Supporting students of A-level Combined English at Toot Hill College

The AQA A-Level Language and Literature course is designed to equip sixth form students with a deep understanding of language and its application in literature. This course focuses on the analysis of written and spoken texts, fostering critical thinking and communication skills. Students learn to deconstruct various literary forms, examine language variation, and explore the relationship between language and society. Key skills students acquire include close reading, linguistic analysis, essay writing, and the ability to engage critically with a range of texts, from classic literature to contemporary media. The AQA A-Level Language and Literature course not only provides a solid foundation for pursuing English and related disciplines at university but also fosters skills that are highly transferable, benefiting students in various career paths, including teaching, journalism, publishing, and communications. The English department will support all students to achieve their full potential and teachers value the support of parents and carers as students’ progress towards the external examinations. Below is some important information and frequently asked questions designed to inform parents and carers. Please contact teaching staff or the Head of Faculty if you have further questions.

**Department staff:**

Head of Faculty (English) – Mrs K. Pheasant – [kpheasant@toothillschool.co.uk](mailto:kpheasant@toothillschool.co.uk)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Subject | Exam board | Course title and code | Structure | Key dates | Final exams |
| English Language and Literature | AQA | 7707 A Level English Language and Literature | Year 12   1. Language Levels (CME/SDE) 2. Paris Anthology (CME) 3. Carol Ann Duffy Poetry Anthology (SDE) 4. A Streetcar Named Desire (CME) 5. The Handmaid’s Tale (SDE) 6. NEA (CME)   Year 13:   1. The Great Gatsby (SDE) 2. NEA (CME) 3. Revision of Duffy poetry, The Handmaid’s Tale and The Great Gatsby (SDE) 4. Revision of Streetcar Names Desire and Paris Anthology (CME). | **Internal assessments:**  Year 12 - November – Paris Anthology  Duffy Poetry  Year 12 June – Paper 1 – Paris Anthology, The Handmaid’s Tale, Carol Ann Duffy Poetry.  Year 13 – November – Paper 2: Streetcar Named Desire and The Great Gatsby.  Year 13 – March/April – Paper 1: Paris Anthology, The Handmaid’s Tale, Carol Ann Duffy Poetry. | Year 13 May/June exams  Confirmed (2024):  7707/1 Telling Stories - 24th May 2024  7707/2 Exploring conflict - 5th June 2024 |

**Frequently asked questions**

1. Where can I find past papers and mark schemes?
2. You can find all past paper questions, mark schemes and examiners reports here: [Subjects](https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects)/ [English](https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english)/ [AS and A-level](https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/as-and-a-level)/ [English Language and Literature (7707)](https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/as-and-a-level/english-language-and-literature-7707) on the AQA website.
3. Does my student know where to access guidance when answering exam questions?

* The AQA website also has examiner reports that students will find useful in understanding common misconceptions: [Examination reports](https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/as-and-a-level/english-language-and-literature-7707/assessment-resources?f.Resource+type%7C6=Question+papers&f.Resource+type%7C6=Examiner+reports&num_ranks=10&sort=title)
* In class, we complete regular assessments and exam questions. Students have guidance on how to answer these exam questions in their assessment books which they can use as part of their revision in the atrium. PPTs are also saved in the files section on TEAMs

1. What happens if my student has gaps in their knowledge due to absence?

* Knowledge organisers are available for every topic and knowledge organiser key terms tests are given at the end of every topic to assess gaps and set specific targets for revision. A student can look over their knowledge organiser to support their learning.
* All resources are also uploaded on to the files section of teams regularly. Students can catch up with any work if they are absent using these resources.
* If students are unsure, they can also ask their classroom teacher.

1. What resources are recommended to support my student?

* Textbooks and revision guides for English Language and Literature which can be bought second hand from amazon or new from world of books. We recommend the Cambridge textbook. Students can also access the Zig Zag guides which have been uploaded to Teams.
* Revision lists and power points on the files sections of teams
* Exam practice questions should be completed at home regularly to develop key exam skills.

1. What else can I do to support my student at home?

* Parents/carers could direct students to use their revision lists, or download exam practice questions from the AQA website.
* Parents/carers could also test their knowledge of key concepts by using flash cards or Seneca Learning (students are given information about this in year 12).
* Parents/carers could encourage students to complete a number of hours of revision a week.
* Students must learn their terminology and can use the ‘Terminology Bible’ to quiz themselves and try to apply to the texts themselves, looking at patterns. Feel free to quiz your child.

1. How can I help with revision?

* Encourage your student to access the revision homework tasks mentioned above. If you are able to take part in quizzing your student (if they have made flashcards or are using online quizzes), this will give them some variation to their revision and works well as a revision technique.
* Encouraging your student to focus on the areas of the courses that they feel less confident with will also be beneficial.
* Encourage students to read in their own time – reading around the course texts is also helpful and students are guided towards relevant novels throughout their studies.
* Students are also provided with a PREP sheet with recommended revision tasks.

1. What can I do if I need more support or my student is needing more support?

* Please contact classroom teacher or head of faculty to arrange a meeting and devise a structured revision plan.