



**Subject: English Pre-University (Extension Material)**

Read	Do	Stretch
<p>Research the journey of the English language from Old English (Anglo-Saxon), to Middle English, to Early Modern English, to the language we use today.</p>	<p>Select an Anglo-Saxon poem (there are many hundreds easily available online). Annotate or make notes on how much of it you can understand. Then find a translation of it to check your work.</p>	<p>Short essay: <i>Why do we still study Old English/Anglo-Saxon?</i> Try to find some critical sources to support you.</p>
<p>Research the views, thoughts, works and influence of these prominent literary critics and academics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• F. R. Leavis</li> <li>• Elaine Showalter</li> <li>• Stephen Greenblatt</li> </ul>	<p>Read 'The Madwoman in the Attic' by Sandra Gilbert and Susan Gubar. Use your reading to explain what you think of portrayals of women in 19th century literature and beyond.</p>	<p>Research 'genre'. How far can we define literature using this term? Looking at books that defy attempts to 'box them in a genre' will help with this.</p>
<p>Research 'The Literary Canon'. What is the canon? How do they decide what books are worthy of being in the canon? Write an essay on: <i>Explore how worthy the Literary Canon is?</i></p>	<p>Research some LGBTQ literary criticism and approaches to literature.</p>	<p>Try to complete some of the Cambridge Pre-U papers: Follow <b>Link 1</b> (below)</p>
<p>Research the term historicism in literature. What was the influence of the historicists? Is historicism useful in your view?</p>	<p>Research the main literary 'movements', from the early Medieval period to the present day. Which do you think might interest you the most for study, and why?</p>	<p>Review the programme of two of your chosen universities. Select two or three topics that would allow you to do some background or contextual reading to get ahead.</p>
<p>Consider: Do you agree with how books are selected? Do you agree that a limited number of people should decide on what is canon worthy? Should a book stay in the canon forever?</p>	<p>Explore the Poetry Epics: <i>Paradise Lost, The Rape of the Lock, The Lotus Eaters, The Lady of Shalott, The Faerie Queen etc.</i> At what point is a poem still a poem?</p>	<p>Research the concept of 'realism' in English literature. To what extent was Charles Dickens a realist?</p>
<p>Postcolonial Literature Read Edward Said's 'Orientalism'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What does he argue are the differences between The Orient and The Occident?</li> <li>• How have these evolved over time?</li> </ul>	<p>Select a work of postcolonial literature, suggestions include: 'Things Fall Apart' – Chinua Achebe 'Wide Sargasso Sea' – Jean Rhys 'The White Tiger' – Aravind Adiga 'The Reluctant Fundamentalist' – Mohsin Hamid.</p>	<p>Write an essay in which you apply Said's theory to the novel:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How does the novel you read depict the relationship between The Orient and The Occident?</li> <li>• How does the novel seek to complicate or break their established roles?</li> </ul>

**Links to websites used in this A-level extension sheet:**

Link 1: <https://www.cambridgeinternational.org/programmes-and-qualifications/cambridge-pre-u-english-9765/>