**A Level English Literature Study Period Guide – Autumn Term 2022**

**This guide is designed to help students with their independent revision for Year 12 English Literature in their study periods this term.**

**Which topics will you be studying?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Drama: Shakespeare - Othello** | **Drama: A Streetcar Named Desire** |
| * **Plot**
* **Key characters and how they are presented**
* **Key moments with the characters**
* **Key themes**
* **Context**
* **Critical opinion on Othello**
* **Features of tragedy**
 | * **Plot**
* **Key characters and how they are presented**
* **Key moments with the characters**
* **Key themes**
* **Context**
* **Features of tragedy**
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**Which exam board?**

In English Literature we follow the **Edexcel** exam board (Pearson). For a detailed look at the specification click the below link <https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/home.html>

**What useful revision activities should I be doing?**

* Summarise a lesson in your exercise book using flash cards, cornel notes or into a mind map.
* Practice exam questions using the banks of questions you have been issued.
* Test a partner using a knowledge organiser you have been given.
* Talk about a concept for one minute without stopping.
* Explode key quotations – adding analysis and context / critical opinion for Othello

**Useful Resources:**

*Remember that, alongside the articles listed below, you can also use your critical anthologies for independent study*

* Andrew Dickson, *Multiculturalism in Shakespeare’s Plays* (2016) – *available to read on the British Library website*

<https://www.bl.uk/shakespeare/articles/multiculturalism-in-shakespeares-plays>

* Andrew Dickson, *Othello: The Role that Entices and Enrages Actors of all Skin Colours* (2016) – *available to read on the British Library website*

<https://www.bl.uk/shakespeare/articles/othello-the-role-that-entices-and-enrages-actors-of-all-skin-colours>

* Vernon Elso Johnson, *Race in William Shakespeare’s Othello* (2012) – *this book is full of articles by a variety of academics about Shakespeare’s life and social issues within Othello* <https://books.google.co.uk/books?id=IoBmDwAAQBAJ&pg=PA102&dq=shakespeare+othello&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwjvl-LV4tzkAhWEoFwKHWo4BXI4ChDoAQhMMAY#v=onepage&q=shakespeare%20othello&f=false>
* Virginia Mason Vaughan, *Critical Approaches to Othello* (2016) – *available to read on the British Library website*

[https://www.bl.uk/shakespeare/articles/critical-approaches-to-othello#](https://www.bl.uk/shakespeare/articles/critical-approaches-to-othello)

* Alexandra Melville, *Iago in Othello* (2016) – *available to read on the British Library website*

<https://www.bl.uk/shakespeare/articles/character-analysis-iago-in-othello>

* Hugh Quarshie, *Playing Othello* (2016) – *available to read on the British Library website*

<https://www.bl.uk/shakespeare/articles/playing-othello>

* Kiernan Ryan, *Racism, Misogyny and ‘Motiveless Malignity’ in Othello* (2016) – *available to read on the British Library website*

<https://www.bl.uk/shakespeare/articles/racism-misogyny-and-motiveless-malignity-in-othello>

* **FutureLearn** courses *(FutureLearn offers free short online courses across a variety of topics provided by universities around the world. They update their list of Literature courses regularly. As of compiling this list, there are currently no Shakespeare courses offered, but this may change throughout the year.)*

<https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/categories/literature-courses>

**Documentaries and Videos:**

* RSC Learning Zone ‘behind-the-scenes’ videos. *These videos show the director and actors trying out different ways of performing key scenes and discussing their choices. The Othello playlist can be found here:* <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLolOYEpIfPsnVjKUjcerHE8fBFFwv04u->
* RSC – ‘Perspectives on Othello’

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SWNMNTq9f9s>

To re-cap context:

* BBC Teach – ‘I. Am. Will. Shakespeare’ *(These videos are geared more towards Key Stage 3 and 4 but can be used as a quick and easy re-cap of context that you might have forgotten after GCSEs)*

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLcvEcrsF_9zLlzMdnCngerql5CZIRu55m>

* BBC Teach – ‘Women in Shakespeare’

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5HVc_Aj0m9o>

* BBC Teach – ‘Shakespeare’s Male and Female Characters’

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fObb3MbUcCQ>

**Podcasts:**

* **‘Shakespeare Sessions’** series by Radio 3

*(‘Shakespeare For and Against’ and ‘Looking for the Moor’ are particularly good episodes for studying Othello)*

* **‘Approaching Shakespeare’** series by Oxford University

**Misc:**

* The Cadbury Research Library at the University of Birmingham is home to an impressive range of Special Collections of rare and antique books, including a copy of Shakespeare’s First Folio. You can sign up at the university (the Research Library is located on the basement floor of Muirhead Tower) for a free reader’s pass to read and handle these texts.

*For more information about this, e-mail Miss Leigh-Lancaster at k.leigh-lancaster@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk*

Links to Podcasts

<https://www.wnyc.org/story/116129-talk-me-tennessee-williams/>

‘Talk to me Celebrating 100 Years of Tennesse Williams

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b00p8dkb>

Great Lives – Tennessee Williams - BBC4

<https://player.fm/series/the-celebrity-archaeology-podcast-2344707/podcast-episode-62-tennessee-williams>

<http://thedeadauthorspodcast.libsyn.com/chapter-27-tennessee-williams-featuring-kristen-schaal>

<https://www.kmuw.org/post/stage-tennessee-williams>

<https://www.southerngothicmedia.com/>

‘The Southern Gothic’

Youtube Videos

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8IUD7pXgfTw>

Context in Streetcar

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HRxjRhqarW4>

Dependence on Men

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tCdqRtL727E>

Southern Gothic and Streetcar / A Cat on a Hot Tin Roof

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zOs8c7XAW1Y>

Masculinity in Streetcar