



# Blue Coat Church of England Academy

**Year: 10**

**Subject: English Literature**

## Overview

In Year 10, students study a range of classic literature, including poetry, prose and drama texts. Throughout their GCSE course, students develop their understanding of plot, characterisation and themes. Students also explore how writers convey their ideas through their use of language and methods. In addition, they consider the relevant contexts of each text, considering how these influence both reader/audience and writer. Students are also required to respond to unseen poems and therefore they develop the required skills to become critical readers.

Students study the following texts:

- 'Poetry of Power and Conflict' an AQA anthology
- Unseen Poetry
- 'A Christmas Carol' by Charles Dickens
- 'An Inspector Calls' by JB Priestley
- 'Macbeth' by William Shakespeare

### **'Poetry of Power and Conflict' an AQA anthology**

Students will study one cluster of 15 poems taken from the AQA poetry anthology, 'Poems Past and Present'. The poems in the cluster are thematically linked and were written between 1789 and the present day. Students will explore the themes of 'power' and 'conflict' and consider how each poem reflects these themes. They will understand the subject matter of each poem, referring to detail and choosing quotations to support their understanding. Students will explore the ways in which the poets use language and poetic devices and structural methods to convey their ideas about power and conflict. They will also comment on the effect that authorial methods (language and structure) have on the reader. Students will also write about the poets' contexts, considering the influences on their writing. In addition, they will develop their critical vocabulary and expression, including subject terminology, and compile a vocabulary of connectives and words or phrases to explain ideas, draw links or explore contrasts in their responses.

## **Unseen Poetry**

Students will also experience a wide range of poetry, in order to develop their ability to closely analyse unseen poems. They will continue to practise their skills in identifying the subject matter of a poem, responding to explicit and implicit ideas and information, referring to detail and choosing quotations to support their understanding. Students should be able to analyse and compare key features, such as content, theme, tone, structure, methods and language. Therefore they will explore the ways in which poets use language and poetic and structural methods to convey their ideas or themes. Students will comment on the effect that the methods have on the reader. They will practise answering examination style questions, including close analysis of an unseen poem and comparison of methods.

## **'A Christmas Carol'**

Students will study the novella, exploring the plot, characters and themes, responding to explicit and implicit ideas and information, referring to detail and choosing quotations to support their understanding. They will explore the ways in which Charles Dickens uses language and methods, including, imagery and structural methods to craft characters, settings and atmosphere. Students will also explore Dickens' style as a writer, commenting on how he conveys his ideas in the novella and the effect that this has on the reader. They will also trace the way in which themes are introduced and developed across the whole text. Students will relate the novella to its social context, exploring Victorian attitudes, to gain a more informed understanding of particular characters and events.

## **'An Inspector Calls' by JB Priestley**

Students will study the play, considering plot, characters and themes. They will understand characterisation, including characters' motivation, behaviour, thoughts, feelings and relationships, tracing how these are developed across the whole play. Students will also explore how Priestley uses language and dramatic methods to craft characters, settings, atmosphere, engaging in close study of the text. Furthermore, students will study the ways in which Priestley conveys both his ideas and the historical context in which the play was written and set, exploring how this may have impacted on both the play and its audience. They will also be required to learn quotations from the play that will enable them to trace key ideas, themes and characterisation.

## **Macbeth**

Students will study the play, exploring the events that led to his downfall and how these events and characterisation fit into the conventions of a tragedy. They will learn about the behaviour and motivation of the main characters and how they have been interpreted through the years (particularly the character of Lady Macbeth). Students will consider how the context of the time reflects the characterisation and events in the play, for example exploring contextually, Shakespeare's use of the supernatural. They will explore the themes of the play, such as ambition, and Shakespeare's use of dramatic methods to convey significant meanings. Students will also analyse the language used by Shakespeare and consider how it affected a Jacobean audience, as well as a contemporary audience. They will explore the characterisation of Macbeth and be able to identify the key elements that make him a tragic hero.

**There are two examinations:**

- **Paper 1 Shakespeare and the 19th-century novel.**

In Section A, students are required to answer one question on a Shakespeare play. They will write in detail about an extract from the play and then write about the play as a whole.

In Section B, students are required to answer one question about a C19th novel. They will write in detail about an extract from the novel and then write about the novel as a whole.

The Paper One exam will last 1 hour and 45 minutes. It is worth 64 marks and makes up 40% of the English Literature GCSE.

- **Paper 2 Modern texts and poetry.**

In Section A, students answer one essay question from a choice of two on the studied modern drama text.

In Section B, students answer one comparative question on one named poem printed on the paper and one other poem from the anthology cluster 'Poetry of Power and Conflict'.

In Section C, students answer one question on one unseen poem and one question comparing this poem with a second unseen poem.

The Paper 2 exam will last 2 hours and 15 minutes. It is worth 96 marks and makes up the other 60% of the English Literature GCSE.