

### **Topics covered:**

## The social and historical context surrounding when the play was written and when/ where it was

- The plot and roles of key characters within the play.
- The effect of Shakespeare's language and structural devices.
- The conventions of a Shakespearan tragedy and the definition of a tragic hero.

# How it links to what has been studied before:

- In Year 7, students
  were introduced to
  Shakespeare and his
  world; this knowledge
  was then consolidated
  and taken further in
  Year 8 through their
  study of Macbeth.
- Students will have studied The Tudors in History in Year 7; those that have chosen History as a GCSE subject will study Queen Elizabeth I in more detail.

# How it links to what will be studied:

- This text will be the focus of the Section A question in Paper 1 for English Literature: Shakespeare and the 19th Century Novel.
- For this question, candidates will be given a short extract from the play. They will then be asked to explore how a particular character or theme is presented in this extract and the wider play.

#### **Key words:**

patriarchy hierarchy masculinity hubris context intentions reputation soliloquy sonnet prologue tragedy peripeteia hamartia iambic pentameter ecphonesis tragic hero

#### Key skills:

- Explain the plot and roles of key characters within the play.
- Analyse key linguistic and structural choices made by the writer.
- Discuss and explore the effect that context has on a text, developing empathy.
- Debate issues around power, fate and gender within a patriarchal society.

#### **Assessment focus**

English Literature AOs:

- AO1: Read, understand and respond to texts. Students should be able to:
  - maintain a critical style and develop an informed personal response
  - use textual references, including quotations, to support and illustrate interpretations.
- AO2: Analyse the language, form and structure used by a writer to create meanings and effects, using relevant subject terminology where appropriate.
- AO3: Show understanding of the relationships between texts and the contexts in which they were written.
- AO4: Use a range of vocabulary and sentence structures for clarity, purpose

#### **Revision tips**

Grab a blank piece of paper and try this!

- Choose a theme or character you want to revise from Romeo & Juliet (you can also use this strategy for any Literature text).
- Start with a blank sheet of paper and mind map everything you can remember about that topic in 2 minutes.
- Read the appropriate section on Sparknotes or Seneca and add anything you did not remember to your mind map in green pen.
- 4. Write yourself a 5 10 question quiz (with answers on the back) about the things you added in green pen, then put it to one side.

and effect, with accurate spelling and punctuation.

- 5. A week later, take the quiz and see how much you remember!
- **BBC Teach Plot Summary**
- **Seneca AQA English Literature: Romeo & Juliet**
- **Sparknotes: Romeo & Juliet**

#### Why we study it:

- William Shakespeare's influence on the way the English language has evolved and developed is undeniable; he created around 1700 words that we still use today! Beyond this, Shakespeare's plays and the themes that they explore are universal and just as relevant today and they were 400 years ago.
- Additionally, Romeo & Juliet will be the focus of the Section A question in Paper 1 for English Literature: Shakespeare and the 19th Century Novel.

### Mastery in this subject

Students will be able to:

- Develop their own ideas and interpretations of the text, using references (including quotations) judiciously throughout.
- Apply subject terminology while providing a detailed analysis of Shakespeare's language, his use of the tragic form, and structural devices he employs.
- Explore one or more contextual factors and interpretations, including the writer's perspectives and intentions.



