Subject	Year	Term
English	12	Spring Term

Topic

Component 2: Prose – Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* and Margaret Atwood's *The Handmaid's Tale.*

Content (Intent)

Prior Learning (Topic)

Prior learning links fiction and literary conventions covered in KS3 and GCSE. Particularly connection will be drawn from the GCSE 19th Century Fiction component. Students who have attended Balcarras will have prior learning links to Year 7 Gothic Fiction, Year 9 Dystopian Fiction and GCSE text *A Christmas Carol.*

Between the two class teachers, students will study the aspects of two prose texts (*Frankenstein* and *The Handmaid's Tale)* which are thematically linked. The theme explored in this unit is 'Science and Society'. The study of the text will explore the context and writers' methods of both texts individually before incorporating exploration of the links and connections between, with consideration of the contexts in which they were written and received. Students will be taught how to approach texts with focus on writers craft, and how to apply their critical thinking of the text to academic comparative essays.

Study of Frankenstein will cover literary conventions of Romanticism and Gothic Horror, looking at early conventions of science fiction. Students will be taught key contextual elements from Mary Shelley's life, such as the influence of her radical parents and husband Percy Shelley. Students will explore how the novel approaches philosophical and moral debates, considering their own reading.

Study of The Handmaid's tale will cover the novel's links to the progression of the feminist movement, discussions about abortion rights and religion, as well as American politics in the 1980s. Students will also consider how the novel sits in the dystopian genre and modern writing conventions.

Future Learning (Topic)

Comparative essay writing (Coursework and Poetry). Preparation for students intending to pursue English at Higher Education.

How will knowledge and skills be taught? (Implementation)	How will your understanding be assessed & recorded? (Impact)
- Independent pre-reading of the texts and further reading. - Discussion of the novels and key moments in class. - Discussion of genre and context for both texts. - Guided and independent annotation of texts. - Completion of theme grids and character profiles. - Group presentations of key ideas, context and moments. - Discussion of model essays. - Essay planning and writing.	Assessed through homework and tasks during term time informally. Students will also complete one formal mock examination. These marks will be recorded on u: drive for staff records.

How can parents help at home?

Parents should encourage students to get ahead with reading the set texts as well reviewing their notes from lessons. Parents could help by discussing the text and key themes with their child at home. Watch adaptations of both texts together at home.

Help your child to learn the key spellings in the vocabulary list – check they know the definitions of key terms.
Encourage them to access the revision material through the schools VLE/Firefly.

Helpful further reading/discussion

Reading	Vocabulary Lists	Careers Links
Frankenstein:	Conventions	Film Director
Mary Shelley (Biography) by Muriel Spark	Genre	Journalist
	Romanticism	Librarian
A Vindication of the Rights of Woman (1792) by Mary Wollstonecraft	Gothic	Teacher
	Epistolary	Writer
	Galvanism	Lawyer
Romantic Outlaws: The Extraordinary Lives of Mary Wollstonecraft and Her Daughter Mary Shelley by Charlotte Gordon	Symbolism	Politician
	Metaphor	
	Malevolent	
	Sublime	
In Frankenstein's Shadow: Myth, Monstrosity, and Nineteenth-Century Writing by Chris Baldick	Gothic parallels/doubles	
	Psyche	
	Allusion	
Frankenstein: York Notes A Level Study Guide.	Intertextuality	
	Dystopic/dystopian	
	Feminism	
Other key 19th Century science fiction such as *Jekyll and Hyde, The Time Machine HG Wells* and	Regime	
	Ecclesiastical	
	Theocracy	
	Fundamentalism	
The Handmaid's Tale:	Satire	
The Testaments by Margaret Atwood and other Margaret Atwood texts such as the *Penelopiad.*	In contrast	
	Whereas	
	Contrastingly	
	Similarly	
Critical Essays on Margaret Atwood by Judith McCombs.	Furthermore	
	Moreover	
The Power by Naomi Alderman		
Q by Christina Dalcher		
Massolit Lectures (Video)		