



St Joseph's College English Department

Preparation work for AQA A Level English Literature
Specification A, Paper 2 Option B: Modern Times (post 1945)

Task:

Choose a poem connected with love and relationships that speaks to you. It can be from any time period, and on any type of relationship (e.g. familial as well as romantic) or mood/tone.

Annotate your chosen poem in as much detail as you can, paying particular attention to poetic features.

If your poem uses a particular poetic form, e.g. a sonnet, how does it use or develop conventions of the form?

Research the time period the poem originates from. How typical is it of this time period? Have any attitudes changed now?

Research the writer's personal background. How does the poem reflect their life?

Research critical interpretations of the poem – how have other readers responded to it?

You should present your research and a copy of your annotated poem on a single sheet of paper (A3 or A4).

Wuthering Heights

It is also strongly recommended that you read *Wuthering Heights* by Emily Bronte over the summer. Whilst you will be studying it in class, we will not be able to read every page together (unlike perhaps some of your GCSE set texts), and the students who typically perform best at A level are the students who have read their set texts multiple times.

Be prepared to discuss the question: Heathcliff – victim or villain?

Texts to purchase – required set texts

ISBN numbers given are for editions of texts used for examinations. We recommend purchasing the same edition for your own study for ease of navigating texts in the exam.

Wuthering Heights by Emily Bronte (set text) ISBN 9 780141 439556

Othello by William Shakespeare (set text) ISBN 9 781107 615595

The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood (set text) ISBN 9780099 740919

All My Sons by Arthur Miller (set text) ISBN 9 780141 189970

The Feminine Gospels by Carol Ann Duffy (set text) ISBN 9 780330 486446

Recommended study guides

York Notes – available for *Othello*, *Wuthering Heights*, *All My Sons*, *The Handmaid's Tale* and *The Feminine Gospels*

The Art of Poetry: AQA Love Poems Through the Ages, Post 1900 poems: Volume 5 by Neil Bowen et al, ISBN 0995467102

Study and Revise for AS/A-level: AQA Anthology: love poetry through the ages by Luke McBratney, ISBN 978-1471853838

A Level guides (suggested)

The Art of Drama Vol 6 (Othello) – ISBN 1913577872

AQA AS and A Level English Literature A Student Book (2104) by McBratney and Onyatt – ISBN 0198336004

The Art of Writing English Literature Essays for A Level by Meally and Bowen – ISBN 099307782X

Mr Bruff's Guide to A Level English Literature by Andrew Bruff – ISBN 1520865317

At A Level there is an expectation (and need!) that you read around and beyond the set texts on the curriculum throughout your whole A level study.