

Shakespeare: Macbeth

WHY?

The reason that people know Shakespeare's plays is because they have been a part of our culture since they were published in the early seventeenth century. It is important to study Shakespeare because it is a part of popular culture. The greatest reason to study Shakespeare is that there is a reason it is still popular. The stories' themes are timeless and continued to be relevant four centuries after his death. His influence on literature and the English language remains highly significant. It is important to study Shakespeare in order to understand the modern world, indeed to understand people.

The play's main themes—loyalty, guilt, innocence, and fate—all deal with the central idea of ambition and its consequences. Similarly, Shakespeare uses imagery and symbolism to illustrate the concepts of innocence and guilt.

In the exam:

A01 - Read, understand and respond to texts. Students should be able to:

- maintain a critical style and develop an informed personal response
- use textual references, including quotations, to support and illustrate interpretations

A02 - Analyse the language, form and structure used by a writer to create meanings and effects, using relevant subject terminology where appropriate.

A03 - Show understanding of the relationships between texts and the contexts in which they were written.

30 marks

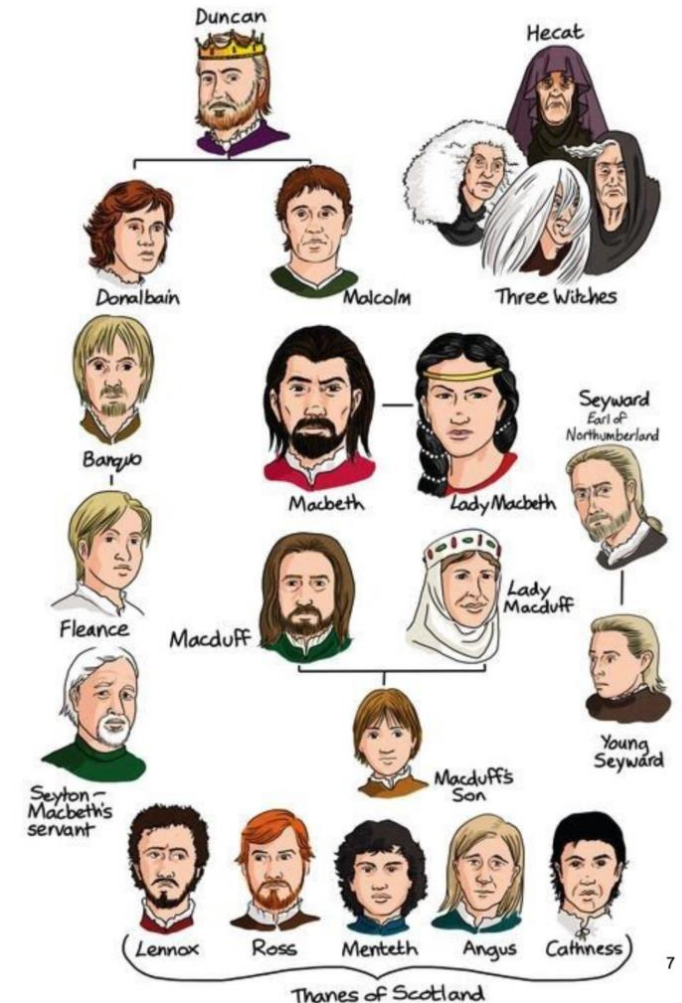
A04 - Use a range of vocabulary and sentence structures for clarity, purpose and effect, with accurate spelling and punctuation.

4 marks

How it fits in:

- The themes of loyalty and guilt link with the other texts we study: An Inspector Calls and A Christmas Carol
- The themes of innocence and loyalty link with The Sign of Four
- The Power and Conflict within the play can draw comparisons to several of our Anthology Poems
- Our development of analytical and inference skills can be applied to our understanding of the language papers and unseen poetry.

Essay Date & Topic	Mark /34



Shakespeare: Romeo and Juliet

WHY?

The reason that people know Shakespeare's plays is because they have been a part of our culture since they were published in the early seventeenth century. It is important to study Shakespeare because it is a part of popular culture. The greatest reason to study Shakespeare is that there is a reason it is still popular. The stories' themes are timeless and continued to be relevant four centuries after his death. His influence on literature and the English language remains highly significant. It is important to study Shakespeare in order to understand the modern world, indeed to understand people.

In the exam:

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- maintain a critical style and develop an informed personal response
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A02 - Analyse the language, form and structure used by a writer to create meanings and effects, using relevant subject terminology where appropriate.

A03 - Show understanding of the relationships between texts and the contexts in which they were written.

30 marks

A04 - Use a range of vocabulary and sentence structures for clarity, purpose and effect, with accurate spelling and punctuation.

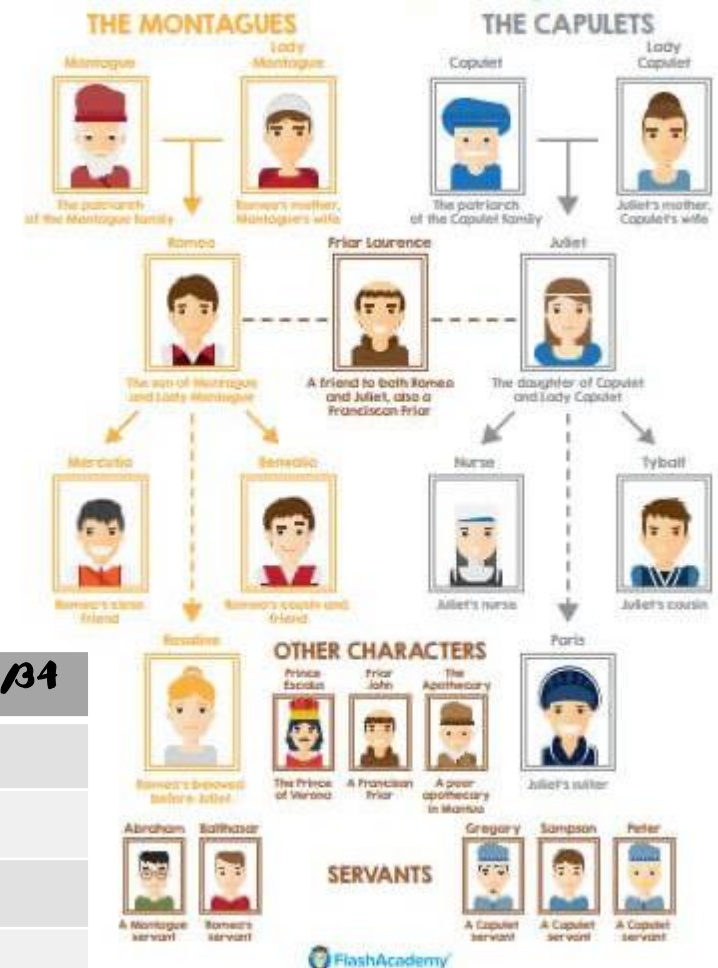
4 marks

The play's main themes—love, conflict and family—All three themes interlink, as Shakespeare wanted to illustrate how love, conflict and family intertwine with one another. He also wanted to show that sometimes, through love, we can also hate. Additionally, religion, fate and destiny play a key role in the narrative.

How it fits in:

- The themes of conflict and family link to the conflicts within a family in An Inspector Calls
- The theme of conflict links with The Sign of Four
- All three themes are evident in A Christmas Carol
- The conflict within the play can draw comparisons to several of our Anthology Poems
- Our development of analytical and inference skills can be applied to our understanding of the language papers and unseen poetry.

Essay Date & Topic	Mark /34



19th Century Novel: A Christmas Carol

WHY?

The simple-but-effective plot makes it perfect for a commentary on society. We may not be living in slums on a wide scale in the UK any longer, but poverty and homelessness are still very much prevalent problems in our day and age. Politicians and corporations rake in millions, meanwhile on every London-street corner you find somebody sleeping rough. The Capital may now be filled with state-of-the-art skyscrapers, but that seems to make it even more ironic that there's such a disparity between the general public and the 1%. **The inequalities observed by Dickens still exist today. As a result, his critiques are still relevant for us to take note of.**

In the exam:

AO1 - Read, understand and respond to texts. Students should be able to:

- maintain a critical style and develop an informed personal response
- use textual references, including quotations, to support and illustrate interpretations

AO2 - Analyse the language, form and structure used by a writer to create meanings and effects, using relevant subject terminology where appropriate.

AO3 - Show understanding of the relationships between texts and the contexts in which they were written.

30 marks

Essay Date & Topic	Mark /30

The main themes— redemption, social injustice, forgiveness and greed—There are many themes running through Dickens's famous novella, not least of all Christmas! In this story of a miserly man, we are presented with ideas of greed, forgiveness and tricky concepts of time, as well as themes of generosity and compassion.

How it fits in:

- The themes of social injustice, greed and forgiveness link seamlessly with An Inspector Calls
- The theme of greed is integral to the narrative of Macbeth
- The power and conflict dynamic within the text can draw comparisons to several of our Anthology Poems
- Contextually, it precedes An Inspector Calls, offering an insight into almost a century of British history
- Our development of analytical and inference skills can be applied to our understanding of the language papers and unseen poetry.



19th Century Novel: The Sign of Four

WHY?

This novel not only establishes the magic of the Holmes myth but also provides the reader with a dramatic adventure yarn which ranges from the foggy, gas-lit streets of London to the burning plains of Utah. The Sign of the Four, the second Holmes novel, presents the detective with one of his greatest challenges.

In the exam:

A01 - Read, understand and respond to texts. Students should be able to:

- maintain a critical style and develop an informed personal response
- use textual references, including quotations, to support and illustrate interpretations

A02 - Analyse the language, form and structure used by a writer to create meanings and effects, using relevant subject terminology where appropriate.

A03 - Show understanding of the relationships between texts and the contexts in which they were written.

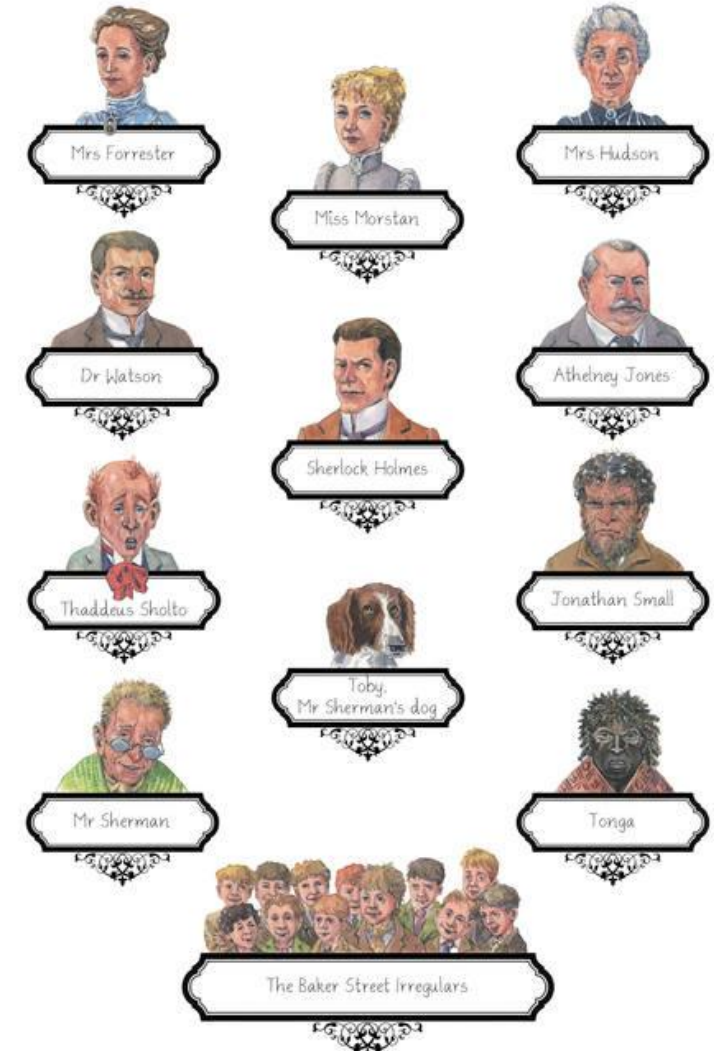
30 marks

Essay Date & Topic	Mark /30

The main themes—evil and justice, Victorian fear, empire and imperialism—The main ideas in a text are called themes. In The Sign of the Four the themes are evil and justice, Victorian fear, empire and imperialism. Conan Doyle also deals with betrayal and greed.

How it fits in:

- The themes of greed and justice link with An Inspector Calls
- The theme of greed is integral to the narrative of Macbeth
- The moral and legal conflict in the text can draw comparisons to several of our Anthology Poems
- Contextually, it precedes An Inspector Calls, offering an insight into almost a century of British history
- Our development of analytical and inference skills can be applied to our understanding of the language papers and unseen poetry.



Modern Drama: An Inspector Calls

WHY?

J B Priestley's play *An Inspector Calls*, first performed in 1945, is a morality play disguised as a detective thriller. The morality play is a very old theatrical form, going back to the medieval period, which sought to instruct audiences about virtue and evil. Priestley's play revolves around a central mystery, the death of a young woman, but whereas a traditional detective story involves the narrowing down of suspects from several to one, *An Inspector Calls* inverts this process as, one by one, nearly all the characters in the play are found to be guilty. In this way, Priestley makes his larger point that society is guilty of neglecting and abusing its most vulnerable members. A just society, he states through his mysterious Inspector, is one that respects and exercises social responsibility.

In the exam:

AO1 - Read, understand and respond to texts. Students should be able to:

- maintain a critical style and develop an informed personal response
- use textual references, including quotations, to support and illustrate interpretations

AO2 - Analyse the language, form and structure used by a writer to create meanings and effects, using relevant subject terminology where appropriate.

AO3 - Show understanding of the relationships between texts and the contexts in which they were written.

30 marks

AO4 - Use a range of vocabulary and sentence structures for clarity, purpose and effect, with accurate spelling and punctuation.

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The main themes—The consequences of the Birlings' actions highlight Priestley's ideas on social responsibility - do we look after one another in society? The difference between the younger and older characters' reactions to Eva Smith's death shows how Priestley viewed different generations. He viewed the younger generation as hope for the future and this is why both Sheila and Eric learn a lesson from the Inspector. How the male characters behave towards the females in the play highlights important points on gender and inequality. Class issues are also dealt with by having a middle-class family involved in the death of a working-class girl. J B Priestley explored these themes in a lot of his work. They are political in nature and are still relevant today.

How it fits in:

- The themes of greed and justice link with *The Sign of Four*
- The themes of social injustice and greed are paramount in *A Christmas Carol*
- The theme of greed is integral to the narrative of *Macbeth*
- The moral conflict and power in the play can draw comparisons to several of our Anthology Poems
- Our development of analytical and inference skills can be applied to our understanding of the language papers and unseen poetry.



Arthur Birling
Father and owner of Birling and Company.



Sybil Birling
Mother and wife of Arthur Birling.



Sheila Birling
Eldest child and daughter of Birling family. Engaged to Gerald Croft.



Eric Birling
Son and youngest of the two Birling children. A very shy man.



Edna
Maid of the Birling household.



Gerald Croft
Engaged to Sheila Birling. His father owns Crofts Limited, a rival company to Birling's.



Inspector Goole
A mysterious man who questions each member of the Birling family in relation to Eva Smith's death.



Eva Smith
A young woman who unfortunately commits suicide. Her death unravels events and secrets amongst the Birling family.

Poetry: Power and Conflict

WHY?

This unit teaches the cluster of poetry for GCSE literature. We study the Power & Conflict Cluster in the AQA anthology. Students learn about the power of humans and nature. There are 15 poems in total and students must know key quotations, the structure and form of each one in preparation for the exam in which students compare two. Many themes, no matter how old the poem, are still integral to today's society and many poems teach a valuable life lesson – whether that be compassion, courage or endeavour.

The main themes—As the cluster title suggests, the main themes are power and conflict. These themes are explored through nature, humanity, guilt, memory and time. Each poem offers a valuable insight into a key moment in history and/or society.

In the exam:

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Key terminology taught:

- Assonance
- Caesura
- Dialect
- Enjambment
- Extended metaphor
- Form
- Rhyme and half rhyme
- Imagery
- Rhythm
- Sibilance
- Stanza
- Symbolism
- Verse

How it fits in:

- Power and conflict are both evident in Macbeth's greed and determination
- The conflict between families is clear in Romeo and Juliet
- The themes of social power and moral conflict are seen in both A Christmas Carol and An Inspector Calls
- Mental conflict is an integral theme in The Sign of Four
- Our development of analytical and inference skills can be applied to our understanding of the language papers and unseen poetry.

	Power of Nature	Power of Humans	Divided Society	Guilt	Loss/ Absence/ Death	Patriotism	Impact of war	Those left behind/ family	On the Front Line	Art/ Culture
Exposure	X					X	X		X	
Bayonet Charge					X	X	X		X	
The Emigree	X				X	X	X	X		X
Poppies					X	X	X	X	X	
My Last Duchess		X	X				X			X
Storm on the Island	X					X	X			
Ozymandias		X								X
Remains					X	X	X		X	
Kamikaze	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Checking Out Me History			X			X				X
London		X		X		X				
Charge of the Light Brigade		X			X	X	X		X	
Extract from the Prelude	X	X				X				
Tissue	X	X								X
War Photographer				X	X		X			X