the set texts and these have been photocopied and are available in the library in an AS Texts Resource Folder. Students are expected to read these and Mrs Ansell will photocopy if requested. The English Magazine is also available to read online and students may access this.
- **The WGSG AS English Literature Book Box:** There are a good number of critical texts in the A level Text Box in the WGSG library. It is expected that students will access these texts to support their understanding of the set texts.
- There are a number of student support websites which provide critical reading. *Sparknotes* is one and *Cross-Reference* is another. There are many sites supporting the study of the A Level texts. These sites must be used responsibly as plagiarism for essay writing is not permitted.
- Some episodes of the BBC production of *Antony and Cleopatra* are available on *Youtube*.
- Your son/daughter's teacher will be happy to give advice to students of other texts they can read if they enjoy the work of a particular writer they are studying for AS.