

St. John's Senior School



Subject: Hamlet
Teacher: Mrs C. Tardios

Form: L6th Form
Term: Autumn 2025

WEEK	WEEK BEGINNING	TOPIC
1	8 th September	Introduction to Hamlet as a Revenge Tragedy. Understand Hamlet's place in Shakespeare's works and the revenge tragedy genre. Overview lecture, discuss Hamlet vs. other tragedies, brainstorm revenge concepts.
2	15 th September	Historical and Cultural Context – Jacobean Era Explore the Jacobean era's influence on Hamlet. Presentation on divine right of kings, analyse Ghost's supernatural role.
3	22 nd September	Introduce themes: revenge, mortality, betrayal, madness, corruption. Discuss themes in Act 1, create theme mind-map with quotes.
4	29 th September	Dramatic Structure – Five-Act Structure Understand the five-act structure's role in suspense. Lecture on structure, analyse rising action in Act 1.
5	6 th October	MINI TEST
6	13 th October	Close Reading – Act 1, Scenes 1–2. Analyse key scenes for language, imagery, techniques. Close reading of opening scene, discuss Hamlet's first soliloquy.
7	20 th October	Character Analysis – Hamlet and the Ghost. Explore Hamlet's complexity and Ghost's role. Discuss Ghost's reliability, create Hamlet's character profile. Write 400-word Hamlet analysis (Act 1).
HALF - TERM		
8	3 rd November	Close Reading – Act 2, Scene 2. Examine Hamlet's interactions and soliloquies. Analyse "What a piece of work is a man" soliloquy, discuss dramatic irony.
9	10 th November	Close Reading – Act 2, Scene 2. Examine Hamlet's interactions and soliloquies. Analyse "What a piece of work is a man" soliloquy, discuss dramatic irony. Theme – Revenge Analyse moral dilemmas of revenge. Debate Hamlet's revenge, analyse "O, what a rogue" soliloquy.
10	17 th November	Character Analysis – Claudius Explore Claudius as villain and ruler. Analyse Claudius's soliloquy (Act 3, Scene 3), compare to other villains.
11	24 th November	Language and Imagery – Soliloquies Analyse soliloquies for character revelation. Close reading of "To be or not to be," discuss Hamlet's psyche.
12	1 st December	Theme – Madness. Explore feigned and genuine madness. Compare Hamlet's and Ophelia's madness, create madness timeline.

13	8 th December	Close Reading – Act 3, Scene 4 (Closet Scene) Analyse character dynamics and techniques. Discuss Hamlet-Gertrude confrontation, analyse corruption imagery.
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Subject: Hamlet
Teacher: C. Tardios

Form: Sixth Form
Term: Spring 2026

WEEK	WEEK BEGINNING	TOPIC
1	5 th January	• MOCK EXAMINATIONS
2	12 th January	• MOCK EXAMINATIONS
3	19 th January	Character Analysis – Gertrude and Ophelia Examine female characters' roles. Discuss societal constraints, analyse Ophelia's interactions.
4	26 th January	Theme – Gender and Power. Analyse gender dynamics and power structures. Discuss patriarchy, close reading of Ophelia's speech
5	2 nd February	Dramatic Devices – Asides and Dramatic Irony Explore asides and irony in plot advancement. Identify asides/irony in Acts 1–3, act out a scene.
6	9 th February	Theme – Mortality. Examine death and decay themes. Analyse graveyard scene (Act 5, Scene 1), discuss "Yorick" speech.
HALF - TERM		
7	23 rd February	Close Reading – Act 4, Scene 5 Analyse Ophelia's descent into madness. Close reading of Ophelia's songs, compare to Hamlet's madness.
8	2 nd March	Character Analysis – Polonius and Laertes Explore Polonius and Laertes as foils. Compare Polonius's advice to Hamlet's introspection, create profiles.
9	9 th March	Contextual Exploration – Jacobean England Deepen understanding of social/political context. Lecture on religion/monarchy, discuss Hamlet's conflicts.
10	16 th March	Revenge Tragedy Conventions Explore Hamlet as a revenge tragedy. Compare to The Spanish Tragedy, analyse subverted conventions.
11	23 rd March	Critical Interpretations – Psychoanalytic Lens Introduce psychoanalytic perspectives. Discuss Freudian readings, analyse Hamlet's Oedipal conflicts.

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Subject: Hamlet
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Form: Lower Sixth
Term: Summer 2026

WEEK	WEEK BEGINNING	TOPIC
1	20 th April	Critical Interpretations – Feminist Lens Explore feminist perspectives on Hamlet. Analyse gender roles, discuss feminist critiques of Ophelia/Gertrude.
2	27 th April	Critical Interpretations – Marxist Lens. Introduce Marxist perspectives. Discuss class and power dynamics, analyse Denmark's hierarchy.
3	5 th May (Tuesday)	Essay Writing – Structure and Argument. Develop essay-writing skills. Workshop: Structuring arguments, using evidence, engaging with critics.
4	11 th May	Essay Writing – Using Evidence. Strengthen use of textual evidence. Analyse model essays, practice embedding quotes.
5	18 th May	Exam Technique – Approaching Questions Learn to approach exam questions effectively. Discuss question types, time management, and planning.
HALF - TERM		
6	1 st June	● END OF TERM EXAMINATIONS
7	8 th June	Examination Feedback: Model Response – Identify targets.
8	15 th June	Practice Essay – Theme-Based: Apply essay skills to a theme-based question. Write a timed essay on revenge or madness, peer review.
9	22 nd June	Revision and Exam Preparation Consolidate knowledge and exam skills. Review key themes, characters, and context; practice exam questions. Create a revision guide for Hamlet.
10	29 th June	Wider Reading – Critical Essays Explore critical perspectives on Hamlet. Read and discuss a critical essay (e.g., A.C. Bradley).
11	6 th July	Wider Reading – Related Texts Connect Hamlet to other works. Discuss The Spanish Tragedy or Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead.