

between the lines

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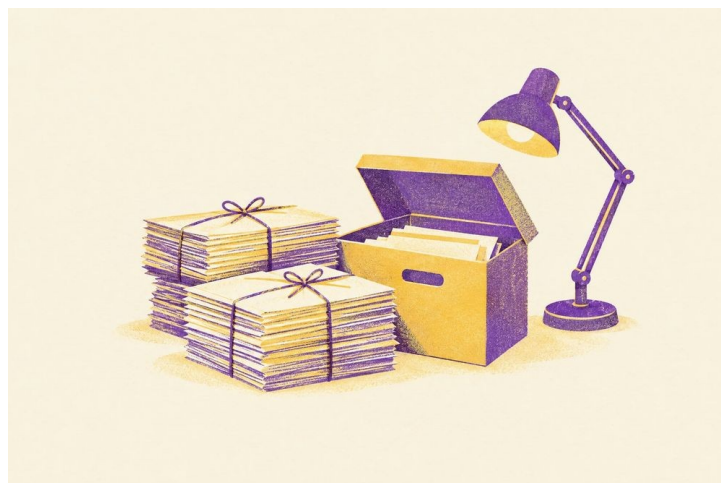
AQA Literature Paper 1 past questions

GCSE English Literature (8702), 2017 to 2025

Section A: Shakespeare. Section B: The 19th-century novel

117 questions, by section, then text, then exam series

Written for the AQA specification



About this list

We do not make predictions. Any part of a text can come up, so use this list to practise, not to guess. A question that has appeared before can appear again.

This is an overview of the questions, extracts and named poems AQA has set for GCSE English Literature (8702) in every exam series since the specification was first examined in 2017. Series covered: June 2017, June 2018, June 2019, November 2020, November 2021, June 2022, June 2023, June 2024, June 2025. No summer exams were sat in 2020 or 2021; the papers written for those summers were sat in the November 2020 and November 2021 series instead. There are no other November series for this specification. In November 2021 and June 2022 the papers were rearranged: Shakespeare moved to Paper 2 alongside unseen poetry, and the 19th-century novel, modern texts and poetry anthology each had their own paper (8702/1N, 1M and 1P). Questions from those series are listed under the section where the text normally sits, with a note. Question wording is copied from the printed paper up to the 'Write about' bullet points. Extract details give the location as AQA printed it (AQA calls the staves of A Christmas Carol 'chapters'; this listing uses 'Stave'), a one-line description of the moment and the opening words only. The Shakespeare and modern text questions on Paper 1 Section A and Paper 2 Section A also carry 4 marks for AO4 (spelling, punctuation and grammar), except on the adapted 1M paper in 2021 and 2022.

Paper and section	What it covers	What the questions look like
Paper 1, Section A	Shakespeare	Extract-based: one question per play, starting with a printed extract and then the play as a whole.
Paper 1, Section B	The 19th-century novel	Extract-based: one question per novel, starting with a printed extract and then the novel as a whole.



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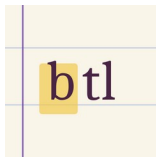
LITERATURE PAPER 1 • SECTION A

Paper 1, Section A: Shakespeare

Extract-based: one question per play, starting with a printed extract and then the play as a whole.

Macbeth: the questions

Series	Focus	Question	Extract or poem
June 2017	Ambition	Starting with this speech, explore how Shakespeare presents ambition in Macbeth.	Act 1 Scene 5: Lady Macbeth has just read Macbeth's letter about his meeting with the witches. Opens: "Glamis thou art, and Cawdor, and shalt be"
June 2018	Macbeth and Banquo's attitudes to the supernatural	Starting with this moment in the play, explore how Shakespeare presents the attitudes of Macbeth and Banquo towards the supernatural.	Act 1 Scene 3: After the witches' prophecies, Macbeth and Banquo have just learnt Macbeth is Thane of Cawdor. Opens: "But 'tis strange"
June 2019	How far Macbeth is a violent character	Starting with this speech, explore how far Shakespeare presents Macbeth as a violent character.	Act 1 Scene 2: The Captain tells Duncan about Macbeth's part in the battle. Opens: "Doubtful it stood"
November 2020	Lady Macbeth as a female character who changes	'Lady Macbeth is a female character who changes during the play.' Starting with this moment in the play, explore how far you agree with this view. <i>This paper was written for June 2020 (cancelled because of Covid-19) and was sat in the November 2020 series.</i>	Act 5 Scene 1: The Doctor and the Gentlewoman watch Lady Macbeth sleepwalking. Opens: "Out, damned spot! Out, I say!"
November 2021	The relationship between Macbeth and Lady Macbeth	Starting with this conversation, explore how Shakespeare presents the relationship between Macbeth and Lady Macbeth. <i>Papers written for June 2021 (cancelled) and sat in November 2021, in an adapted structure: Shakespeare appeared on Paper 2 ('Shakespeare and unseen poetry'), not Paper 1.</i>	Act 2 Scene 2: Macbeth has murdered Duncan and returns to Lady Macbeth. Opens: "Methought I heard a voice cry, 'Sleep no more:'"
June 2022	Macbeth's fears	Starting with this speech, explore how Shakespeare presents Macbeth's fears. <i>June 2022 used an adapted structure: Shakespeare appeared on Paper 2 ('Shakespeare and unseen poetry'), not Paper 1.</i>	Act 3 Scene 1: Macbeth thinks about his feelings towards Banquo (soliloquy). Opens: "To be thus is nothing"
June 2023	How far Macbeth is a male character who changes	Starting with this conversation, explore how far Shakespeare presents Macbeth as a male character who changes during the play.	Act 5 Scene 3: The English army approaches and Macbeth asks the Doctor about Lady Macbeth. Opens: "Seyton! – I am sick at heart"
June 2024	How far Lady Macbeth is a strong female character	Starting with this conversation, explore how far Shakespeare presents Lady Macbeth as a strong female character.	Act 1 Scene 7: Macbeth has decided not to go ahead with murdering Duncan; Lady Macbeth challenges him. Opens: "Was the hope drunk / Wherein you dressed yourself?"



Series	Focus	Question	Extract or poem
June 2025	How far Macbeth is an ambitious character	Starting with this speech, explore how far Shakespeare presents Macbeth as an ambitious character.	Act 1 Scene 7: Macbeth is alone, thinking about the plan to murder Duncan (soliloquy). Opens: "If it were done when 'tis done, then 'twere well"

Romeo and Juliet: the questions

Series	Focus	Question	Extract or poem
June 2017	Aggressive male behaviour	Starting with this conversation, explore how Shakespeare presents aggressive male behaviour in Romeo and Juliet.	Act 1 Scene 1: Capulet servants meet Montague servants and a fight is about to start. Opens: "My naked weapon is out. Quarrel, I will back thee"
June 2018	Relationships between adults and young people	Starting with this moment in the play, explore how Shakespeare presents relationships between adults and young people in Romeo and Juliet.	Act 3 Scene 5: Juliet has just been told she must marry Paris. Opens: "How now, wife, / Have you delivered to her our decree?"
June 2019	The relationship between Romeo and Juliet	Starting with this conversation, explore how Shakespeare presents the relationship between Romeo and Juliet.	Act 1 Scene 5: Romeo and Juliet meet for the first time at the Capulet house. Opens: "If I profane with my unworthiest hand"
November 2020	Effects of the family conflict	Starting with this speech, explore how Shakespeare presents the effects of the conflict between the Capulet and Montague families. <i>This paper was written for June 2020 (cancelled because of Covid-19) and was sat in the November 2020 series.</i>	Act 1 Scene 1: The Prince arrives to stop the fight in the centre of Verona. Opens: "Rebellious subjects, enemies to peace"
November 2021	How far Juliet is a female character with strong emotions	Starting with this conversation, explore how far Shakespeare presents Juliet as a female character with strong emotions. <i>Papers written for June 2021 (cancelled) and sat in November 2021, in an adapted structure: Shakespeare appeared on Paper 2 ('Shakespeare and unseen poetry'), not Paper 1.</i>	Act 3 Scene 2: The Nurse has told Juliet that Romeo has killed Tybalt and been banished. Opens: "O serpent heart, hid with a flow'ring face!"
June 2022	Romeo's feelings towards Juliet	Starting with this speech, explore how Shakespeare presents Romeo's feelings towards Juliet. <i>June 2022 used an adapted structure: Shakespeare appeared on Paper 2 ('Shakespeare and unseen poetry'), not Paper 1.</i>	Act 2 Scene 2: Romeo is in the Capulets' orchard beneath Juliet's window. Opens: "But soft, what light through yonder window breaks?"
June 2023	Juliet's feelings towards Romeo	Starting with this speech, explore how Shakespeare presents Juliet's feelings towards Romeo in Romeo and Juliet.	Act 3 Scene 2: Juliet reacts to the news of Tybalt's death and Romeo's banishment. Opens: "Shall I speak ill of him that is my husband?"
June 2024	Difficulties faced by Juliet	Starting with this speech, explore how Shakespeare presents the difficulties faced by Juliet in Romeo and Juliet.	Act 2 Scene 5: Juliet waits for the Nurse to return with news from Romeo. Opens: "The clock struck nine when I did send the Nurse"
June 2025	Relationships between parents and children	Starting with this moment in the play, explore how Shakespeare presents relationships between parents and children in Romeo and Juliet.	Act 3 Scene 5: Capulet is furious that Juliet has refused to marry Paris. Opens: "God's bread, it makes me mad!"

The Tempest: the questions

Series	Focus	Question	Extract or poem
June 2017	How far Ariel is a loyal servant	Starting with this moment in the play, explore how far Shakespeare presents Ariel as a loyal servant to Prospero in <i>The Tempest</i> .	Act 1 Scene 2: Prospero has sent for Ariel and asks about the storm. Opens: "All hail, great master, grave sir, hail!"
June 2018	Miranda and Ferdinand's romance	Starting with this conversation, explore how Shakespeare presents the romantic relationship between Miranda and Ferdinand.	Act 3 Scene 1: Ferdinand has been put to work by Prospero and Miranda comes to help. Opens: "I do not know / One of my sex"
June 2019	Revenge	Starting with this speech, explore how Shakespeare presents ideas about revenge in <i>The Tempest</i> .	Act 3 Scene 2: Caliban tells Stephano and Trinculo his plan to murder Prospero. Opens: "Why, as I told thee, 'tis a custom with him"
November 2020	Power and control	Starting with this speech, explore how Shakespeare presents ideas about power and control. <i>This paper was written for June 2020 (cancelled because of Covid-19) and was sat in the November 2020 series.</i>	Act 5 Scene 1: Prospero prepares to leave the island and return to Milan. Opens: "Ye elves of hills, brooks, standing lakes, and groves"
November 2021	Prospero and Caliban's difficult relationship	Starting with this moment in the play, explore how Shakespeare presents the difficult relationship between Prospero and Caliban. <i>Papers written for June 2021 (cancelled) and sat in November 2021, in an adapted structure: Shakespeare appeared on Paper 2 ('Shakespeare and unseen poetry'), not Paper 1.</i>	Act 1 Scene 2: Prospero and Miranda go to see Caliban. Opens: "'Tis a villain, sir, / I do not love to look on"
June 2022	How far Prospero is a fair man	Starting with this speech, explore how far Shakespeare presents Prospero as a fair man in <i>The Tempest</i> . <i>June 2022 used an adapted structure: Shakespeare appeared on Paper 2 ('Shakespeare and unseen poetry'), not Paper 1.</i>	Act 5 Scene 1: Ariel has gathered the spellbound characters and Prospero speaks to them. Opens: "A solemn air, and the best comforter"
June 2023	How far Prospero is a good master	Starting with this conversation, explore how far Shakespeare presents Prospero as a good master in <i>The Tempest</i> .	Act 1 Scene 2: Ariel has finished his tasks and asks for his liberty. Opens: "Ariel, thy charge / Exactly is performed"
June 2024	Prospero and Ariel's relationship	Starting with this conversation, explore how Shakespeare presents the relationship between Prospero and Ariel in <i>The Tempest</i> .	Act 4 Scene 1: Ariel has carried out Prospero's orders about Alonso and his followers. Opens: "What, Ariel! My industrious servant Ariel!"
June 2025	How far Caliban is a victim	Starting with this speech, explore how far Shakespeare presents Caliban as a victim in <i>The Tempest</i> .	Act 2 Scene 2: Caliban curses Prospero just before meeting Trinculo and Stephano. Opens: "All the infections that the sun sucks up"

The Merchant of Venice: the questions

Series	Focus	Question	Extract or poem
June 2017	How far Portia is a strong female character	Starting with this speech, explore how far Shakespeare presents Portia as a strong female character in The Merchant of Venice.	Act 3 Scene 4: Portia talks to Nerissa about the disguise she will wear. Opens: "They shall, Nerissa, but in such a habit"
June 2018	Justice	Starting with this moment in the play, explore how Shakespeare presents ideas about justice in The Merchant of Venice.	Act 4 Scene 1: Shylock waits for Portia's judgement on his 'pound of flesh'. Opens: "A pound of that same merchant's flesh is thine"
June 2019	Romantic love	Starting with this speech, explore how Shakespeare presents ideas about romantic love in The Merchant of Venice.	Act 1 Scene 1: Bassanio tells Antonio about Portia. Opens: "In Belmont is a lady richly left"
November 2020	Attitudes to mercy	Starting with this speech, explore how Shakespeare presents attitudes to mercy in The Merchant of Venice. <i>This paper was written for June 2020 (cancelled because of Covid-19) and was sat in the November 2020 series.</i>	Act 4 Scene 1: Portia, disguised as Balthasar, tells Shylock why he should show mercy. Opens: "The quality of mercy is not strained"
November 2021	Portia and Bassanio's relationship	Starting with this conversation, explore how Shakespeare presents the relationship between Portia and Bassanio. <i>Papers written for June 2021 (cancelled) and sat in November 2021, in an adapted structure: Shakespeare appeared on Paper 2 ('Shakespeare and unseen poetry'), not Paper 1.</i>	Act 3 Scene 2: Bassanio is about to choose from the three caskets. Opens: "I could teach you / How to choose right"
June 2022	Shylock and Antonio's relationship	Starting with this conversation, explore how Shakespeare presents the relationship between Shylock and Antonio in The Merchant of Venice. <i>June 2022 used an adapted structure: Shakespeare appeared on Paper 2 ('Shakespeare and unseen poetry'), not Paper 1.</i>	Act 3 Scene 3: Shylock escorts the bankrupt Antonio to prison and refuses to listen. Opens: "Jailer, look to him. Tell not me of mercy"
June 2023	Loyalty	Starting with this conversation, explore how Shakespeare presents ideas about loyalty in The Merchant of Venice.	Act 1 Scene 1: Bassanio explains to Antonio that he is in debt. Opens: "To you, Antonio, / I owe the most in money and in love"
June 2024	How far Shylock is an isolated character	Starting with this speech, explore how far Shakespeare presents Shylock as an isolated character in The Merchant of Venice.	Act 1 Scene 3: Antonio has just asked Shylock to lend him three thousand ducats. Opens: "Signor Antonio, many a time and oft"
June 2025	Attitudes to wealth	Starting with this conversation, explore how Shakespeare presents attitudes to wealth in The Merchant of Venice.	Act 3 Scene 1: Tubal brings Shylock news of Jessica and of Antonio's ships. Opens: "How now, Tubal, what news from Genoa?"

Much Ado About Nothing: the questions

Series	Focus	Question	Extract or poem
June 2017	Beatrice's attitude to romantic love	Starting with this extract, how does Shakespeare present Beatrice's attitude towards romantic love in Much Ado About Nothing?	Act 2 Scene 1: Beatrice has been giving her views on men and marriage. Opens: "Well, niece, I hope to see you one day fitted with a husband"
June 2018	Beatrice and Benedick's 'merry war'	The relationship between Beatrice and Benedick is described as 'a merry war' in the play. Starting with this conversation, explore how Shakespeare presents the relationship between Beatrice and Benedick.	Act 1 Scene 1: Beatrice and Benedick are alone together for the first time. Opens: "I wonder that you will still be talking, Signor Benedick"
June 2019	How far Beatrice is a strong woman	Starting with this conversation, explore how far Shakespeare presents Beatrice as a strong woman.	Act 4 Scene 1: Beatrice asks Benedick to kill Claudio. Opens: "Come bid me do anything for thee"
November 2020	Male attitudes towards women	Starting with this moment in the play, explore how Shakespeare presents the attitudes of male characters towards women in Much Ado About Nothing. <i>This paper was written for June 2020 (cancelled because of Covid-19) and was sat in the November 2020 series.</i>	Act 4 Scene 1: The wedding party has gathered and Hero is being questioned. Opens: "What man was he, talked with you yesternight"
November 2021	Plotting to affect romantic relationships	Starting with this conversation, explore how Shakespeare presents characters plotting to affect romantic relationships in Much Ado About Nothing. <i>Papers written for June 2021 (cancelled) and sat in November 2021, in an adapted structure: Shakespeare appeared on Paper 2 ('Shakespeare and unseen poetry'), not Paper 1.</i>	Act 3 Scene 1: Hero and Ursula prepare to trick Beatrice into believing Benedick loves her. Opens: "Now, Ursula, when Beatrice doth come"
June 2022	Claudio's feelings for Hero	Starting with this conversation, explore how Shakespeare presents Claudio's feelings for Hero in Much Ado About Nothing. <i>June 2022 used an adapted structure: Shakespeare appeared on Paper 2 ('Shakespeare and unseen poetry'), not Paper 1.</i>	Act 1 Scene 1: Claudio, back from the war, talks to Benedick about Hero. Opens: "Benedick, didst thou note the daughter of Signor Leonato?"
June 2023	How far Beatrice is an independent female character	Starting with this conversation, explore how far Shakespeare presents Beatrice as an independent female character in Much Ado About Nothing.	Act 2 Scene 1: Beatrice and Hero discuss the perfect man; talk turns to whether Beatrice will marry. Opens: "With a good leg and a good foot, uncle"
June 2024	Tricking and deceiving	Starting with this extract, explore how Shakespeare presents characters tricking and deceiving each other in Much Ado About Nothing.	Act 2 Scene 3: Don Pedro and Leonato begin the plan to trick Benedick. Opens: "He hath ta'en th'infection, hold it up"
June 2025	How far women are powerless	Starting with this conversation, explore how far Shakespeare presents women as powerless in Much Ado About Nothing.	Act 4 Scene 1: Hero is about to be married to Claudio; Claudio shames her. Opens: "Stand thee by, friar: father, by your leave"

Julius Caesar: the questions

Series	Focus	Question	Extract or poem
June 2017	How far Antony is manipulative	'Shakespeare presents Antony as a manipulative character who is skilled at getting what he wants' in Julius Caesar. Starting with this extract, explore how far you agree with this opinion.	Act 3 Scene 2: Antony addresses the people of Rome after Caesar's death. Opens: "Friends, Romans, countrymen, lend me your ears!"
June 2018	Brutus as a conspirator	Starting with this speech, explore how Shakespeare presents Brutus as a conspirator in Julius Caesar.	Act 2 Scene 1: The conspirators plot; Cassius has suggested killing Mark Antony too. Opens: "Our course will seem too bloody, Caius Cassius"
June 2019	How far Cassius is an effective leader of the conspirators	Starting with this speech, explore how far Shakespeare presents Cassius as an effective leader of the conspirators in Julius Caesar.	Act 1 Scene 3: Cassius has just heard Casca's fears about the night's events. Opens: "You are dull, Casca"
November 2020	How Rome and its people are affected by conflict	Starting with this moment in the play, explore how Shakespeare presents the ways Rome and its people are affected by conflict. <i>This paper was written for June 2020 (cancelled because of Covid-19) and was sat in the November 2020 series.</i>	Act 3 Scene 1: Caesar is assassinated. Opens: "Et tu, Brute? – Then fall, Caesar!"
November 2021	How far Caesar is a weak leader	Starting with this speech, explore how far Shakespeare presents Caesar as a weak leader. <i>Papers written for June 2021 (cancelled) and sat in November 2021, in an adapted structure: Shakespeare appeared on Paper 2 ('Shakespeare and unseen poetry'), not Paper 1.</i>	Act 1 Scene 2: Cassius tells Brutus about swimming the Tiber with Caesar. Opens: "The torrent roared, and we did buffet it"
June 2022	How far Antony is a loyal friend to Caesar	Starting with this speech, explore how far Shakespeare presents Antony as a loyal friend to Caesar. <i>June 2022 used an adapted structure: Shakespeare appeared on Paper 2 ('Shakespeare and unseen poetry'), not Paper 1.</i>	Act 3 Scene 1: After the assassination, Antony addresses the conspirators, then Caesar's body. Opens: "I doubt not of your wisdom"
June 2023	How far Brutus is an honourable man	Starting with this conversation, explore how far Shakespeare presents Brutus as an honourable man in Julius Caesar.	Act 5 Scene 5: Antony and Octavius respond to news of Brutus' death. Opens: "How died my master, Strato?"
June 2024	Cassius as a manipulative character	Starting with this speech, explore how Shakespeare presents Cassius as a manipulative character in Julius Caesar.	Act 1 Scene 2: Cassius tries to persuade Brutus to join the conspiracy. Opens: "Why, man, he doth bestride the narrow world / Like a Colossus"
June 2025	Loyalty	Starting with this speech, explore how Shakespeare presents ideas about loyalty in Julius Caesar.	Act 3 Scene 1: After the assassination, Antony responds to seeing Caesar's body. Opens: "O mighty Caesar! Dost thou lie so low?"

LITERATURE PAPER 1 • SECTION B

Paper 1, Section B: The 19th-century novel

Extract-based: one question per novel, starting with a printed extract and then the novel as a whole.

The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde: the questions

Series	Focus	Question	Extract or poem
June 2017	How far the reader feels sympathy for Jekyll	'Stevenson's presentation of Dr. Jekyll allows the reader to feel sympathy for him.' Starting with this extract, explore how far you agree with this opinion.	'Incident at the Window' (printed by AQA as Chapter 6; Chapter 7 in most editions): Utterson and Enfield talk to Jekyll through his window. Opens: "The court was very cool and a little damp"
June 2018	Mystery and tension	Starting with this extract, explore how Stevenson creates mystery and tension in The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde.	Chapter 4 (The Carew Murder Case): Utterson and Inspector Newcomen go to Hyde's Soho lodgings after the murder of Sir Danvers Carew. Opens: "It was by this time about nine in the morning, and the first fog of the season"
June 2019	Hyde as inhuman and disturbing	Starting with this extract, explore how Stevenson presents Mr Hyde as an inhuman and disturbing member of society.	Chapter 8 (The Last Night): Poole tells Utterson about events at Jekyll's house. Opens: "'That's it!'" said Poole"
November 2020	Good and evil	Starting with this extract, explore how Stevenson presents ideas about good and evil in The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde. <i>This paper was written for June 2020 (cancelled because of Covid-19) and was sat in the November 2020 series.</i>	Chapter 10 (Henry Jekyll's Full Statement of the Case): Jekyll describes taking the potion for the first time. Opens: "I knew myself, at the first breath of this new life"
November 2021	Settings that create a disturbing, threatening atmosphere	Starting with this extract, explore how Stevenson uses settings to create a disturbing and threatening atmosphere. <i>Papers written for June 2021 (cancelled) and sat in November 2021, in an adapted structure: the 19th-century novel had its own paper (8702/1N).</i>	Chapter 8 (The Last Night): Utterson and Poole go to Jekyll's house because they are worried about him. Opens: "It was a wild, cold, seasonable night of March"
June 2022	Jekyll as a mysterious character	Starting with this extract, explore how Stevenson presents Dr Jekyll as a mysterious character. <i>June 2022 used an adapted structure: the 19th-century novel had its own paper (8702/1N).</i>	Chapter 6 (Remarkable Incident of Dr Lanyon): Utterson thinks about his friendship with Jekyll and how it has changed. Opens: "Time ran on; thousands of pounds were offered in reward"
June 2023	How far Hyde is threatening and dangerous	Starting with this extract, explore how far Stevenson presents Mr Hyde as a threatening and dangerous character.	Chapter 1 (Story of the Door): Enfield tells Utterson about his encounter with Hyde (the trampled girl). Opens: "'Well, it was this way,'" returned Mr. Enfield"

Series	Focus	Question	Extract or poem
June 2024	An atmosphere of fear and danger	Starting with this extract, explore how Stevenson creates an atmosphere of fear and danger in The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde.	Chapter 2 (Search for Mr Hyde): Utterson lies awake thinking about Mr Hyde. Opens: "That was the amount of information that the lawyer carried back"
June 2025	Hidden lives and secrets	Starting with this extract, explore how Stevenson presents ideas about hidden lives and secrets.	Chapter 6 (Remarkable Incident of Dr Lanyon): Utterson receives a letter from Jekyll, then news of Lanyon's death. Opens: "As soon as he got home, Utterson sat down and wrote to Jekyll"

A Christmas Carol: the questions

Series	Focus	Question	Extract or poem
June 2017	The Cratchits and the struggles of the poor	Starting with this extract, explore how Dickens uses the Cratchit family to show the struggles of the poor. <i>AQA prints the staves of A Christmas Carol as chapters.</i>	Stave 3: The Ghost of Christmas Present shows Scrooge the Cratchits' Christmas. Opens: "Oh, a wonderful pudding!"
June 2018	Scrooge's fears	Starting with this extract, explore how Dickens presents Scrooge's fears in A Christmas Carol. <i>AQA prints the staves of A Christmas Carol as chapters.</i>	Stave 4: Scrooge meets the Ghost of Christmas Yet To Come. Opens: "The Phantom slowly, gravely, silently, approached"
June 2019	How the ghosts help Scrooge change	Starting with this extract, explore how Dickens uses the ghosts to help Scrooge change his attitudes and behaviour. <i>AQA prints the staves of A Christmas Carol as chapters.</i>	Stave 1: Scrooge is visited by Marley's Ghost. Opens: "Again the spectre raised a cry, and shook its chain"
November 2020	The suffering of the poor	Starting with this extract, explore how Dickens presents the suffering of the poor in A Christmas Carol. <i>This paper was written for June 2020 (cancelled because of Covid-19) and was sat in the November 2020 series. AQA prints the staves of A Christmas Carol as chapters.</i>	Stave 3: The Ghost of Christmas Present is about to leave and reveals Ignorance and Want. Opens: "The chimes were ringing the three quarters past eleven"
November 2021	Joy and happiness	Starting with this extract, explore how Dickens presents ideas about joy and happiness in A Christmas Carol. <i>Papers written for June 2021 (cancelled) and sat in November 2021, in an adapted structure: the 19th-century novel had its own paper (8702/1N). AQA prints the staves of A Christmas Carol as chapters.</i>	Stave 2: The Ghost of Christmas Past shows Scrooge Fezziwig's Christmas party. Opens: "But if they had been twice as many—ah, four times—old Fezziwig"
June 2022	Effects of loneliness and isolation	Starting with this extract, explore how Dickens presents the effects of loneliness and isolation in A Christmas Carol. <i>June 2022 used an adapted structure: the 19th-century novel had its own paper (8702/1N). AQA prints the staves of A Christmas Carol as chapters.</i>	Stave 2: The Ghost of Christmas Past takes Scrooge back to his school. Opens: "'The school is not quite deserted,'" said the Ghost"
June 2023	Effects of greed	Starting with this extract, explore how Dickens presents the effects of greed in A Christmas Carol. <i>AQA prints the staves of A Christmas Carol as chapters.</i>	Stave 2: The Ghost of Christmas Past shows Scrooge his last meeting with Belle. Opens: "This was not addressed to Scrooge, or to any one whom he could see"
June 2024	Lessons Scrooge learns about life	Starting with this extract, explore how Dickens presents the lessons Scrooge learns about life in A Christmas Carol. <i>AQA prints the staves of A Christmas Carol as chapters.</i>	Stave 4: The Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come shows Scrooge a deathbed (after Old Joe's shop). Opens: "'Ha, ha!'" laughed the same woman"
June 2025	The importance of kindness	Starting with this extract, explore how Dickens presents the importance of kindness in A Christmas Carol. <i>AQA prints the staves of A Christmas Carol as chapters.</i>	Stave 3: The Ghost of Christmas Present shows Scrooge the Cratchits' Christmas (Tiny Tim). Opens: "At last the dinner was all done, the cloth was cleared"

Great Expectations: the questions

Series	Focus	Question	Extract or poem
June 2017	Pip's attitudes to Magwitch	Starting with this extract, explore how Dickens presents Pip's attitudes to the convict Magwitch.	Chapter 39: Magwitch has returned from Australia and reveals his identity to Pip. Opens: "“Why do you, a stranger coming into my rooms”"
June 2018	How far Miss Havisham is cruel and bitter	Starting with this extract, explore how far Dickens presents Miss Havisham as a cruel and bitter woman.	Chapter 8: Pip arrives at Satis House for the first time. Opens: "Miss Havisham beckoned her to come close"
June 2019	Pip and Joe's changing relationship	Starting with this extract, explore how Dickens presents Pip and Joe's relationship and how it changes.	Chapter 19: Pip is about to leave for London and talks to Joe. Opens: "When I awoke, I was much surprised to find Joe sitting beside me"
November 2020	Settings that create tension	Starting with this extract, explore how Dickens uses settings to create an atmosphere of tension. <i>This paper was written for June 2020 (cancelled because of Covid-19) and was sat in the November 2020 series.</i>	Chapter 3: Pip sets out across the marshes to find Magwitch. Opens: "It was a rimy morning, and very damp"
November 2021	How far Magwitch is dangerous	Starting with this extract, explore how far Dickens presents Magwitch as a dangerous character. <i>Papers written for June 2021 (cancelled) and sat in November 2021, in an adapted structure: the 19th-century novel had its own paper (8702/1N).</i>	Chapter 1: Pip meets Magwitch for the first time. Opens: "“Hold your noise!” cried a terrible voice"
June 2022	How far Joe is a good role model	Starting with this extract, explore how far Dickens presents Joe as a good role model to Pip in Great Expectations. <i>June 2022 used an adapted structure: the 19th-century novel had its own paper (8702/1N).</i>	Chapter 27: Joe says goodbye to Pip after visiting him in London. Opens: "“But you are not going now, Joe?”"
June 2023	Lessons Pip learns about what matters	Starting with this extract, explore how Dickens presents the lessons Pip learns about what is really important in life.	Chapter 58: Pip returns home to find Joe and Biddy have just married. Opens: "My first thought was one of great thankfulness"
June 2024	Pip learning to value people over class	'In Great Expectations, Pip learns to value people more than social class.' Starting with this extract, explore how far you agree with this view.	Chapter 17: Pip tells Biddy about his frustration at his position in society. Opens: "“Well, then, understand once for all"
June 2025	How far Miss Havisham is a victim	Starting with this extract, explore how far Dickens presents Miss Havisham as a victim.	Chapter 49: Pip visits Miss Havisham after many years ('What have I done!'). Opens: "She turned her face to me for the first time"

Jane Eyre: the questions

Series	Focus	Question	Extract or poem
June 2017	How far Jane is a victim of others' cruelty	Starting with this extract, explore how far Brontë presents Jane as a victim of the cruelty of others.	Chapter 7: Mr Brocklehurst makes an example of Jane in front of the Lowood pupils. Opens: "“Ladies,” said he, turning to his family”
June 2018	Distressing experiences Jane deals with	Starting with this extract, explore how Brontë presents some of the distressing experiences that Jane deals with in the novel.	Chapter 20: Jane has gone to bed after Richard Mason arrives at Thornfield (the night-time cry). Opens: "Awaking in the dead of night, I opened my eyes on her disk”
June 2019	How male characters treat Jane	Starting with this extract, explore how Brontë presents the ways male characters treat Jane Eyre.	Chapter 1: Jane describes her relationship with John Reed. Opens: "Habitually obedient to John, I came up to his chair”
November 2020	How far Jane is an independent female character	Starting with this extract, explore how far Brontë presents Jane as an independent female character. <i>This paper was written for June 2020 (cancelled because of Covid-19) and was sat in the November 2020 series.</i>	Chapter 27: Jane rejects Rochester after learning he is married to Bertha Mason. Opens: "Still indomitable was the reply”
November 2021	Jane learning from female characters	'Brontë shows Jane learning about herself and life from the female characters in the novel.' Starting with this extract, explore how far you agree with this view. <i>Papers written for June 2021 (cancelled) and sat in November 2021, in an adapted structure: the 19th-century novel had its own paper (8702/1N).</i>	Chapter 8: Helen Burns comforts Jane after Mr Brocklehurst's punishment. Opens: "“Well, Helen?” said I, putting my hand into hers”
June 2022	Jane and Rochester affected by strong feelings	Starting with this extract, explore how Brontë presents the ways that Jane and Rochester are affected by their strong feelings for each other. <i>June 2022 used an adapted structure: the 19th-century novel had its own paper (8702/1N).</i>	Chapter 23: Jane and Rochester have just declared their love (the storm and the chestnut tree). Opens: "“No – that is the best of it,” he said”
June 2023	Jane's search for happiness	'Jane Eyre is a novel about Jane's search for happiness.' Starting with this extract, explore how far you agree with this view.	Chapter 38: Jane reflects on her married life with Rochester. Opens: "I have now been married ten years”
June 2024	How far Jane is searching for somewhere to belong	Starting with this extract, explore how far Brontë presents Jane Eyre as a young woman searching for somewhere to belong.	Chapter 33: St John tells Jane she is related to the Rivers family and will inherit her uncle's fortune. Opens: "“With me,” said I, ‘it is fully as much a matter of feeling”
June 2025	How far Jane is vulnerable	Starting with this extract, explore how far Brontë presents Jane Eyre as a vulnerable character.	Chapter 2: Jane has just been locked in the red-room as punishment. Opens: "The red-room was a square chamber”

Frankenstein: the questions

Series	Focus	Question	Extract or poem
June 2017	How far the monster is evil	Starting with this extract, explore how far Shelley presents the monster as an evil character.	Chapter 20: Frankenstein has destroyed the female companion and the monster confronts him. Opens: "The monster saw my determination in my face"
June 2018	How far the monster is a victim to be pitied	Starting with this extract, explore how far Shelley presents the monster as a victim to be pitied.	Chapter 24: Near the end, the monster has killed Victor and speaks to Walton. Opens: "But it is true that I am a wretch"
June 2019	How the monster is affected by others' treatment	Starting with this extract, explore how Shelley presents the ways the monster is affected by how others treat him.	Chapter 15: The monster enters the De Lacey's cottage and speaks to the blind De Lacey. Opens: "How can I thank you, my best and only benefactor?"
November 2020	Grief and loss	Starting with this extract, explore how Shelley presents grief and loss. <i>This paper was written for June 2020 (cancelled because of Covid-19) and was sat in the November 2020 series.</i>	Chapter 23: Frankenstein discovers that Elizabeth has been murdered. Opens: "I passed an hour in this state of mind"
November 2021	How far Victor is a victim of his own actions	Starting with this extract, explore how far Shelley presents Victor Frankenstein as a victim of his own actions. <i>Papers written for June 2021 (cancelled) and sat in November 2021, in an adapted structure: the 19th-century novel had its own paper (8702/1N).</i>	Letter 4: Walton describes his first meeting with Victor Frankenstein. Opens: "On perceiving me, the stranger addressed me in English"
June 2022	Frankenstein and the monster's relationship	Starting with this extract, explore how Shelley presents the relationship between Frankenstein and the monster. <i>June 2022 used an adapted structure: the 19th-century novel had its own paper (8702/1N).</i>	Chapter 10: Frankenstein meets the monster for the first time since its creation (on the glacier). Opens: "As I said this, I suddenly beheld the figure of a man"
June 2023	Effects of loneliness and isolation	Starting with this extract, explore how Shelley presents the effects of loneliness and isolation in Frankenstein.	Chapter 17: The creature asks Frankenstein to create a companion for him. Opens: "You must create a female for me"
June 2024	Effects of Frankenstein's scientific ambitions	Starting with this extract, explore how Shelley presents the effects of Frankenstein's scientific ambitions on himself and others.	Chapter 4: Frankenstein describes his commitment to his studies at university. Opens: "No one can conceive the variety of feelings which bore me onwards"
June 2025	The importance of family	Starting with this extract, explore how Shelley presents the importance of family in Frankenstein.	Chapter 1: Frankenstein describes his family background and childhood. Opens: "There was a considerable difference between the ages of my parents"

Pride and Prejudice: the questions

Series	Focus	Question	Extract or poem
June 2017	Elizabeth as strong-willed	Starting with this extract, explore how Austen presents Elizabeth as a strong-willed female character.	Chapter 56: Elizabeth stands up to Lady Catherine de Bourgh about a possible marriage to Darcy. Opens: ““You can now have nothing further to say,””
June 2018	Pride and prejudice in Darcy and Elizabeth's relationship	Starting with this extract, explore how Austen presents the ways that pride and prejudice affect the relationship between Mr Darcy and Elizabeth.	Chapter 34: Darcy proposes to Elizabeth for the first time. Opens: ““In vain I have struggled. It will not do.”
June 2019	Mr and Mrs Bennet as parents	Starting with this extract, explore how Austen presents Mr Bennet and Mrs Bennet as parents.	Chapter 20: Mrs Bennet reacts to Elizabeth refusing Mr Collins. Opens: “This information, however, startled Mrs. Bennet”
November 2020	How female characters treat each other	Starting with this extract, explore how Austen presents the ways female characters treat each other in <i>Pride and Prejudice</i> . <i>This paper was written for June 2020 (cancelled because of Covid-19) and was sat in the November 2020 series.</i>	Chapter 8: Miss Bingley and Mrs Hurst talk about Elizabeth after she leaves the room. Opens: “When dinner was over, she returned directly to Jane”
November 2021	Attitudes towards romance	Starting with this extract, explore how Austen presents attitudes towards romance in <i>Pride and Prejudice</i> . <i>Papers written for June 2021 (cancelled) and sat in November 2021, in an adapted structure: the 19th-century novel had its own paper (8702/1N).</i>	Chapter 22: Charlotte Lucas tells Elizabeth she has accepted Mr Collins. Opens: “The possibility of Mr. Collins’s fancying himself in love”
June 2022	How far Darcy is proud and prejudiced	Starting with this extract, explore how far Austen presents Mr Darcy as a proud and prejudiced man. <i>June 2022 used an adapted structure: the 19th-century novel had its own paper (8702/1N).</i>	Chapter 3: Elizabeth meets Mr Darcy for the first time (the Meryton assembly). Opens: “Elizabeth Bennet had been obliged, by the scarcity of gentlemen”
June 2023	Social class	Starting with this extract, explore how Austen presents ideas about social class in <i>Pride and Prejudice</i> .	Chapter 29: Elizabeth visits Lady Catherine de Bourgh for the first time. Opens: “When the ladies returned to the drawing-room”
June 2024	Marriage	Starting with this extract, explore how Austen presents ideas about marriage in <i>Pride and Prejudice</i> .	Chapter 1: Austen introduces Mr and Mrs Bennet. Opens: “It is a truth universally acknowledged”
June 2025	How far Elizabeth changes her views of others	Starting with this extract, explore how far Austen presents Elizabeth as a character who changes her views of others.	Chapter 58: Elizabeth and Darcy talk openly about their feelings. Opens: ““If you will thank me,” he replied”

The Sign of Four: the questions

Series	Focus	Question	Extract or poem
June 2017	Holmes as an interesting and unusual investigator	Starting with this extract, explore how Conan Doyle presents Holmes as an interesting and unusual investigator.	Chapter 6: Holmes investigates Bartholomew Sholto's death at Pondicherry Lodge. Opens: "'My dear Watson, try a little analysis yourself,'"
June 2018	The police as ineffective and foolish	Starting with this extract, explore how Conan Doyle presents the police force as ineffective and foolish in The Sign of Four.	Chapter 6: Athelney Jones and the police arrive at Pondicherry Lodge. Opens: "'But here are the regulars, so the auxiliary forces may beat a retreat.'"
June 2019	Justice	Starting with this extract, explore how Conan Doyle presents ideas about justice in The Sign of Four.	Chapter 12: Jonathan Small has been captured and is questioned by the police. Opens: "'This is a very serious matter, Small,' said the detective"
November 2020	Tension and excitement	Starting with this extract, explore how Conan Doyle creates an atmosphere of tension and excitement in The Sign of Four. <i>This paper was written for June 2020 (cancelled because of Covid-19) and was sat in the November 2020 series.</i>	Chapter 10 (The End of the Islander): Holmes and Watson chase Jonathan Small down the Thames. Opens: "'And there is the Aurora,' exclaimed Holmes"
November 2021	Attitudes towards treasure and wealth	Starting with this extract, explore how Conan Doyle presents attitudes towards treasure and wealth in The Sign of Four. <i>Papers written for June 2021 (cancelled) and sat in November 2021, in an adapted structure: the 19th-century novel had its own paper (8702/1N).</i>	Chapter 11 (The Great Agra Treasure): Watson brings the treasure chest to Mary Morstan. Opens: "'That is all over,' I answered"
June 2022	Holmes as an extraordinary detective	Starting with this extract, explore how Conan Doyle presents Holmes as an extraordinary detective. <i>June 2022 used an adapted structure: the 19th-century novel had its own paper (8702/1N).</i>	Chapter 1 (The Science of Deduction): Holmes talks to Watson about a French detective who asked for his help. Opens: "'Oh, he rates my assistance too highly,'"
June 2023	How far Jonathan Small is a villain	Starting with this extract, explore how far Conan Doyle presents Jonathan Small as a villain.	Chapter 11 (The Great Agra Treasure): Jonathan Small has just been captured after the Thames chase. Opens: "Our captive sat in the cabin opposite to the iron box"
June 2024	Holmes and Watson's different strengths	Starting with this extract, explore how Conan Doyle presents Holmes and Watson as characters with very different strengths and qualities.	Chapter 2 (The Statement of the Case): Mary Morstan has just left after telling Holmes and Watson her problem. Opens: "'Au revoir,' said our visitor"
June 2025	Mystery and suspense	Starting with this extract, explore how Conan Doyle creates an atmosphere of mystery and suspense in The Sign of Four.	Chapter 4 (The Story of the Bald-headed Man): Thaddeus Sholto describes events around his father's death. Opens: "'You will see from what I say that I can hardly be blamed"