

# Scheme of Learning: Literature Set Text: The Merchant of Venice (Spring Year 10)

## Topic Sequence:

1	2	3	4
Historical Context Elizabethan Britain	Reading the play	Close study of the play (themes and characters)	Applying exam skills

## Topic Overview:

All pupils must study a play by Shakespeare as part of their GCSE in English Literature.

*The Merchant of Venice* is a play by Shakespeare which is relevant in today's society on many levels. The play explores social prejudice, raises questions about the role of women in society, presents ideas about love, and allows the audience to question social expectations and behaviour.

Pupils will be familiar with the work of Shakespeare following their study of *A Midsummer night's Dream* in year 7 and *The Tempest* in year 8 so are prepared for the challenges of studying this text. We study the play for the duration of a full term so that pupils are given enough time to grasp key themes and ideas needed for them to delve deeper into the key concepts that surround this text.

All pupils are required to have a personal copy of the text so they can make annotations throughout the study

## Lesson Sequence:

The lessons on *The Merchant of Venice* have been carefully crafted to take pupils on a journey of understanding of life in Elizabethan England for different social groups. Teaching will secure pupils' knowledge and understanding of the context of the play before reading and studying the play itself. This sequence serves as a foundation to build a deeper understanding of the themes and ideas present in the play.

Firstly, pupils will be taught about the context of the play and lessons will focus on the history of religious conflict between Jews and Christians across Europe, the role of women in an Elizabethan society, and Shakespeare's Theatre.

Then, with this contextual understanding, pupils will read the play closely, annotating their own copy of the text for understanding of plot and characters, as they read. Once they have read the play and understood its plot, pupils will move to a close study of key sections the text, exploring in detail the ways characters and themes are presented. Alongside their reading of the play, pupils will watch the 2004 film version of the play to consolidate their understanding.

Throughout their study, pupils will use a summary booklet to consolidate their knowledge and understanding of the plot, characters, and themes in the play. Included in this booklet will be their knowledge organiser for this text.

Finally, the assessment for this unit will take the form of a GCSE exam question which has two distinct parts: pupils will be given an extract from the play then directed to explore the way a specific theme or character is presented in the extract, before writing about how the same theme or character is presented in the rest of the play.

Homework: during this study, pupils will be set an independent research project into the play and its context.

Sequence of Learning:		Topic Resources:	
1	Social and Historical context of the play	Knowledge Map: The Merchant of Venice	Any other Resources: Copy of the play Revision guide (recommended)
2	Close reading of the play, including annotations (in pupils' own copies) and regular notes in summary booklets.	<b>Assessment:</b>	
2=	Watch the film version to consolidate understanding	<b>Knowledge:</b>	Pupils will complete a 20 question knowledge test on the play. Questions will focus on characters, plot, context, and key quotations.
4	Close study of character: Shylock	<b>Application of Knowledge:</b>	Pupils will answer a GCSE question from a past paper on a character or theme. The assessment will be marked according to a GCSE exam mark scheme.
5	Close study of character: Portia	<b>Supportive Reading:</b>	
6	Close study of characters: Antonio and Bassanio	<b>Any supported reading listed here</b> The Merchant of Venice revision guides Recommended publications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CGP</li> <li>• Collins Snap Revision</li> <li>• York Notes</li> <li>• Lightbulb Revision</li> </ul> Linked Fiction Texts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shylock Is My Name – H Jacobson</li> <li>• The Jew of Malta – C Marlowe</li> </ul>	
7	Close study of theme: Love		
8	Close study of theme: Justice, Mercy, and Revenge		
9	Close study of theme: Family		