25/11/2025

FURZE PLATT SENIOR SCHOOL

English Literature – A-Level

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English Literature and Your Future

English Literature is a facilitating subject that is accepted by all Russell Group universities.

An A-Level in English Literature can open doorways into the following:

- Creative Writing
- Journalism
- Geography
- History
- Law
- Economics
- Classics
- Drama
- Film

From a personal perspective it...

- Informs
- Challenges preconceptions
- Encourages thoughtful reflection on politics, prejudice and human experience
- Promotes independence
- Develops creativity
- Strengthens empathy

Why English Literature?

At Furze Platt we want our A- Level students to be INSPIRED, MOTIVATED AND CHALLENGED

CHALLENGE

Throughout the course, students read a **diverse range of texts** from different eras. They are exposed to different **genres, perspectives and concepts**. The texts studied often **challenge students' understanding** of the world around them and the course encourages them to think and explore **critically** through group work and independent study.

INSPIRED

So many important cultural, historical and personal events are documented through literature. We want our students to be able to **thoughtfully reflect** on the human condition, politics and prejudice. We want our students to be able to **appreciate**, and be able to harness, the power of language and its ability to reach across people and nations.

MOTIVATED

Students will undertake **independent study** to explore their own appreciation and understanding of texts. The coursework component means students will study three texts, which they have the freedom to choose.

Component 1: Drama and Poetry Pre 1900

UNIT TITLE: Drama and Poetry

One Shakespeare text- Shakespeare's **Hamlet**

One Pre 1900 Drama- Ibsen's **A Doll's House**

One Pre 1900 Poet- **Christina Rossetti** Anthology of poems

General Expectations

- Analysing the dramatic effects and language in Shakespeare's plays
- Exploring how the play has been interpreted by different audiences over time
- Critical interpretations are explored
- Comparative study between Rossetti's poems and Ibsen's A Doll's House
- Exam based

HAMLET

'ONE MAY SMILE, AND SMILE, AND BE A VILLAIN.'

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A VILLAIN?

We explore some of the following themes:

MORALITY
REVENGE
DECEIT
MADNESS
CONTROL

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE MAD?

A new assessment objective means that students now engage with **critics and critical theory**. We **analyse the characters through different lenses** such as psychoanalytical interpretation and Marxist theory, to name a couple.

This allows students to understand that texts may be read from **multiple perspectives and have multiple readings.**

CHRISTINA ROSSETTI

'She sucked and sucked and sucked the more fruits which that unknown orchard bore.'

'It is difficult to read Goblin Market without a modern sexual awareness, but such interpretations would not have been obvious to Victorian Readers.'

Frances Thomas

Context and understanding of the **Victorian Era** helps students develop an appreciation of Rossetti's resilience and forward thinking.

We analyse how she explores:

CLASS
GENDER ROLES
ALIENATION
OPPRESSION

Rossetti's work is undeniably political and she is often considered a feminist symbol. In particular, **Feminist Theory** is applied to analysis of Rossetti and students explore how her work has a feminist agenda.

A DOLL'S HOUSE
'A barbaric outrage!'

The play is compared to Rossetti's poems and explores the fate and limited opportunities for married women in a restrictive male dominated society.

Students will compare:

SOCIAL STATUS
AUDIENCE RESPONSE
CONTEXT
PRESENTATION OF CHARACTERS

'Nora's leaving was too theatrical' Gray

Because, apparently, women cannot even appear to leave a play correctly…

Nora's character is a flirtatious and spirited woman which meant the play was revolutionary in its presentation of women, meaning the play was analysed fiercely by critics. Students will question the problems and limitations that can arise from a male writer discussing female struggles.

Example Exam Questions

'The play Hamlet shows a disturbing fascination with death.' How far do you agree with this?

'A great surprise of Hamlet is that Claudius has a conscience.' *How far, and in what ways do you agree with this?*

People are naturally inclined towards vain and selfish behaviour.

The outsider is always an intriguing figure in literature.

Component 2: The Immigration Experience

<u>UNIT TITLE: Comparative and Contextual Study</u>
<u>The Immigrant Experience</u>

Core text- **The Reluctant Fundamentalist**
Comparison Text- **The Namesake**
Also to be compared to **independent reading-** A reading list is provided

General Expectations

- Exploring the significance of context (political history, writer's life, current affairs)
- The unit provides the opportunity to read and research widely and independently
- One exam (2 questions: 1 question on the texts studied, 1 question on an unseen extract)
- Keeps students up to date with current affairs and encourages them to track immigration throughout history

THE RELUCTANT FUNDAMENTALIST

'Do not be frightened of my beard. I am a lover of America.'

What is a terrorist?

Students are challenged to explore their own stereotypes and to question the impact that prejudice can have on the individual and society.

Alienation is the root of fundamentalism

Students are encouraged to research and question what they know and have been told by the media in relation to some of the following themes:

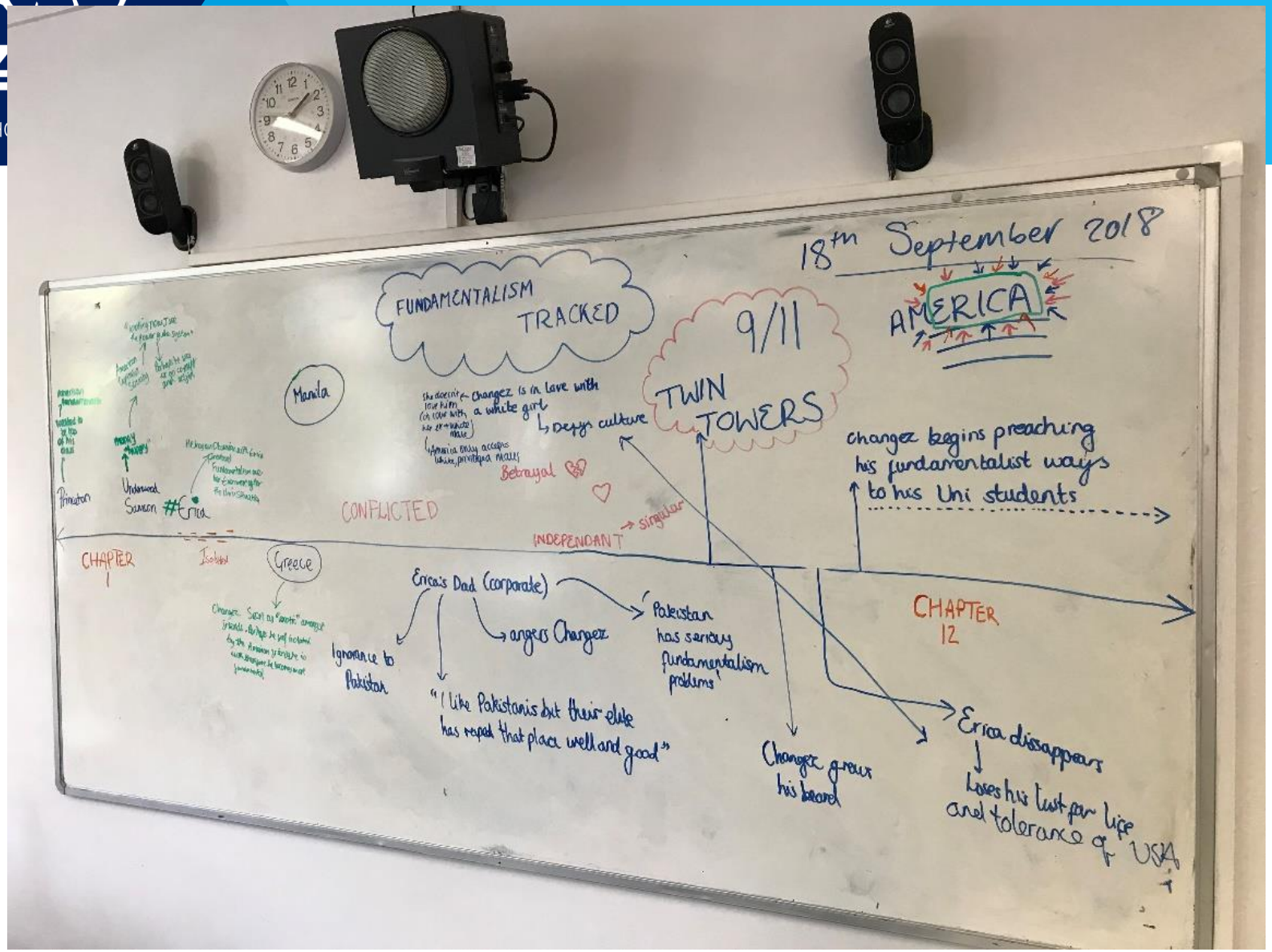
AMERICA

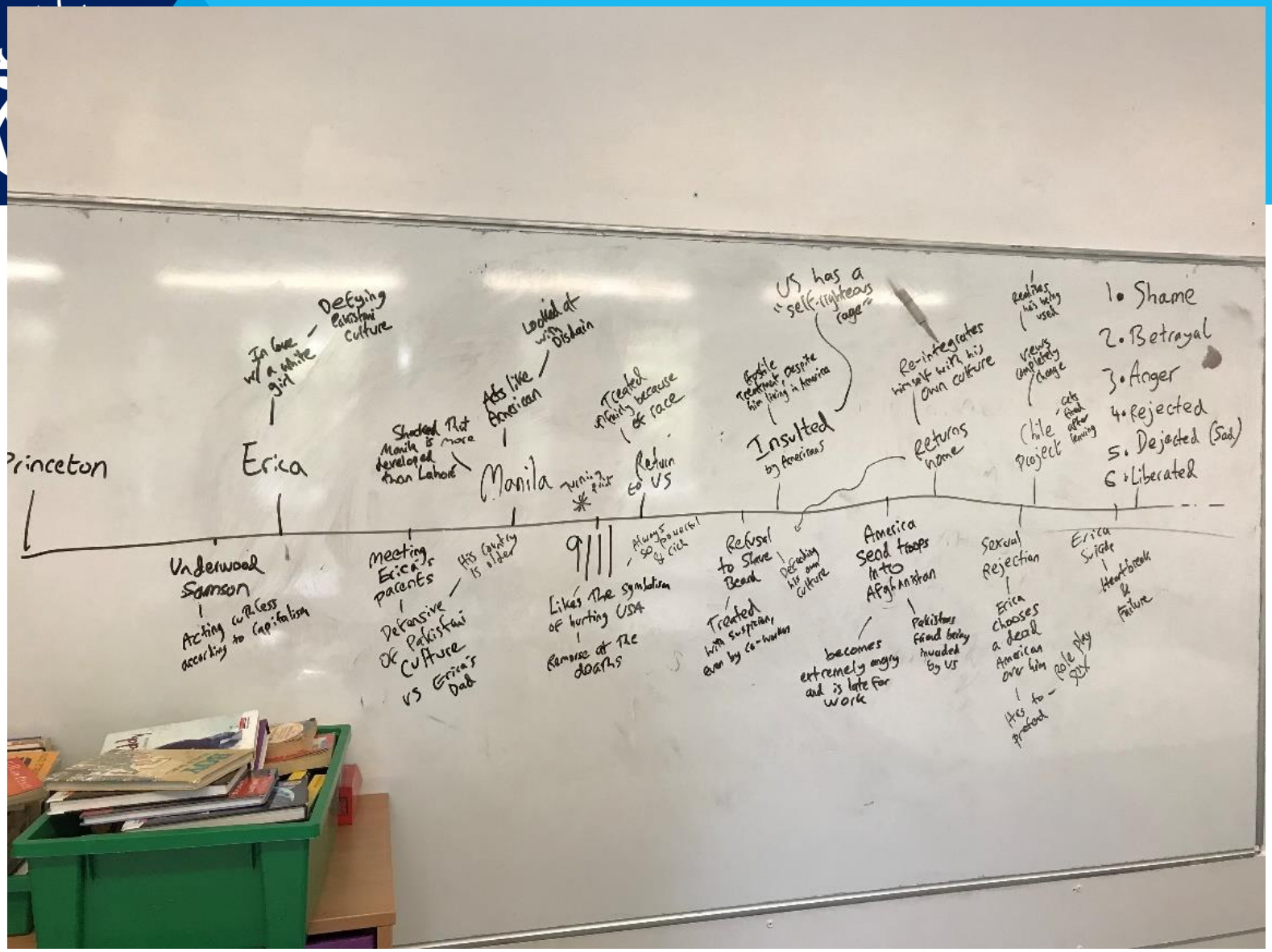
THE EAST vs WEST

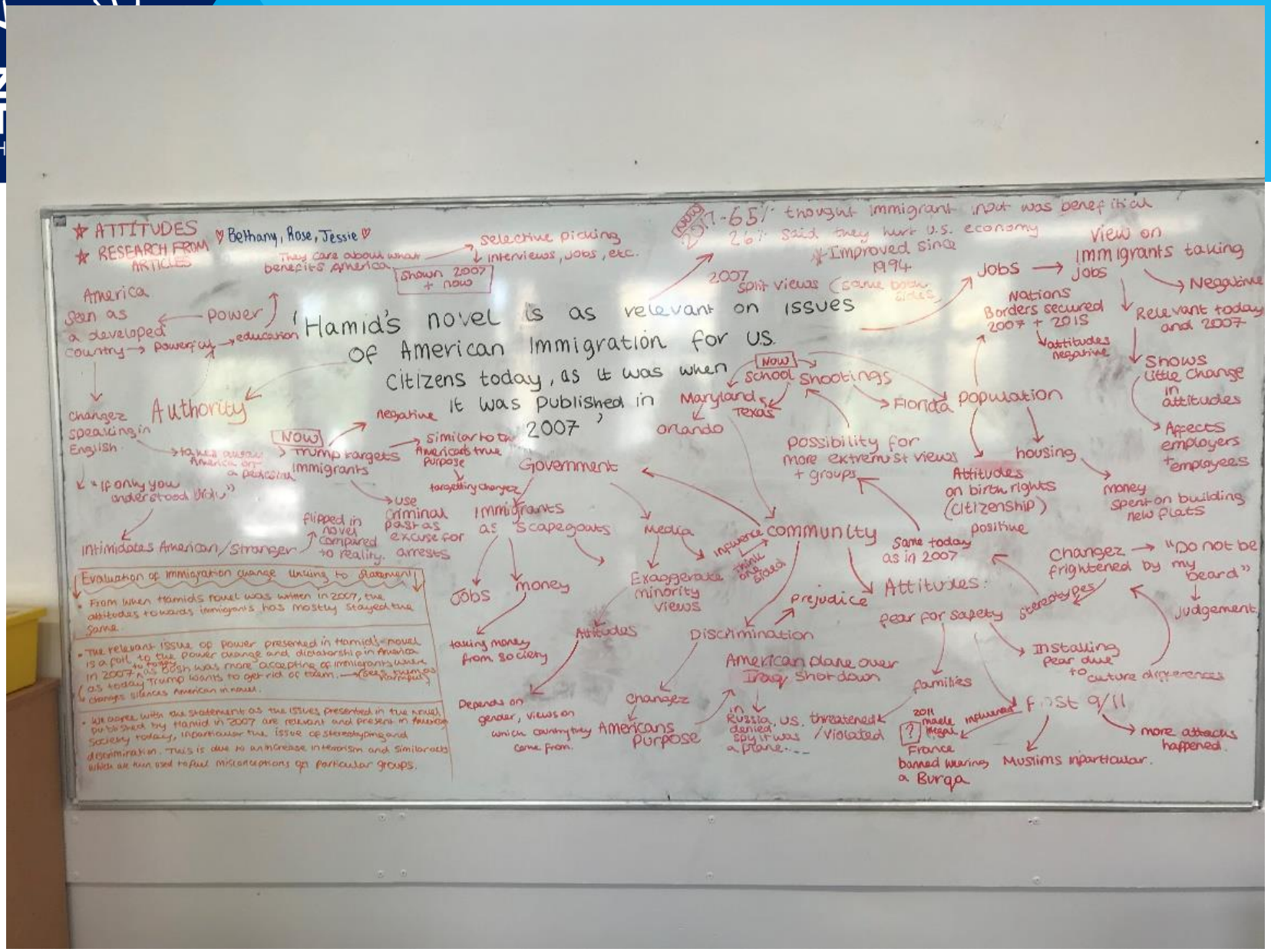
PAKISTAN

PATRIOTISM

The module keeps students up to date on current affairs. More recently, students have researched Trump's immigration policies and have looked at how Britain's policies have developed over the years and why.


18th September 2018
AMERICA
FUNDAMENTALISM TRACKED
9/11
TWIN TOWERS
Manila
Changez is in love with a white girl
Desi culture
Betrayal
CONFLICTED
INDEPENDANT
singular
changez begins preaching his fundamentalist ways to his Uni students
CHAPTER 1
Isolated
Greece
Erica's Dad (corporate)
Ignorance to Pakistan
angers Changez
Pakistan has serious fundamentalism problems
"I like Pakistanis but their elite has raped that place well and good"
Changez grows his beard
Erica disappears
loses his lust for life and tolerance of USA
CHAPTER 12
Princeton
Undressed Samson #Erica


Princeton
Erica
In love w/ a white girl
Defying Pakistani culture
Underwood Samson
Acting carless according to capitalism
Shocked that Manila is more developed than Lahore
Meeting Erica's parents
Defensive of Pakistani culture vs Erica's Dad
Acts like American
Looked at with disdain
Manila
Treated inferiority because of race
Likes the symbolism of hurting USA
Remorse at the deaths
Return to US
Hostile treatment despite him living in America
Insulted by Americans
US has a "self-righteous rage"
Refuse to Shave Beard
Treated with suspicion even by co-workers
America Send troops into Afghanistan
becomes extremely angry and is late for work
Pakistan found being invaded by US
Re-integrates himself with his own culture
Returns home
Realises his being used
views completely change
Clite project
Sexual Rejection
Erica chooses a dead American over him
Erica Suicide
Heartbreak & failure
1. Shame
2. Betrayal
3. Anger
4. Rejected
5. Dejected (Sad)
6. Liberated


ATTITUDES
Bethany, Rose, Jessie
RESEARCH FROM ARTICLES
Hamid's novel is as relevant on issues of American Immigration for US Citizens today, as it was when it was published in 2007
America seen as a developed country → powerful → power → education
Authority
changez speaking in English
"If only you understood Dick"
intimidates American/stranger
Evaluation of immigration change linking to statement
From when Hamid's novel was written in 2007, the attitudes towards immigrants has mostly stayed the same.
The relevant issue of power presented in Hamid's novel is a foil to the power change and dictatorship in America in 2007 as today as 2008 was more accepting of immigrants where as today Trump wants to get rid of them.
changez silences American in novel.
We agree with the statement as the issues presented in the novel published by Hamid in 2007 are relevant and present in American society today, in particular the issue of stereotyping and discrimination. This is due to an increase in terrorism and similarities which are then used to fuel misconceptions on particular groups.
They care about what benefits America
selective picking interviews, jobs, etc.
Shown 2007 + now
NOW 2017 - 65% thought immigrant input was beneficial
26% said they hurt U.S. economy
Improved since 1994
2007 split views (same both sides)
Jobs → View on immigrants taking jobs
Negative
Relevant today and 2007
Shows little change in attitudes
Affects employers + employees
Nations Borders secured 2007 + 2015
attitudes negative
NOW
School Shootings
Maryland
Texas
Florida
Orlando
population
housing
money spent on building new flats
Attitudes on birth rights (citizenship)
positive
possibility for more extremist views + groups
negative
similar to the Americans true purpose
targetting changez
NOW
Trump targets immigrants
Government
Immigrants as scapegoats
use criminal past as excuse for arrests
flipped in novel compared to reality.
Media
Exaggerate minority views
influence
think only about
community
Same today as in 2007
Attitudes:
prejudice
Discrimination
Jobs
money
taking money from society
Attitudes
Depends on gender, views on which country they come from.
changez
Americans purpose
American plane over Iraq shot down
in Russia, US threatened / violated
denied spy it was a plane...
families
fear for safety
stereotypes
Installing fear due to culture differences
Changez → "Do not be frightened by my beard"
judgement
post 9/11
more attacks happened
Muslims in particular.
2011 made illegal
?
France banned wearing a Burqa

THE NAMESAKE

'I WILL ALWAYS SEE MYSELF IN AN IN-BETWEEN ZONE, WHERE I AM A LITTLE BIT OF THIS AND THAT; I WILL NEVER BE SOMETHING WHOLEHEARTEDLY.'

'An individual's immigration journey will always undoubtedly end in loneliness and isolation.'

In the novel, students explore how the protagonist, Gogol, struggles to balance varying aspects of his personality:

STUDENT
INDIAN
AMERICAN
HUSBAND

Students explore the impact of having a multi-faceted identity and make links between the lives of the writers and their characters.

Students compare similarities and differences between the texts. Exploring how and why the experiences of the protagonists differ, but also mirror each other. Students broaden their thinking by considering why the experiences of individuals can be so diverse.

Example Exam Questions

The literature of immigration deals with conflict arising from cultural differences.

The literature of immigration is dominated by writers' social and political concerns.

Immigrants in literature often feel compelled to discover their roots.

Coursework

Non- Examination Assessment: Literature Post 1900 (one of these must be post 2000)

- Studying three texts of your choice, and with some guidance.
- Students have the option to do a re-creative piece or a critical piece of writing. alongside comparison of two of their chosen texts.
- Students also have the freedom to design the task and title that they would like to study.

Past Examples of Coursework Titles:

- Compare the ways in which Plath and Williams present the restriction of gender roles in society in both The Bell Jar and A Streetcar Named Desire.
- Compare and contrast the presentation of identity in Fences and The Colour Purple
- Compare and contrast the presentation of fraternal relationships in The Line of Beauty and The History Boys

Final Thoughts

- Dynamic and engaging approaches to lessons.
- Students are encouraged to discuss, debate, challenge and appreciate a variety of ideas and concepts.
- Students gain an understanding of the significance of language.
- Students learn about the experiences of others.
- Students consider the importance of context.
- Students will read widely and independently.