

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

TOP TIPS

for becoming a successful Post 16 ENGLISH LITERATURE student



- 1 Use the library regularly to access a wide range of texts.
- 2 Always have a book on the go in addition to your set texts, for example recommended contemporary novels or poetry, and texts that push you outside your comfort zone.
- 3 Read critical essays on taught texts, for example articles from the English and Media Centre [EMC] online materials.
- 4 Attend free academic lectures, both in and outside of school, on selected topics.
- 5 Access Youtube lectures, e.g. TedTalks or interviews with lead critics or authors, and podcasts, etc on relevant topics. Harvard and Oxford record LOTS of lectures.
- 6 At the end of each week, spend one hour reviewing notes, by completing the summary section of your Cornell notes on each topic.
- 7 Regularly review class notes and other materials each week, month, term, creating your own revision materials as you study, e.g. posters, Knowledge Organisers, etc.
- 8 Regularly attend the theatre (e.g. Shakespeare at The Globe - £5; National Theatre - £10; Soho Theatre for cheap and outstanding contemporary plays).
- 9 Visit free historical sites of interest or museums as well as free events, exhibitions or tours around London, relevant to your set texts. make a *context timeline* for each text.
- 10 Follow interesting commentators via podcasts, on social media and in newspaper features/opinion pieces, including material on both contemporary and classic books.
- 11 Practice *pulling apart* short sections of texts, thinking about language and structure especially. Write a closely analysed paragraph about just a few lines.