

## GCSE English Literature: Virtual communities 2020

Autumn 2020



Welcome



## Overview

---

- Introduction to the discussion topic (10 mins)
- Break out into smaller discussion groups (25 mins)
- Plenary (10 mins)
- Looking ahead to 2021 (10 mins)

## Warm-up exercise

---

What does knowing the play mean to your students?

## Discussion focus: Shakespeare

---

What can we learn about teaching Shakespeare from the reports on the exam?



## Break-out discussion groups

---

| 'Know the play'   | 'Answer the question'   |
|---|---|
| How do you secure students' knowledge and understanding of the play – the plot, key events, characters and themes?  | What actually is good essay writing?<br>How do you model the process of responding to exam questions? |
| Shakespeare can seem remote to students – how do you engage students with the big ideas/themes in a meaningful way? Are they able to relate the text to self, text to text and text to world? |   |

## Plenary

---

- Based on the discussions you've had in your group, share either:
  - one thing you'll do tomorrow, or
  - one thing you'll find out more about.
- Share your pledge in the chat box.

## Resources

---

- Round-up of Shakespeare resources
- Shakespeare's Globe 'Teach Shakespeare'
  - Dedicated teaching site with hundreds of resources.
  - Their 2019 'Playing Shakespeare with Deutsche Bank' production of *Romeo and Juliet* is available to watch (free of charge) on their YouTube channel. There's an accompanying site that supports this production with lots of resources.
- RSC's 'Shakespeare Learning Zone'
- All links are provided in the *Resources* booklet for this event.

## Overview of GCSE English Literature exam structure for 2021

| Paper 1   | Paper 2   |
|---|---|
| <b>Centres enter students with ANY two of the three options below</b>   | <b>Compulsory paper</b>   |
| <b>Paper 1A</b><br>Students answer one question on their <b>poetry anthology</b> cluster of choice.<br>30 marks (AO1, AO2, AO3)<br>Duration: 50 minutes                     | <b>Section A: Compulsory</b><br>Students answer one question on their Shakespeare play of choice.<br>30 marks (AO1, AO2, AO3) + <b>4 marks (AO4)</b>  |
| <b>Paper 1B</b><br>Students answer one question on their <b>19th century novel</b> of choice.<br>30 marks (AO1, AO2, AO3)<br>Duration: 50 minutes                           | <b>Section B: Compulsory</b><br>Students answer two questions on unseen poetry.<br><b>Part 1:</b> Students answer one question on one unseen poem.<br>24 marks (AO1, AO2) + <b>4 marks (AO4)</b><br><b>Part 2:</b> Students answer one question comparing the first unseen poem with a second unseen poem.<br>8 marks (AO2) |
| <b>Paper 1C</b><br>Students answer one question from a choice of two on their <b>modern prose/drama text</b> of choice.<br>30 marks (AO1, AO2, AO3)<br>Duration: 50 minutes |   |
| Total duration: 2 x 50 minutes<br>Total marks = 60 (46% of qualification)   | Total duration: 1 hour 45 minutes<br>Total marks = 70 (54% of qualification)  |

## Here to support you

- Focus of future virtual community meeting – poetry?
- What more can we do to support you in 2021 and beyond?

## Get in touch

---

Our friendly team will be happy to support you between 8am and 4pm, Monday to Friday.

Tel: 0161 953 7504  
Email: [english-gcse@aqa.org.uk](mailto:english-gcse@aqa.org.uk)  
Twitter: @AQAEnglish

[aqa.org.uk](http://aqa.org.uk)



Thank you

---

---