

<b>Paper 1: Love through the ages</b> Study of three texts: one poetry and one prose text, of which one must be written pre-1900, and one Shakespeare play. Examination will include two unseen poems	
<b>Assessed</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>written exam: 3 hours</li> <li>open book in Section C only</li> <li>75 marks</li> <li>40% of A-level</li> </ul>	<b>Paper 2: Texts in shared contexts</b> Choice of two options: <del>Option 2A: WWI and its aftermath</del> Option 2B: Modern times: literature from 1945 to the present day Study of three texts: one prose, one poetry, and one drama, of which one must be written post-2000 Examination will include an unseen prose extract
<b>Questions</b> Section A: Shakespeare: one passage-based question with linked essay (25 marks) Section B: Unseen poetry: compulsory essay question on two unseen poems (25 marks) Section C: Comparing texts: one essay question linking two texts (25 marks)	<b>Assessed</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes</li> <li>open book</li> <li>75 marks</li> <li>40% of A-level</li> </ul>
<b>Questions</b> Section A: Set texts. One essay question on set text (25 marks) Section B: Contextual linking <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>one compulsory question on an unseen extract (25 marks)</li> <li>one essay question linking two texts (25 marks)</li> </ul>	
<b>Non-exam assessment: Independent critical study: texts across time</b> Comparative critical study of two texts, at least one of which must have been written pre-1900 One extended essay (2500 words) and a bibliography	
<b>Assessed</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>50 marks</li> <li>20% of A-level</li> <li>assessed by teachers</li> <li>moderated by AQA</li> </ul>	Your choice!

## Paper 1: Love Through the Ages

### September starts with Shakespeare's *Othello* and *Wuthering Heights*

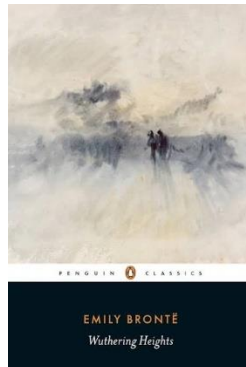
Watch a performance of *Othello* and read the text once. The video version should be on Microsoft Stream (SharePoint).

To help you with understanding of the first reading of the text, use a modern version alongside of it (No Fear Shakespeare is one). Additionally, take copious notes as follows:

England in 1603 and its mores (views/conventions) on:

- Race.** This is the first Shakespeare text to have a protagonist that is non-white in racial terms. Why is Shakespeare's protagonist a Moor? Queen Elizabeth – in 1596 – opined about Moors (Muslim people of NW African descent) '*there are of late divers blackmoors brought into this realme, of which kinde of people there are already here too manie*'. What societal views, expounded by Elizabeth 1<sup>st</sup> here, were there on miscegenation and how xenophobic was Elizabethan/Jacobean England?
- Why did Shakespeare write a **domestic tragedy about jealousy**, and then make the husband a Moor? What is the text's dramatic premise/s?
- The Jacobean and the **role of women**? How were they viewed? Focus your response on your initial views on Desdemona, Emilia and Bianca in the text.
- King James 1<sup>st</sup> (came to the throne in 1603 the moment of production for the text) and **the supernatural** – his views?
- Why does the text open in **Venice**? What was this city synonymous with?

- How is **Iago's status** as the text's antagonist presented and what ideas are being explored by Shakespeare here? He **soliloquises** first and the most, why as the text's antagonist and not Othello, as its protagonist.

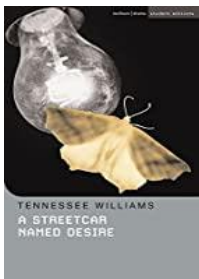


## ***Wuthering Heights***

Purchase the Penguin Classics version of the text (this is ESSENTIAL for ease of reference in lessons – we all need to have the same page numbers!) and read it through once before the course starts. You may find it useful to read a study guide alongside – going through a plot summary of each chapter before tackling the text. York notes and Spark notes (online) are both sound introductions.

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?

## **Paper 2: Texts in Shared Contexts. September starts with Tennessee Williams' *A Streetcar Named Desire***



On **Microsoft Stream** (SharePoint) please watch the performance of ***A Streetcar Named Desire*** and please purchase the above version of the text. Read the text over the holidays. It is fabulous!

If possible, please purchase a copy of Tennessee Williams' biography, ***Memoirs***, and read it. It is a primary source of information for events that happen in the text.

Research and keep detailed notes of how 'Kitchen-sink drama' evolved in Britain (1960s). **A *Streetcar Named Desire*** is termed a domestic drama (1950s), which was also a cultural shift – like 'kitchen-sink' – so a comparison/links to, are very useful.

Context: You will glean all you need biographically from reading Williams' ***Memoirs***. Additionally, research and notate copiously:

The **American Civil War** and how the Old South emerged into the New South

The '**immigrant belt**' of **New Orleans in the 1940s** (represented by the L&N tracks in the text)

**New Orleans** in the 1940s:

- Racial mores
- Sexual mores
- Immigration
- Emergence of the new urban proletariat (Marxism) and how this is represented in the text's topography
- Women and their societal role
- Districts (the Quarter, the Garden District and the Business District are mentioned in the text's exposition)
- Cultural mores and the role of music – 'The Blue Piano' and other aspects of Williams' use of Plastic Theatre