



## English Literature Curriculum Overview - Year 12 - Teacher A

|               | Unit  | Details   |
|---------------|---|---|
| Autumn<br>One | <b>Introduction to Women in Literature</b>    | For as long as men and women have been writing, their texts have rendered problematic the relative status of the genders and the relation between them. Pupils will study the concept of 'feminism' to discover that it is not a modern invention. As modern readers, pupils will study and analyse extracts provided to show them that the concept of a unified or static 'Feminism' is ideologically and intellectually unsustainable. Pupils will be encouraged to read widely with a set of recommended texts to support their knowledge and understanding and enhance their contextual knowledge in preparation for the final examination. |
| Autumn<br>Two | <b>'Mrs Dalloway' and Virginia Woolf</b>      | Pupils will study 'Mrs Dalloway', a novel by Virginia Woolf that details a day in the life of Clarissa Dalloway, an upper class woman, in post-World War One London. The novel's working title was The Hours. It was published by the Hogarth Press, a publishing house founded in 1917 by Virginia and Leonard Woolf, and came out 'to much acclaim, public and private', according to Woolf's biographer Hermione Lee. The novel will be studied alongside 'The Bell Jar', to use as a comparative text in the examination of this component.   |
| Spring<br>One | <b>'Mrs Dalloway' and Modernism</b>           | 'Mrs Dalloway' registers the sense of change that followed the period of time after WW1, which in modern literary terms, welcomes the individual. What comes with a sense of being an individual, is a sense of separateness and uniqueness, explored by Woolf through the stream of consciousness narration, creating internal monologues across multiple characters' perspectives in the novel.   |
| Spring<br>Two | <b>'The Bell Jar' and Sylvia Plath</b>        | Pupils will study the only novel by the poet Sylvia Plath, The Bell Jar, which was originally published under the pseudonym Victoria Lucas. The novel is considered to be semi-autobiographical. Plath took her own life a month after The Bell Jar's first United Kingdom publication. The novel was published under Plath's name for the first time in 1967 and was not published in the United States until 1971, in accordance with the wishes of both Plath's husband, Ted Hughes, and her mother.   |
| Summer<br>One | <b>'The Bell Jar' and confessional poetry</b> | Plath's poetry is commonly identified with the confessional movement: confessional poetry concentrates on extreme moments of individuals, their private experiences, and their psyche. Plath also explores extreme emotions for the protagonist Esther Greenwood in her novel 'The Bell Jar', which is largely an autobiographical text. Though Plath is regarded as a confessional poet, the feminist issues she addresses should not be neglected. Plath redefined the expectations of women and tried something different: through her work, she represents a defiant and educated female voice in a male-dominated culture.                 |
| Summer<br>Two | <b>Comparative and Contextual Skills</b>      | Pupils will learn to compose essays comparing the two whole texts we have studied: 'Mrs Dalloway' and 'The Bell Jar'. This part of the course concentrates on demonstrating understanding of the social and historical context in which the texts were written, including the key literary theories of feminism and modernism. Pupils will be encouraged to explore connections between these texts and their wider reading in order to produce articulate thesis arguments that consider alternate interpretations.  |