

When studying A-level English Literature, it is important that you not only attend all of your lessons and complete all of your homework, but that you are also doing independent study. We would recommend that you are spending at least 5 hours a week on your independent study. In order for this study to be of maximum benefit it is important that you do a range of different activities, you should be doing some from each of the boxes below. In addition, if you would like to stretch yourself beyond the A-level curriculum then have a look in the super-curricular box for ideas.

### Content

*One important part of independent study is making sure you have learnt all of the content, below are some suggestions of things you can do to help learn the content in English Literature A-level:*

- ✓ *Creating Quizlets*
- ✓ *Creating mind maps about key characters and themes, e.g: the American Dream in 'The Great Gatsby'*
- ✓ *Creating plot summary sheets of your set texts*
- ✓ *Create flash cards of key quotations for the Tragedy paper*
- ✓ *Listening to audio book versions of the texts or watching film adaptations*
- ✓ *Reading through class notes checking that they will make sense later and completing any gaps you might have by checking with a classmate*
- ✓ *Highlighting/ colour coding your notes*
- ✓ *Using a revision wall to display your learning*
- ✓ *Using resources on the Class Team*

### Skills

*Another important part of independent study is developing the skills to be able to succeed in the exams. Below are some suggestions to help you develop those skills:*

- ✓ *Writing exam answers under timed conditions*
- ✓ *Planning or writing out answers to exam questions using your notes/annotated texts (not timed).*
- ✓ *Reading model answers*
- ✓ *Devising and attempting your own exam questions based on topics that haven't come up yet*

### Feedback

*The final important part of independent study is getting and using feedback. Feedback allows you to understand what it is you need to do differently next time in order to improve. Below are some ideas about how you can use feedback:*

- ✓ *Marking your own work using a mark scheme*
- ✓ *Working with other students in groups/pairs*
- ✓ *Comparing model answers against your own work*
- ✓ *Re-writing essays or sections of work to action the feedback you have been given*
- ✓ *Handing in extra exam work for marking*
- ✓ *One to one discussions with your teachers*

### Super-curricular English Literature

*If you were considering studying Literature at university, or just really interested in the subject, then you could complete some super-curricular activities. These are things which go beyond what is covered in the curriculum and includes things such as watching documentaries, listening to Literature podcasts, reading relevant journal articles and looking out for theatre performances, cinema screenings and events at the Cambridge Literature Festival to attend. These might be directly related to our texts, from the same genres as our tests, or entirely outside your lesson work.*

*For up to date ideas look at the Cambourne Sixth Form English Literature Padlet*