



English Literature Topic Lists for Revision

Subject: English Literature

Topic or component: Core (compulsory) paper

Section A - Shakespeare

- Social, Historical & Cultural Context - how did this influence Shakespeare's writing?
- Key characters - how they fit into the plot, personality traits.
- The structure of the play and how what happens at the beginning influences the ending.
- The language of the play and how the dialogue reflects the characters' emotions.
- Use the key words from the question throughout your answer and refer to the writer as the creator of these characters and their situations.
- Analyse the methods used by the writer in the extract and demonstrate your subject knowledge. How does the extract fit into the play as a whole? Remember to comment on the extract and the rest of the play.
- Write your answer as an essay. Open with a clear introduction followed by a line of enquiry of at least three paragraphs of analysis demonstrating subject knowledge (key vocabulary as well as knowledge of the play) concluding with a final paragraph which summarises your argument and fully answers the question.

Section B - Unseen Poetry

- Use the key words from the question throughout your answer.
- Analyse the methods used by the writer of the first poem and demonstrate your subject knowledge.
- Write your answer as an essay. Open with a clear introduction followed by a line of enquiry of at least three paragraphs of analysis demonstrating your knowledge of how poets use form, structure and language to convey meaning before concluding with a final paragraph which summarises your argument and fully answers the question.
- Remember that the second question does not require you to provide an in-depth analysis as it is only worth 8 marks. It does, however, require you to make connections between the two poems regarding the writers' thoughts and feelings and how these have been expressed in the methods they have deliberately used to create an effect on the reader.

Subject: English Literature

Topic or component: 19th Century Prose and Poetry Past and Present

19th Century Prose

- Social, Historical & Cultural Context - how did this influence the writing?
- Key characters - how they fit into the plot, personality traits.
- The structure of the novel and how what happens at the beginning influences the ending.
- The language of the novel and how this influences the reader's understanding.
- Use the key words from the question throughout your answer and refer to the writer as the creator of these characters and their situations.
- Analyse the methods used by the writer in the extract and demonstrate your subject knowledge. How does the extract fit into the novel as a whole? Remember to comment on the extract and the rest of the novel.
- Write your answer as an essay. Open with a clear introduction followed by a line of enquiry of at least three paragraphs of analysis demonstrating subject knowledge (key vocabulary as well as knowledge of the novel) concluding with a final paragraph which summarises your argument and fully answers the question.

Poetry Past and Present

- Social, Historical & Cultural Context - how did this influence the writing of every poem in the cluster?
- Summarise what each of the poems is about, the themes explored and how they fit into the title of the cluster.
- Make connections between the poems in terms of themes and methods used.
- The language of the poems and how this influences the reader's understanding of the poets' attitude to the subject matter of each poem.
- Use the key words from the question throughout your answer and refer to the poets as the creators of these events, characters and their situations.
- Analyse the methods used by the writer of the poem printed on the exam paper and demonstrate your subject knowledge.
- Write your answer as an essay. Open with a clear introduction followed by a line of enquiry of at least three paragraphs of analysis demonstrating your knowledge of how poets use form, structure and language to convey meaning before concluding with a final paragraph which summarises your argument and fully answers the question.

Strategies and Resources for Revision:

- Practise using a range of poetry and song lyrics that you have not previously studied.
- Read past examination papers on the AQA website and on Teams.