

General Introduction

Welcome to your English Literature IGCSE course! This introduction will serve as a guide to what you can expect from the course, and it will show you how to plan your study of this course effectively. So do not just jump straight on to Lesson One!

This coursepack is intended primarily for students aiming to take their examinations in **2023 and later years**.

You and IGCSE English Literature

This course is linked to the 4ET1 IGCSE specification set by the Edexcel examination board. The Edexcel IGCSE in English Literature enables students to:

- engage with and develop the ability to read, understand and respond to a wide range of literary texts from around the world
- develop an appreciation of the ways in which authors achieve their literary effects and to develop the skills needed for literary study
- explore, through literature, the cultures of their own and other societies
- find enjoyment in reading literature and understand its influence on individuals and societies.



The Course

The Oxford Open Learning English Literature IGCSE course is divided into six modules, 23 lessons and 16 Poetry worksheets. It is set out as follows:

Module One: Literary Analysis

Lesson One: Writing about Yourself
Lesson Two: Comparing Different Versions of an Event

Tutor-marked Assignment A

Lesson Three: Imagery and Setting
Lesson Four: Character
Lesson Five: Point of View

Tutor-marked Assignment B

Module Two: Essay Technique

Lesson Six: Persuasion
Lesson Seven: Paragraphing
Lesson Eight: Planning Essays

Tutor-marked Assignment C

Lesson Nine: Argument

Module Three: Steinbeck: *Of Mice and Men*

Lesson Ten: Characters and Characterisation (1)
Lesson Eleven: Characters and Characterisation (2)

Tutor-marked Assignment D

Lesson Twelve: Themes
Lesson Thirteen: Structure and Plot
Lesson Fourteen: Style and Viewpoint

Tutor-marked Assignment E

Glossary

Module Four: Shakespeare: *Romeo and Juliet*

Lesson Fifteen: Studying Shakespeare
Lesson Sixteen: The First Two Acts
Lesson Seventeen: Acts III, IV and V

Tutor-marked Assignment F

Lesson Eighteen: Characters and Themes

Tutor-marked Assignment G

Module Five: Unseen Poetry and the Poetry Anthology

Lesson Nineteen: Analysing Poems

Tutor-marked Assignment H

Anthology Worksheets 1-16

Tutor-marked Assignment I

Module Six: J.B. Priestley: *An Inspector Calls*

Lesson 20: *An Inspector Calls*: the Curtain rises

Lesson 21: Act Two

Lesson 22: Act Three and a Twist in the Tale

Tutor-marked Assignment J

Lesson 23: Review and Revision

Tutor-marked Assignment K

Revision

Tutor-marked Assignment L: Mock Exam Paper 1

Tutor-marked Assignment M: Mock Exam Paper 2

Glossary

Edexcel Poetry Anthology

The course is arranged in this way in order to make it easy to follow. The first two modules are general, introductory modules, designed to ease you gently into the course and to provide you with a solid foundation on which to base your textual studies. Modules Three, Four and Six are on the three examination texts, and each of these contains two tutor-marked assignments which should help you to check your progress. The 5th module is based on the Unseen and Anthology poetry questions in Paper 1 of your exam. The introductory lesson focuses on what you need to do to answer these questions, and the worksheets are designed to help you form your own methodical way of analyzing poems so that you know what is required and how to plan and structure your answer.

You do not have to follow the course in this order. Whatever route you choose to take through the course, you will undoubtedly need to revise each module just before you sit the exam, in order to refresh your memory.

Texts to be studied

We have selected three texts which are on the Edexcel list of alternatives and match the assessment criteria to study on this course. They are as follows:

Prose: John Steinbeck, *Of Mice and Men* (Paper 1, Section C)

Drama: J. B. Priestley, *An Inspector Calls* (Paper 2, Section A)

Heritage (Drama): William Shakespeare, *Romeo and Juliet* (Paper 2, Section B)

Edexcel have nominated specific editions (see Appendix 4 of the specification), and accordingly we recommend:

John Steinbeck, *Of Mice and Men* (Penguin Modern Classics 2000, ISBN: 978-0141185101) (page references are given to this edition in the lessons)

J.B. Priestley, *An Inspector Calls* (Penguin Classics, ISBN: 978-0141185354) (page references are given to this edition in the lessons)

William Shakespeare: *Romeo and Juliet* (OUP, 2008 edition, ISBN-13: 978-0198321668)

You will need to get hold of your own copy of each of these books. For Paper 1, *Of Mice and Men* may not be taken into the exam – it is a closed book exam. However, for Paper 2, *clean* copies of the *prescribed* texts for *An Inspector Calls* and *Romeo and Juliet* may be taken into the exam. Please see the specification for details.

To prepare for the poetry question in Paper 1 Section 2, you will need the *Edexcel Anthology for IGCSE English Language (Specification A)* and *IGCSE English Literature* although for English Literature, you will need **Section 3 only**.

Apart from the literary texts, there is no need to buy any other textbooks. However, although the OOL course is self-contained, it is always a good idea to look at alternative approaches or to gain extra practice. Your local or college library may contain some helpful books.

Examination Structure

There will be two written examination papers (e.g. in Summer 2023):

Paper 1: Poetry and Modern Prose (90 marks)

Paper 2: Modern Drama and Literary Heritage Texts (60 marks)

There is also a coursework alternative to Paper 2 but we will *not* be preparing you for the coursework alternative as this option is designed for the school classroom only. Make sure you specify the non-coursework option when you enter for the exam!

The Structure within each Lesson: How to Study

Front Page

The front page of each lesson shows:

- The title.
- Aim(s) for the lesson. These set out the position that you should reach after working through the lesson; keep these in mind while reading the lesson material.

- Context. This gives a very brief summary and shows how the lesson fits in with the rest of the course.
- Note. This indicates specific reading or writing materials needed for the lesson.


Lesson Notes

There then follow the notes; these present the subject material to be studied in the lesson. Read these through carefully several times until you feel that you have understood the broad outline of the theory involved, and then tackle any reading references.

Activities

For most of this course the work that you will be doing will not be sent to your tutor; it will consist of Activities; these will aid your learning and allow you to check that you are taking in what you have been reading. The important thing to remember is that none of the work that you do in these activities is wasted: all of it will contribute to helping you develop skills, which will later be assessed both in your coursework assignments and in your examination. Your activities will give you necessary practice, and careful work on these will contribute more to your eventual performance and success than any other aspect of the course.

An example of an Activity is shown below:

<p>Activity 7</p>	<p>Is the main speaker in this passage a detached, objective narrator of events? In your answer, you should consider whether this speaker:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presents opinion as if it were fact • Keeps his or her own opinions of people out of the account • Could have witnessed everything that s/he tells • Assumes that the listener will agree with his/her views <p>Decide in what ways this teller is biased, and give examples from the passage.</p>
	

The pencil symbol indicates that you should make your own notes in the space provided (though, of course, you may prefer to make them separately).

Where do I find the Answers to Activities?

This varies. Some Activities do not have answers at all because they are too open-ended and their purpose is that you should produce a response which is personal to you.

However, many Activities do have 'specimen' answers. These are not the *only* 'correct' answers but they may help you to see how you could improve your own work. Some of these specimen answers are to be found immediately following the activity or at the end of the lesson.

You may be tempted to peek at the answer to the activity before you have made a proper attempt at it. This is to be avoided at all costs. You must discipline yourself *not* to read the next section of a lesson until you have done the activity. To help you manage this we have put the activities in boxes. Think of these boxes as red lights; do not approach them until you are ready to give the activity your best shot, and do not pass them until you have completed the activity.

Reading the answers too early will be fatal for a number of reasons. The specimen answer tackles the problem in a certain way, and if you have not made your own attempt yet, you will tend to think that that is the only way to do it. There will be other ways, and it is best if you can find one of your own. Remember that the answer is just a 'specimen' or 'suggested' answer.

Self-Assessment Tests

When you feel that you have mastered the topics and completed the activities, tackle the Self-Assessment Test (there is one at the end of some lessons). The answers to these can be found at the end of each module. Again, do not be tempted to cheat by looking at the answers. This would give you less chance of doing well on the Tutor-marked Assignments and on the coursework.

Tutor-marked Assignments

After every two or three lessons there is a Tutor-marked Assignment. These should be carried out under timed conditions to give you examination practice. These tests will thoroughly check your understanding of the previous few topics or a set book. You should send your answers to these tests to your tutor, who will return your marked script together with a set of suggested answers.

You and Your Tutor

You should note that you must write your name and other details very clearly on your test answers, and that you should ensure that all the sheets of your assignment are firmly attached together. To these you should attach one of the TMA cover slips which are supplied with this course, taking care to fill in the relevant sections (note that some of these will be filled in by your tutor).

When your scripts for the Tutor-marked Assignments are returned, suggested answers will also be sent to you.

The Edexcel Specification 4ET1

This course of lessons will prepare you for the exam-only version of the English Literature IGCSE specification (4ET1) examined by Edexcel.

This is a specification which is open to external/private candidates and it is assumed that you fall in that category.

The examination is not tiered. This means that there are no alternatives for candidates of differing abilities.

Grading: 2018 exams were the first to be graded on the new scale from 9 to 1. 9 is best, 8 is 2nd best, down to the lowest grade of 1. If you do not achieve the standard required for a grade 1, you will be given a U (= Unclassified). For the purposes of further education, a grade 5 at (I)GCSE is generally regarded as the minimum requirement (a “good pass”). This may change as time goes by.

It is a very good idea to get hold of your own copy of the syllabus/specification for the year in which you expect to take the examination. All Edexcel publications (except the learning and teaching resources) can be ordered direct from:

Edexcel Publications,
Adamsway,
Mansfield,
Notts
NG18 4FN

Tel: 01623 467 467

Copies can also be downloaded from the Edexcel website: www.edexcel.com. Make sure you get the right year and the correct issue of the syllabus! Question papers, mark schemes and examiners' reports are also available from www.ool.co.uk/0008elg.

Careful study of these will help you understand what the examiners are looking for.

Some examination centres are offering candidates the opportunity to sit these exams online but it is currently unlikely that external/private candidates will be given that option. So our advice is to expect to take the exams in the 'old-fashioned' way, with pen and paper, rather than online.

The Edexcel 4ET1 Examination Papers

Reading and writing are assessed in the internationally recognised forms of Standard English: either British or American standard forms are acceptable in the students' writing. Spelling must be consistent, whether it follows British or American usage.

Students must take Paper 1 and *either* Paper 2 *or* Paper 3. Paper 3 is an internal assessment (otherwise known as 'coursework') and is not a suitable choice for open learning, distance learning or home schooling. It's assumed that all students of this course will be taking Paper 2, *not* Paper 3. Details of Paper 3 are not given below.

Here are the arrangements for exams in **2023** and later years:

Paper 1: Poetry and Modern Prose

Paper code 4ET1/01, Externally assessed. 2 hrs.
Availability: January and June; First assessment: June 2018.

60% of the total International GCSE

Content summary:

- The **poetry collection** from Part 3 of the *Pearson Edexcel International GCSE English Anthology*.
- One **modern prose text** from the list of set texts.

Aims of Paper 1:

- Develop skills to analyse unseen poetry.
- Develop skills to analyse how language, form, structure and contextual factors can be used to create meanings and effects.
- Develop skills to maintain a critical style and informed personal response.
- Develop comparison skills.

Assessment

Section A – Unseen Poetry: one 20-mark essay question exploring the meaning and effects created in an unseen poem. The poem will be reproduced in the question paper.

Section B – Anthology Poetry: one 30-mark essay question from a choice of two, comparing two poems from Part 3 of the *Pearson Edexcel International GCSE English Anthology*.

Section C – Modern Prose: one 40-mark essay question from a choice of two on each of the set texts.

The total number of marks available is 90 for Paper 1.

The assessment duration is 2 hours.

Paper 1 is ‘closed book’ which means that a copy of the prose text is not allowed to be taken into the examination. However, students will be provided with the anthology poems in the examination.

Students must also complete **either** Paper 2 (written exam) **or** Paper 3 (coursework). *This coursepack caters only for the Paper 2 option.*

Paper 2: Modern Drama and Literary Heritage Texts

Paper code 4ET1/02, Externally assessed. 90 mins.

Availability: January and June; First assessment: June 2018.

40% of the total International GCSE

Content summary

- One **modern drama text** from the list of set texts
- One **literary heritage text** from the list of set texts

Aims of Paper 2:

- Develop skills to analyse how language, form, structure and contextual factors can be used to create meaning and effect.
- Develop skills to maintain a critical style and informed personal response.

Assessment

Section A – Modern Drama: one 30-mark essay question from a choice of two on each of the set texts.

Section B – Literary Heritage Texts: one 30-mark essay question from a choice of two on each of the set texts.

The total number of marks available is 60.

The assessment duration is 1 hour and 30 minutes.

Open book: prescribed editions (only) of set texts are allowed in the Paper 2 examination. If you take a book in, it *must* be unmarked (“clean”).

One modern prose text from the list below must be chosen for Paper 1, Section C (our choice is in bold print):

To Kill a Mockingbird, Harper Lee
Of Mice and Men, John Steinbeck
The Whale Rider, Witi Ihimaera
The Joy Luck Club, Amy Tan
Things Fall Apart, Chinua Achebe

For Paper 2, Section A, one modern drama text from the list below must be selected:

A View from the Bridge, Arthur Miller
An Inspector Calls, J B Priestley
The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time, Mark Haddon
(adapted by Simon Stephens)
Kindertransport, Diane Samuels
Death and the King’s Horseman, Wole Soyinka

For Paper 2, Section B, one literary heritage text from the list below must be selected:

Romeo and Juliet, William Shakespeare
Macbeth, William Shakespeare
The Merchant of Venice, William Shakespeare
Pride and Prejudice, Jane Austen
Great Expectations, Charles Dickens
The Scarlet Letter, Nathaniel Hawthorne

No supporting material or tutor support is available for alternative choices.

The Unseen Poem (Paper 1, Section A)

One question will be set on an unseen poem not in the anthology. The poem will be printed in the examination paper. Students only need to answer **one** question but there is no choice of question.

When planning an answer for the unseen poem, students should consider the following:

- imagery
- descriptive skills
- language choice
- tone and mood
- structure and form.

Anthology Poems

Candidates will answer one question in which they write about **two** poems from Section 3 of the Anthology.

There will be a choice between two questions (Q2 and Q3).

- One question will name two poems.
- One question will name one poem; the second poem will be selected by the student.

There is no need to decide at this stage which of these two alternatives you will choose in the exam.

Contents of Section 3 — *Edexcel Anthology for IGCSE English Language (Specification A) and IGCSE English Literature*

If — Rudyard Kipling
Prayer Before Birth — Louis Macneice
Half-past Two — U. A. Fanthorpe
Piano — D H Lawrence
Hide and Seek — Vernon Scannell
Sonnet 116 ('*Let me not to the marriage ...*') — Shakespeare
La Belle Dame Sans Merci — John Keats
Poem at Thirty-Nine — Alice Walker
Blessing — Imtiaz Dharker (from 2018)
Search For My Tongue — Sujata Bhatt (from 2018)
War Photographer — Carol Ann Duffy
The Tyger — William Blake
My Last Duchess — Robert Browning
Half-caste — John Agard
Do Not Go Gentle into That Good Night — Dylan Thomas
Remember — Christina Rossetti

Information on the Anthology

Students are not permitted to take copies of the *Edexcel Anthology for IGCSE English Language (Specification A) and IGCSE English Literature* into the examination with them. All poems from Section 3 of the anthology will be printed in a poetry booklet as an insert to the examination paper.

You *may* find that it is possible to download the poetry anthology from the Edexcel website – please check for the latest information. All the poems may be located via (e.g.) Google, if necessary.

Edexcel Assessment Objectives and Weightings

AO1	Demonstrate a close knowledge and understanding of texts, maintaining a critical style and presenting an informed personal engagement	30%
AO2	Analyse the language, form and structure used by a writer to create meanings and effects	40%
AO3	Explore links and connections between texts	10%
AO4	Show understanding of the relationships between texts and the contexts in which they were written	20%

Do not worry if this all seems a bit daunting at the moment. This course is designed to help you to achieve these aims, and by the end of the course they should come as second nature!

Using the Internet

All students would benefit from access to the Internet. You will find a wealth of information on all the topics in your course. As well as the Edexcel website (www.edexcel.com), you should get into the habit of checking the Oxford Open Learning site (www.ool.co.uk) where you may find news, additional resources and interactive features as time goes by.

And finally...

Good luck!

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