**A Level English Literature**

**Prose Unit Contextual Research**

***A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hosseini**

1. Find the poem from which the title ‘A Thousand Splendid Suns’ is taken. Who wrote the poem and what is it about?
2. Make a timeline of key political events in Afganistan from 1970 – 2003. Detail the leaders of the country and their reigns, make sure you include invasions and wars/conflicts.
3. Outline, in your own words, the core principles/motivations of the following groups:
   1. Soviet communists
   2. Mujahideen
   3. Taliban

then explain what their attitudes are towards women in society.

1. What are the Bamiyan Buddhas and what is their cultural and political significance?
2. Find an interview (written or broadcast) with the author, Khaled Hosseini, in which he talks about A Thousand Splendid Suns. What do you think is/are his authorial purpose(s)?



***Wuthering Heights* by Emily Brontë**

1. Research the Brontë family. Where and when did they live? What kind of society did they mix in? What were the children’s lives like as they grew up?
2. Find out what significant works of literature were published during the Brontës’ lifetime. Who were the most renowned authors and what did they write about?
3. Summarise what British education was like in the Victorian era.
4. What were expectations of marriage and attitudes towards male and female relationships? Include economic factors such as inheritance and dowries.
5. Research statistics around maternal health and mortality in the 1800s.
6. Finally, how important was religion in Victorian Britain? What role did the church play in society and in what way(s) was it threatened?

