



**A Level Syllabus and Assessment Structure:**

We follow the AQA Specification B A level, options AA (tragedy and crime).

**Paper 1: Aspects of Tragedy.**

Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes. Closed book. 75 marks. 40% of A level.

**Paper 2: Elements of Crime Writing.**

Written exam: 3 hours. Open book. 75 marks. 40% of A level.

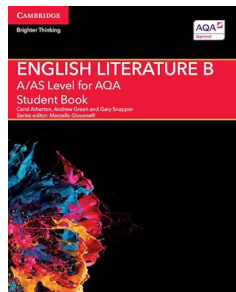
**Non-exam assessment: Theory and Independence.**

50 marks. 20% of A level. Assessed by teachers and moderated by AQA.

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/as-and-a-level/english-literature-b-7716-7717/specification-at-a-glance>

**Required**

Task Time: depends on the texts chosen. Across the **required tasks** for the three sections of the course you will need to have: watched *Othello* (a few hours), read two novels and read a collection of poetry (depends on your reading speed but this should be more than do-able in a week) so don't leave all these tasks until the last minute.



**Tragedy:**

1. Buy a copy of *Othello* by William Shakespeare. Which text you purchase is up to you but make sure it's a version where there's room to write plenty of notes as you go along. The Cambridge Schools Shakespeare or the Arden editions are both good versions to get and can be purchased new or second hand.
2. Purchase and use the A/AS Level English Literature B for AQA Student Book to help inform your study and notes (pictured in the column to the left). This is the same textbook you'll also be using for the crime element of the course.
3. Watch a version of *Othello*, this could be at the theatre or on film. You might find it helpful to read a plot summary of the play first if you're unfamiliar with the story.

The 1990 version with Sir Ian McKellen is available on You Tube.

The 1995 version with Laurence Fishburne is available to buy/rent on Amazon Prime or You Tube.

The 2008 version starring Eamonn Walker is available to buy/rent on Amazon Prime.

4. Using the note-taking tables provided, analyse how the text links to the common themes within tragedy. Your main focuses should be: the tragic protagonist, the villain and the victims.

**Crime:**

1. Buy a copy of *When Will There Be Good News* by Kate Atkinson (the version pictured in the column to the left with the blue cover) and read this text over the summer.
2. Purchase and use the A/AS Level English Literature B for AQA Student Book (pictured) to help inform your study and notes. This is the same textbook you'll also be using for the tragedy element of the course.
3. Using the note-taking tables, focus on the four named characters. Track them through the text focussing on how they're presented and make a note of the key places they appear in the novel. Please note, in terms of how they're presented a character can be both detective, criminal and victim throughout the same text/scene. You might want to use the textbook to help you think about the things to watch out for. As a guide, one full page of the table, on average, should be sufficient per character.
4. Make a list of the crime elements you come across as you're reading the book.

**NEA:**

1. Read a collection of poems by one poet (not an anthology by different authors).
2. Read one novel that's been on a prize longlist. This book should be fiction. You might want to investigate prizes such as: Pulitzer Prize for Fiction, The Man Booker Prize (previously the Booker Prize), The Women's Prize for Fiction, The British Book Awards or any other recognised literary prize.
3. Prepare a presentation on what you've read for your first lesson in September. This can be a powerpoint, a prezzi, a poster, a talk or any other method to communicate what you've read. You'll need to discuss what it was about, what the main themes and ideas were and your opinion about what you've read.

## Highly Recommended

Task Time:  
depends on the  
tasks/texts  
chosen.

Across the **highly recommended** tasks for the three sections of the course include: watching another version of *Othello*, and reading novels or poetry.  
If you want to complete these tasks but are short on time, choose your texts wisely!

### Tragedy:

1. Watch at least one additional version of *Othello*.

### Crime:

1. Read one additional piece of crime fiction from the list below. The QR codes are links to free versions available online but feel free to pick up a paper copy of the text. If there are any issues with the links many are available online from the Project Gutenberg site linked below.



<https://www.gutenberg.org/>

### NEA:

1. Read at least one more text from the required list (poetry or prose).

## Optional

### Tragedy:

1. Compare and contrast the ways the different characters are presented in the different versions of *Othello* that you've seen.  
You could do this in a mind map, poster, a written paragraph, a prezi, a powerpoint ... it's up to you but don't forget to name the different productions/versions you've seen.

### Crime:

1. Create a poster (the bigger, bolder, more-detailed and multi-sensory the better!) that compares and contrasts the themes of crime within this text and *When Will There Be Good News*.

### NEA:

1. Run wild with your reading - the sky's the limit!  
Devour decent Literature and expand your horizons beyond the confines of your home.

# English Literature Tragedy Summer Work

## Tragic Protagonist

**Make some notes on how Othello is made into a 'great' character. (Use the textbook to help with this).**  
**How is the audience encouraged to feel about him? Does this change throughout the play and when are these turning points?**  
**Can you identify the key events for his character?**  
**What quotes can you use to prove your points?**

## Villain

**What sort of villain do you think Iago is? (Use the textbook to help with this).**  
**How are they presented to the audience?**  
**How is the audience encouraged to feel about him? Does this change throughout the play and when are these turning points?**  
**Can you identify the key events for his character?**  
**What quotes can you use to prove your points?**

## Victims

**Make a note of who you think the victims are in the play.**  
**Are there some you think suffer more than others?**  
**Do some victims get more sympathy than others?**  
**How important do you think these characters are to the play as a whole and the downfall of the tragic hero?**  
**What quotes can you use to prove your points?**

# English Literature Crime Summer Work

## Jackson

How They're Presented	Key points in the novel they're found in (Chapters / page numbers)

# English Literature Crime Summer Work

## Louise

How They're Presented	Key points in the novel they're found in (Chapters / page numbers)

# English Literature Crime Summer Work

## Reggie

How They're Presented	Key points in the novel they're found in (Chapters / page numbers)

# English Literature Crime Summer Work

Joanna

How They're Presented	Key points in the novel they're found in (Chapters / page numbers)

# English Literature Crime Summer Work

## Crimes

Crime or element of crime	Perpetrator (if known)	Victim (if known)	Where it's found in the novel	Any additional points to note