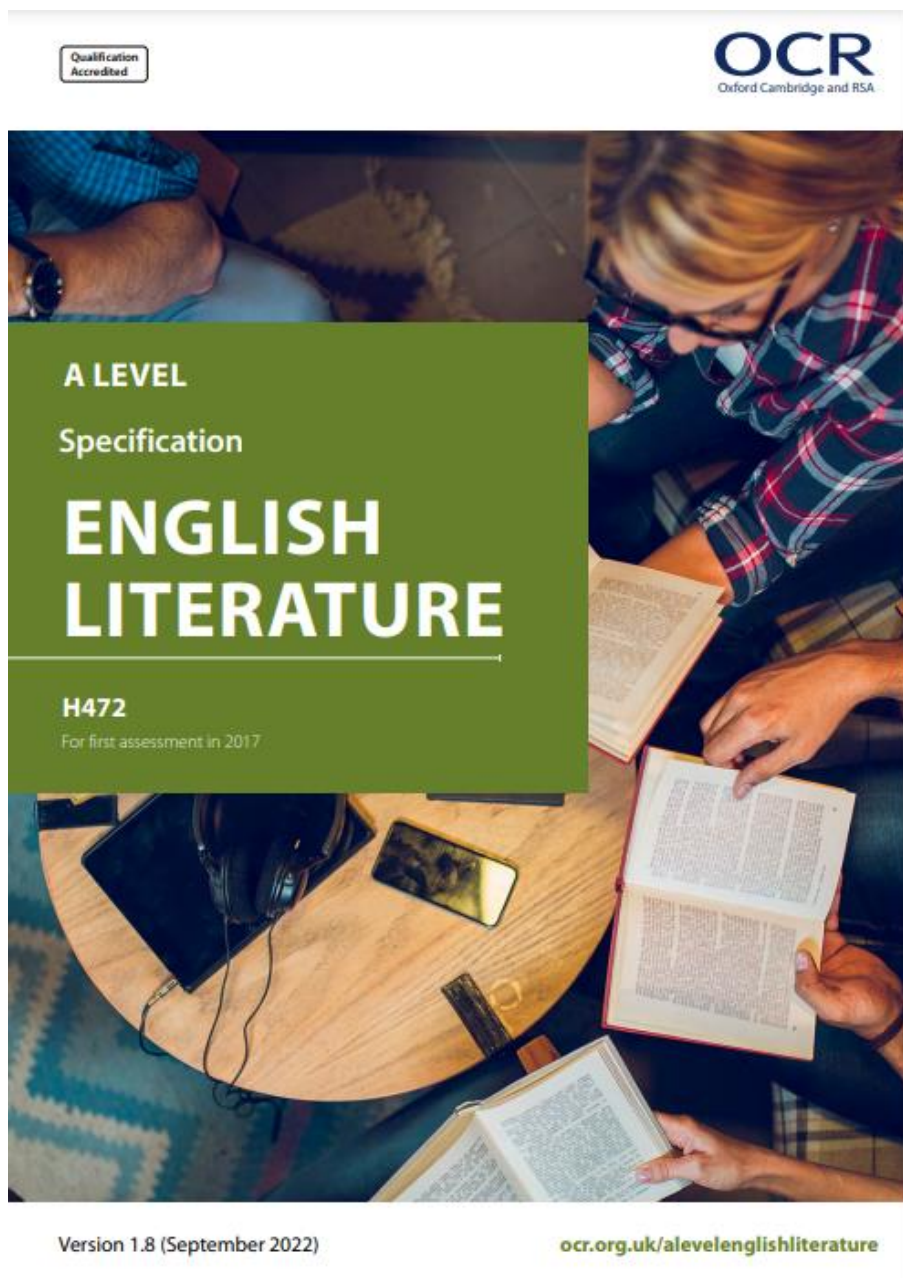


# ENGLISH LITERATURE

OCR English Literature, H472

[OCR English Literature Course Specification](#)



# Transition to Sixth Form:



## Sixth Form Study

You are likely to study 3 subjects at Bolder Sixth form. Each subject will have six lessons per week. You can expect to engage in a wider range of learning strategies in lessons as well as independently. These could be anything from:

- Making and organising presentations.
- Seminar style reading and group work.
- Use of debate, discussion-based learning, TED-talks, and documentaries.
- Wider reading outside of lesson hours.
- Extended 1-1 practice of practical or experimental work.
- Flip learning – learning in your own time and presenting what you have found to the class.

## Independent Study

A Levels and Applied Qualifications will require more study to be completed by you independently rather than with a teacher. At Bolder we recommend that you spend the same time studying outside of lessons as you do in lessons. Therefore, if you have 6 hours of Biology per week, this means that 6 hours should be spent revisiting notes, revising content, completing practice questions outside of the classroom each week also.

This pack will support you with starting to practice independent study over the summer period which will help you understand what works best for you.

## What do you need to complete?

Over the summer it is expected that you engage with this transition booklet to support with your movement into A level Biology.

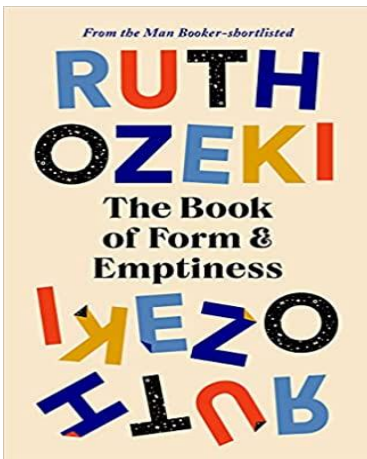
## You must make a total of 200 credits through the summer.

The points for each task are outlined below:

1. Engaging with a recommended book and writing a summary – 100 credits.
2. Completing a task from 'Getting ahead' – 50 credits.
3. Research activities – 25 credits.
4. Documentaries and Ted talks – 25 credits.
5. Completing a day trip with photo evidence and written summary – 100 credits.

You can decide what combination of tasks to complete, but this must add up to 200 credits. These must also be evidenced on your return in September.

## Book recommendations:

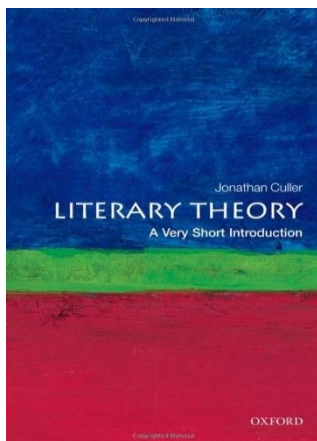
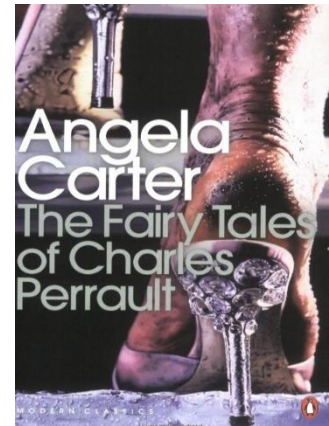


*"And then, when she's finished and the book ventures out into the world, the readers take their turn, and here another kind of comingling occurs. Because the reader is not a passive receptacle for a book's contents. Not at all. You are our collaborators, our conspirators, breathing new life into us."*

Have you ever wondered what a book would tell you if it could? As well as being a novel, this book sets out the philosophy of English Literature: that it is not just the author, but the reader that creates the experience of the novel.

Before she wrote 'The Bloody Chamber', which is one of your set texts, Angela Carter translated this collection of fairy tales from their original French.

Many of them then provided inspiration for the gothic retellings of 'The Bloody Chamber'.

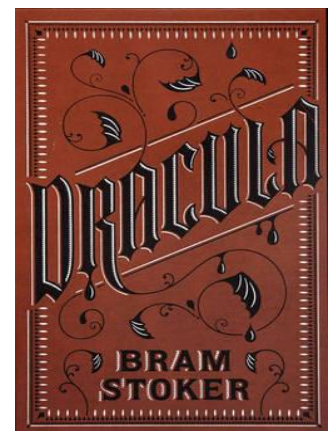


English Literature at A Level is distinct from GCSE because of its focus on literary theory.

Start to get ahead with some of the main ideas put forward by theorists in a short and manageable format.

To get you into the spirit of the gothic, nothing beats the classic vampire story!

No film or television adaptation is quite the same, so you might think you know the story, but perhaps it's time to think again.



*Additional English Literature reading list to support your wider reading (texts in **bold** are your set texts):*

**Frankenstein - 1834 version** (Mary Shelley) **The Bloody Chamber** (Angela Carter) **Twelfth Night** (William Shakespeare)  
**A Doll's House** (Henrik Ibsen) Rebecca (Daphne du Maurier) The Picture of Dorian Grey (Oscar Wilde)  
The Wasp Factory (Iain Banks) The Fall of the House of Usher (Edgar Allen Poe) Wuthering Heights (Emily Bronte)  
Jane Eyre (Charlotte Bronte) Mansfield Park (Jane Austen) Northanger Abbey (Jane Austen)  
Great Expectations (Charles Dickens) The Castle of Otranto (Horace Walpole) The Turn of the Screw (Henry James)  
The Haunting of Hill House (Shirley Jackson) The Italian (Ann Radcliffe) Outer Dark (Cormac McCarthy)

# Getting ahead!

When studying English Literature for A Level, you need to go beyond your GCSE understanding of reading texts. The tasks below will help you with this.

## Engaging with Literary Theory

[Summary of Feminist Literary Theory](#)

[Overview of Marxist Literary Theory \(including video\)](#)

[Global Journals Introduction to Psychoanalytical Theory in English Literature](#)

Task: For A level English Literature you will need to engage with literary theory. Read the links above, and then choose one of the texts below. Write an essay exploring how a feminist, Marxist or psychoanalytical theorist would respond to the text.

1. An Inspector Calls
2. Macbeth
3. The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde
4. Dracula (if you have chosen this one from the reading list)

*While you will already have studied most of these texts, you are not analysing them using GCSE skills – you are applying A Level theory to the texts.*

## Unseen Extract Analysis

[How to Approach Unseen Extracts from OCR - YouTube](#)

[Extract from 'Rebecca' by Daphne du Maurier](#)

Task: Watch the video in the first link, and then produce a 1-page close analysis of the extract above. You should explore:

1. Any methods used by the writer to create meaning, including the effect.
2. Interpretations of the extract as informed by critical theory (see the first topic above).

## Recreative Writing

['Executive' by John Betjeman](#)

['In Westminster Abbey' by John Betjeman](#)

['How To Get On In Society' by John Betjeman](#)

Task: A recreative task involves reading the style of a writer, and showing your understanding of their methods by creating your own version of a piece of writing in their style. Read the poems by John Betjeman above, and then attempt to create the following:

1. Your own Betjeman-style poem
2. An accompanying commentary of your own writing, identifying the methods you have used and how they mimic classic Betjeman methods

*Starting point: all three of the poems in the links above gently mock the character who is speaking. Think of a stereotypical person that you could caricature, and apply Betjeman's style to a poem about them.*

## The Gothic

[The twisting tale of DNA - Judith Hauck | TED-Ed](#)

[Where do genes come from? - Carl Zimmer | TED-Ed](#)

[DNA Structure | A-level Biology | OCR, AQA, Edexcel - YouTube](#)

Task: Produce a wall display that explores key conventions of Gothic literature. You should consider the literary, social and historical development of the Gothic.

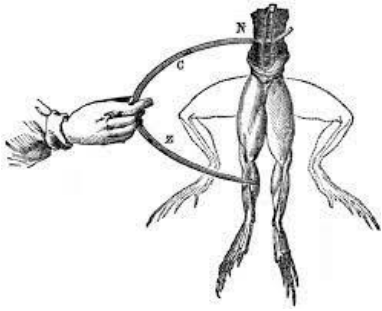
# Research Activities

One of the texts you will study for the Gothic unit is 'Frankenstein'.

While it is a classic Gothic novel, it is also widely considered to be one of the first Science-Fiction novels, and has a rich scientific context, alongside its social and historical context. Complete research into the following categories, producing detailed notes to aid your understanding.

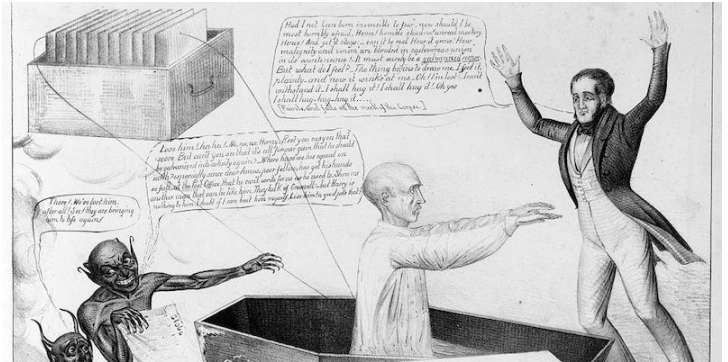
## Luigi Galvani

### *Galvanic Reanimation*



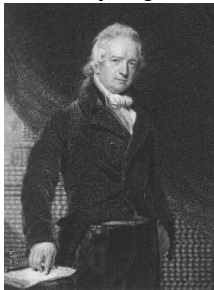
## Goivanni Aldini

### *Public Experimentation*



## The Life Principle

*1814 rifts between scientists who saw life in material terms, and those who maintained a metaphysical belief in the soul*



## Polar Exploration

*19<sup>th</sup> Century expeditions to the North Pole as inspiration for Shelley's Arctic Framework*



## The French Revolution

*1787-1799 portrayal of the public (mob) as a monster*

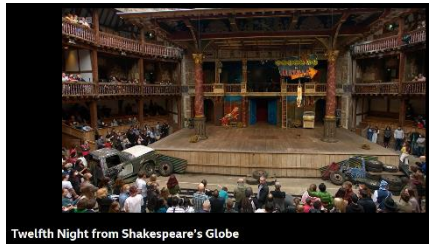




## Romanticism

*Literary movement originating in late 18<sup>th</sup>-century Europe*



## Film, Lecture & Podcast recommendations:

| Film & Documentaries   | Summary  |
|--|--|
|  <p>Twelfth Night from Shakespeare's Globe</p> <p><a href="#">Twelfth Night from Shakespeare's Globe</a></p>                                    | <p>Twelfth Night From The Globe</p> <p>An excellent version of Shakespeare's Twelfth Night, performed at the replica Globe Theatre on London's South Bank.</p> |
|  <p><a href="https://www.bl.uk/romantics-and-victorians/videos/the-gothic">https://www.bl.uk/romantics-and-victorians/videos/the-gothic</a></p> | <p>The Gothic at the British Library</p> <p>A short documentary giving some of the key details of the Gothic.</p>  |
|  <p><a href="#">The Romantics - Nature (BBC documentary) - YouTube</a></p>  | <p>The Romantics - Nature</p> <p>A documentary that links several strands of the Literature course under the umbrella of the Romantics.</p>                    |

### TED Talks

The Danger of a Single Story:  
[Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie - The Danger of a Single Story](#)



The Inspiring Truth in Fiction  
[The Inspiring Truth in Fiction](#)



## Ideas for Day trips and things to do:

### Local to London:

- **Shakespeare's Globe** – have a look at the summer schedule and enjoy some Shakespeare in sunshine:  
<https://www.shakespearesglobe.com/seasons/summer/>
- **The British Library** – make sure you have a look at their Gothic resources:  
<https://www.bl.uk/romantics-and-victorians/themes/the-gothic>
- **Strawberry Hill House** – Horace Walpole's own 'Gothic castle', said to be part of the inspiration for 'The Castle of Otranto', widely considered to be the first Gothic novel:  
<https://www.strawberryhillhouse.org.uk/>
- **Tate Britain** – Rossetti Exhibition:  
<https://www.tate.org.uk/whats-on/tate->



### Further Afield:

- Visit historic (and Gothic!) **Edinburgh** – you might even catch a performance at the Fringe Festival
- Spend some time in **Whitby** – the coastal town that was the landing place of Dracula and the target of his reign of terror
- Have a quintessentially English day out in **Stratford-upon-Avon** – take a trip to the birth place of William Shakespeare
- If you're having a lovely summer in **Cornwall**, then look for the inspiration for some of the more modern Gothic writers, such as Daphne du Maurier
- Be amazed by the **Peak District** – be inspired by the landscapes that have haunted British Gothic writers for centuries!