

# Transition Subject Tasks



**Subject:** English Literature

**Course:** A Level

**Exam Board:** AQA

*Tasks below are to be completed before September 2020*

*You will need a notebook or create a file on your computer.*

## WIDEN YOUR EXPERIENCE OF LITERATURE:

**Reading Challenge: the titles and authors are for you to choose – you might need to do a bit of research! The novel should be a text for adults – not teenage fiction.**

- 1) A Victorian Novel
- 2) A 20<sup>th</sup> Century Novel
- 3) A 21<sup>st</sup> Century Novel
- 4) 20 Poems from a poet of your choice

**Prepare a presentation on one of these texts to be delivered in your first week at Sixth Form.**

**For each novel - record your thoughts:**

- The characters
- The settings
- The social issues explored
- The historical period (or futuristic) presented
- The narrative voice (who is telling the story) or perspective
- The plot
- Is the text part of the Literary Canon (see page 2)? Should it be? Does it have value?

## LITERATURE IN PRODUCTION: Keep a record of your viewing or listening in your notebook.

- 1) Regularly look at TV and Film listings – look for any that feature classic literature, for example, 'Emma' by Jane Austen or contemporary literature, for example, 'Little Fires Everywhere' by Celeste NG.
- 2) The National Theatre is running live streaming of various plays. Watch as many as you can, but particularly, Twelfth Night (your Shakespeare play in Year 13)! It is running from 23<sup>rd</sup> April (Shakespeare's birthday) until 30 April.  
[www.nationaltheatre.org.uk/at-home](http://www.nationaltheatre.org.uk/at-home)
- 3) Radio 4 features regular shows about literature e.g. 'In our Time' with Melvin Bragg and 'Books at Bedtime'. Episodes are archived by the BBC online.
- 4) BBC iPlayer (in the Literature section) features some interesting documentaries about writers e.g. 'The Secret Life of Books' or 'Novel that shaped our World' or programmes dedicated to one writer like John Betjeman or Daphne Du Maurier. Check also, 'The Late Show' they often feature writers, for example, Maya Angelou. Sky Arts run occasional programmes on literature.

Many of the above can be found as podcasts. [www.bbc.co.uk/podcasts?q=literature](http://www.bbc.co.uk/podcasts?q=literature)

**EXPLORE THE LITERARY CANON:**

Define these terms:

- ✓ **AESTHETIC**
- ✓ **VALUE**
- ✓ **CANON**

**Find out who these writers were:**

- ✓ When did they live?
- ✓ What did they write (include famous works)?
- ✓ Why they are classed as part of the, 'Literary Canon'.

Geoffrey Chaucer	Edward Spenser	William Shakespeare
John Donne	John Milton	John Dryden
Alexander Pope	Samuel Johnson	William Blake
William Wordsworth	Jane Austen	Lord Byron
Alfred Lord Tennyson	Charles Dickens	George Eliot
Joseph Conrad	James Joyce	T. S. Eliot

**Your research needs to be presented neatly. Try to be creative – add vintage book covers, portraits of the writers, illustrations and famous quotations.**

**Answer these questions:**

- 1) How would you define literature?
- 2) What, if any, is the difference between, 'fiction', 'drama' and, 'literature'?
- 3) Is Harry Potter literature?
- 4) Are there language forms or variations that are only found in literature?
- 5) What is the point of studying literature?
- 6) Is it more important to study old texts or new?
- 7) How do you evaluate whether a literary text is good or not?

**HISTORICAL CONTEXT OF LITERATURE:**

**Research each of these periods:**

- ✓ Some are historical periods and some are literary movements
- ✓ Dates e.g. Anglo-Saxon – 410-1066
- ✓ Who was writing during these periods e.g. Geoffrey Chaucer (Middle English)
- ✓ Important poetry, plays and novels that were written e.g. Dracula (Victorian Gothic), Lyrical Ballads (Romantic) or Hamlet (Renaissance/Jacobean)!
- ✓ Significant historical events e.g. The Industrial Revolution (Victorian/Romantic)

Anglo-Saxon	Middle English	Elizabethan
Jacobean	Restoration	Renaissance
Romantic	Victorian	Modern
Postmodern		

**How you present this research is entirely up to you!**

