

Pre Post 16 Induction Task.

A-Level English Literature.

As you have some time on your hands we thought it would be great time for you to get a head start with your reading for A-Level. Your coursework makes up 20% of your A-Level and you have to compare a pre-2000 text with a post 2000 text. Below are possible texts which you can pick and choose from. Remember, reading should never be seen as a chore and it helps you to interpret the world, form opinions and shape your thinking.

Choose one pre 2000 text from:

The Great Gatsby – F Scott Fitzgerald’s novel about the destructive nature of love and the American Dream.

The Handmaid’s Tale – Margaret Atwood’s dystopian novel about the religious control of women.

Jane Eyre – Charlotte Bronte’s novel about the journey of Jane from orphan girl to impassioned woman.

Wide Sargasso Sea – Jean Rhys’ prequel to Jane Eyre – where she writes the back story of Bertha Mason.

Choose one or more post 2000 Text from:

Snowdrops - A.D Miller’s incredible story of an English lawyer living in Moscow where the frozen dead are known metaphorically as snowdrops as their bodies emerge when the frozen ice melts in the spring.

White Tiger - Aravind Adiga’s story of the corrupting influence of money in an India transformed by ruthless capitalism.

White Teeth - Zadie Smith’ beautifully observed and darkly humourous account of multi culturalism and growing up in the East End of London.

Brooklyn - Colm Toibin’s story of Eilis’ journey from rural Ireland to Brooklyn New York.

Property - Valerie Martin’s retelling of the savagery, exploitation and violence of slavery in Deep South of America.

On Chesil Beach - Ian McEwan tells of the story of the wedding night of Florence and Edward as fundamental differences in their relationships emerge.

The Circle - Dave Eggers’ story of the mysterious ‘Circle’ a kind of Amazon, Apple and Facebook tech company all rolled into the one.

The Little Stranger – by Sarah Waters – is a classic gothic tinged British ghost story – set in around a crumbling stately home.

The Road Home – by Rose Tremain – Lev has moved from Eastern Europe to England to make his fortune. On the way we learn about his incredible resolve and wry observation of British working life as an immigrant.

Read at least one from each list and then collect some wider reading on your texts. This could be interviews of the authors. Listen to radio interviews as well – there are lots of programmes on the BBC Sounds App.

Make notes on key characters and themes and then write a review of two of the texts.

As you read try and think of links between your pre 2000 and post 2000 texts and the kind of ideas you would like to explore – e.g the presentation of women, love, relationships, dystopias, identity, poverty, vulnerability etc.

It is always best to buy and read a physical copy of your chosen texts. Amazon Market Place sells very reasonable second copies of all of these texts for well under £5. You can also sign up to Audible for 3 months for £1.