

## Year 10 to 11 Bridging Tasks Summer 2020

due in the first week of September 2020.

During the first half term of Year 11, you will study *Romeo and Juliet* for your English Literature Paper 1 Section A Exam. To help you prepare for this, please complete the two tasks below to the best of your ability.

### TASK 1:

**Learn the Prologue of *Romeo and Juliet* by heart.  
You will write it down from memory in September.**

The *Prologue* tells us what happens in the play. It is a “spoiler”. First, try to understand what the words mean: you can translate it into modern English, use a revision guide to help you understand, watch YouTube explanations etc. To memorise best, you need to write the prologue out, colour lines, repeat lines to yourself and your family, use symbols, use drawings, use post-it notes and many more. To get tips on how to memorise lines, go to:

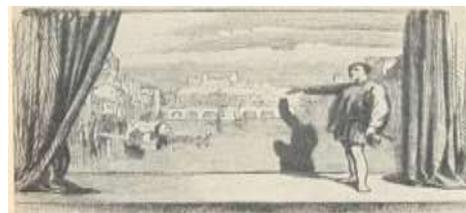
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qm4ZjFXTcs0>

### Chorus

Two households, both alike in dignity,  
In fair Verona, where we lay our scene,  
From ancient grudge break to new mutiny,  
Where civil blood makes civil hands unclean.  
From forth the fatal loins of these two foes  
A pair of star-cross'd lovers take their life;  
Whose misadventur'd piteous overthrows  
Doth with their death bury their parents' strife.  
The fearful passage of their death-mark'd love,  
And the continuance of their parents' rage,  
Which, but their children's end, nought could remove,  
Is now the two hours' traffic of our stage;  
The which if you with patient ears attend,  
What here shall miss, our toil shall strive to mend.

### HELP

In the beautiful city of Verona, where our story takes place, a long-standing hatred between two families erupts into new violence, and citizens stain their hands with the blood of their fellow citizens. Two unlucky children of these enemy families become lovers and commit suicide. Their unfortunate deaths put an end to their parents' feud. For the next two hours, we will watch the story of their doomed love and their parents' anger, which nothing but the children's deaths could stop. If you listen to us patiently, we'll make up for everything we've left out in this prologue onstage.



### Here are some resources to help you:

Sparknotes: <https://www.sparknotes.com/shakespeare/romeojuliet/>

Excellent LitChart, downloadable PDF: <https://www.whitbyhigh.org/Romeo-and-Juliet-LitChart.pdf>

BBC Bitesize:

<https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/topics/zykncwx>

A challenging piece of critical writing: <https://www2.le.ac.uk/offices/english-association/publications/bookmarks/shakespeare-bookmarks-1/romeo-and-juliet>

YouTube has many productions which you can watch to help you understand the play:

[https://www.youtube.com/results?search\\_query=romeo+and+juliet+production](https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=romeo+and+juliet+production)

### TASK 2:

**Read the fact file on Elizabethan England attached to this homework.**

**Make revision cards for each of these topics:**

1. Education
2. Food
3. Poverty
4. Daily Life
5. Medicine and Health
6. Sport and Pastimes
7. Punishment and Torture



## Education

Long hours studying and working didn't stop Tudor children having fun and playing games. Toys were often made from wood or materials which were easily available, such as clay, stone and animal bones. Pig bladders were blown up to make footballs, hoops were made from old barrels, and pebbles or cherry stones were used to play marbles or jacks.

### **Tudor Schools**

Not many children went to school in Tudor times. Those that did go were mainly the sons of wealthy or working families who could afford to pay the attendance fee. Boys began school at the age of 4 and moved to grammar school when they were 7. Girls were either kept at home by their parents to help with housework or sent out to work to bring money in for the family.

Boys were educated for work and the girls for marriage and running a household. The wealthiest families hired a tutor to teach the boys at home. Many Tudor towns and villages had a parish school where the local vicar taught boys to read and write.

### **Lessons**

At school, pupils often had to speak in Latin. They were also taught Greek, religion and mathematics. The boys practiced writing in ink by copying the alphabet and the Lord's Prayer. There were few books, so pupils read from hornbooks instead. These wooden boards had the alphabet, prayers or other writings pinned to them and were covered with a thin layer of transparent cow's horn.

### **The School Day**

It was usual for children to attend six days a week. The school day started at 7:00 am in winter and 6:00 am in summer. It finished about 5:00 pm.

Petty schools had shorter hours, mostly to allow poorer boys the opportunity to work as well.

### **Punishments**

Teachers were very strict, often beating their pupils with birches if they misbehaved. Birches were a type of cane. Teachers used to give 50 strokes of the birch. Pupils were sometimes too scared to go to school because of the beatings.

Pupils from wealthy families could often afford a special friend called a 'whipping-boy'. When the rich child was naughty, it was the whipping-boy who received the punishment.

### **Types of Schools**

There were two types of school in Tudor times:

The Petty School - this taught young children to read.

The Grammar School - this taught boys Latin.

During the reign of Henry VIII many schools attached to monasteries suffered, often being shut. This happened when Henry VIII broke away from the Catholic Church (reformation) after it refused to agree to him divorcing his first wife.

Henry VIII needed well-educated men to work for him. When the monasteries closed, Henry had to refound many monastic schools, using his own money. This is why there are so many 'Kin's' schools all over Britain.

During the reign of Edward VI many free grammar schools were set up to take in non-fee paying students.

There were only two universities in Tudor England - Oxford and Cambridge. Some boys went to university at the age of about fourteen.

## Food



The Tudor people ate a lot of fresh food because there was no way of storing food to be eaten later. There was no such thing as freezers or fridges in the Tudor times. They ate with fingers, knives and spoons. There were no forks.

### Meat

People kept animals all year round and would kill them just before they needed to be eaten. This meant that the meat was always fresh. To improve the flavour of games, such as deer, pheasant and rabbit, it was hung from the ceiling in a cold room for several days before eating.

Three-quarters (75%) of the rich Tudor diet was made up of meat such as oxen, deer, calves, pigs, badger or wild boar. Birds were also eaten, such as chicken, pigeons, sparrows, heron, crane, pheasant, woodcock, partridge, blackbirds and peacocks. 75% of the Tudor diet was meat. Some meat was preserved by rubbing salt into it.

### Bread

Bread was eaten at most meals. You could tell the class of a person by the bread they ate. Rich people ate bread made from white of wholemeal flour where as poor people ate bread made from rye and even ground acorns.

### Fruit and vegetables

Fruit and vegetables were mostly eaten when they were in season and soon after picking. They ate fruits such as pears, apples, plums and cherries. Bananas and other fruits only grown abroad were not heard of during the Tudor times. Some fruits were preserved in syrup to make them last longer through the winter months. Fruit and vegetables could only be eaten when they were in season

The common vegetables were cabbages and onions. Towards the end of the Tudor period, new foods were brought over from the Americas e.g. potatoes, tomatoes, peepers, maize and turkey.

### Fish

Fish was eaten by people living near rivers and the sea. The fresh water fish included eels, pike, perch, trout, sturgeon, roach, and salmon. It was compulsory to eat fish on Fridays and during Lent.

### Drink

Instead of drinking water with their meals, they often drank ale and the rich drank wine. Water was often unfit for drinking because it as contaminated with sewage.

### Sugar

Sugar came from abroad and this made it expensive. The Tudor people often used honey to sweeten their food instead.

### Food for the Poor

Poor people ate a herb-flavoured soup called **pottage** which would be served with bread. It was made of peas, milk, egg yolks, breadcrumbs and parsley and flavoured with saffron and ginger.

They also ate chickens which they could rear themselves, beef from the local market when they had the money, and rabbits which they could catch for themselves.

## Poverty

In Tudor England about a third of the population lived in poverty. Their suffering always increased after bad harvests. A shortage of food resulted in higher prices. This meant that poorer families could not afford to buy enough food for their needs. Wealthy people were expected to give help (alms) to local people suffering from poverty because they were old, blind, crippled or sick. Some wealthy people were generous while others were mean. This meant that poor people in some villages were fairly well cared for while others died of starvation.

Unemployment was a major cause of poverty. When large landowners changed from arable to sheep farming, unemployment increased rapidly. The closing down of the monasteries in the 1530s created even more unemployment. As monasteries had also helped provide food for the poor, this created further problems. Unemployed people were sometimes tempted to leave their villages to look for work. This was illegal and people who did this were classified as vagabonds. A law passed in 1536 stated that people caught outside their parish without work were to be punished by being whipped through the streets. For a second offence the vagabond was to lose part of an ear. If a vagabond was caught a third time he or she was executed.



**Woodcut of a captured vagabond (c. 1536)**

In 1550 Parliament passed a law stating that every parish had to build a workhouse for the poor. Edward VI set an example by giving permission for Bridewell Palace in London to be used as a workhouse. In exchange for food and shelter, the people who lived in the workhouse worked without wages. If people without work refused to go to the workhouse they were to be treated as vagabonds. To pay for these workhouses, vicars were given permission to ask everyone in the parish to give money. If people refused, the vicar had to report them to his bishop. Workhouses did not solve the problem. It has been estimated that in 1570 about 10% of the population were still wandering around the country looking for work.

In 1576 a new Poor Law was introduced. Each parish had to keep a store of "wool, hemp, flax, iron or other stuff that was to be handed out to the unemployed. In exchange for the goods that they produced, the parish gave them money. In this way, the poor could continue living in their own homes. This new law also introduced fines for those who refused to pay money to help the poor. This was followed in 1601 by another Poor Law. Workhouses now had to be provided for people who were too old or ill to work. People who refused to contribute money to help the poor could now be sent to prison.

## Daily Life

Life in Tudor Britain was harsh - the average life expectancy was just 35 years. Most Tudor people lived in the countryside, but some people lived in towns or big Tudor cities like London, Bristol or Norwich.

Tudor England was a farming society. Most of the population (over 90 %) lived in small villages and made their living from farming. Under Tudor rule England became a more peaceful and richer place. Towns grew larger and the mining of coal, tin and lead became very popular.

### Homelife

There were none of the comforts we have today. Water was collected from village pumps, wells or streams but was often polluted.

### Tudor Toilets

Toilets were called 'Privies' and were not very private at all. They were often just a piece of wood over a bowl or a hole in the ground. People would wipe their bottoms with leaves or moss and the wealthier people used soft lamb's wool. In palaces and castles, which had a moat, the lords and ladies would retire to a toilet set into a cupboard in the wall called a garderobe. Here the waste would drop down a shaft into the moat below.

### The Rich

Wealthy Tudors loved to show off their riches. The clothes they wore and the homes they lived in were all signs of their place in society.

### Food

Food was another show of wealth. The rich could afford all kinds of meats and fish and expensive French wine. The best food was considered to be roast veal and venison. People also ate robins, badgers, otters, tortoises and seagulls.

### Entertainment

The types of sports or pastimes a person did was another sign of their rank or wealth. The rich had time for falconry, hunting, jousting, tennis and bowls.

### The Poor

The poor had to work hard and struggled to survive. They worked six days a week and only had holy days and public holidays off work. They ate coarse grey bread made from rye and barley. Soups were made from vegetables and herbs. Meat was a luxury but poor people sometimes kept animals to provide milk, cheese and eggs.

Life for the poor in Tudor times was harsh. When the harvest failed it was tempting for poor people to steal food. When people did break the law, they risked public flogging or being hanged.

## Medicine and Health

Tudor medicine was not very scientific. Doctors had to train in astrology as well as medicine as people still believed then that some illnesses were caused more by the influence of the stars than by germs and poor hygiene. The word influenza comes from "*influence*" and malaria means "*bad air*". People did not understand about germs. During their training few doctors had the chance to study anatomy except from books. Most people had no access to doctors, as they were very expensive. The best that poor people could hope for was to be treated by a herbalist or a wise woman. This was often better! There were no anaesthetics, antibiotics or painkillers. If anyone needed to have an operation they would probably die from infection. Barbers were also trained as surgeons.

One of the common treatments was bleeding. Sometimes a doctor would open a vein by cutting it to let out "bad blood". Sometimes they would put leeches on the skin. Leeches are blood-sucking creatures that attach themselves to the skin. When they have gorged themselves with blood they drop off.

### Plague

The plague swept through Europe several times during Mediaeval and Renaissance times. It was devastating, killing a large proportion of the population.

Patients first complain of chills. This is followed by a high temperature, and the patient begins to vomit. Soon the skin turns black as large boils appear. Death follows soon afterwards.

There were several treatments for the plague, none of which was effective. No one realised that rat fleas spread the plague. Hygiene and public health in Tudor times was very poor, and so rats were common.

### Sweating sickness

This disease was also known *Sudor Anglicus* (English sweat) and men suffered more than women did. It first occurred in 1485 and there were 6 major epidemics during the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries. It has never reappeared.

Patients first suffer from a headache and a slight pain in the chest. Then they break out in a heavy sweat. Soon afterwards they develop a high temperature and a rash. Death may occur within hours. Some people believed that patients should cross their arms across their chests so that air could not reach the armpits and cover themselves completely in blankets, but they must not get too hot.

### Gout

This was a disease suffered by wealthy people. When people eat a very rich diet extra uric acid in the blood can't be broken down and excreted. This is deposited as crystals in the joints and causes swelling, especially of the big toes. Henry VIII is supposed to have suffered from this disease.

### Scrofula

Scrofula is a type of tuberculosis affecting lymph nodes in the neck causing ulceration of the skin. It was once known as the *King's Evil*.

### Scurvy

The symptoms of this disease, which is caused by lack of Vitamin C found in fresh fruit and vegetables, can take several months to appear.

Patients suffer from bruises, a rash, followed by sore and swollen gums. Then the teeth fall out. Internal bleeding causes joints to be painful. The disease can be fatal.

In Tudor times the rich were more likely to suffer because they did not eat vegetables. Scurvy was quite a common disease in Britain until about 1800.

## Sport & Pastimes

In Tudor times sport was strictly controlled by the government. For example, only the upper classes were allowed to take part in tournaments. These involved two armoured knights separated by a four-foot-high wooden barrier. Each knight carried a lance and the objective was to knock your opponent off his horse as he galloped past. Henry VIII was a skilled jousting knight. However, in 1536 he was seriously injured while jousting and was forced to retire from the sport. Henry also enjoyed playing tennis. In Tudor times tennis was played indoors and balls were made of leather shells filled with hair. Henry was also a keen hunter. He often spent six hours a day hunting stags. Only nobles were allowed to hunt stags. Yeoman farmers could hunt foxes and everyone else hunted hares and rabbits. It was important to the Tudor government that English people spent most of their time working. A law was passed in 1512 that banned ordinary people from a whole range of games including tennis, dice, cards, bowls and skittles.

In the early 1500s football became a popular sport in England. It was a very different game from the one played today. The two sets of goal posts were placed about a mile apart. There was no limit to the numbers that took part and players could kick, throw or pick up the ball in an attempt to put it between the opponent's goalposts. In 1540 people in England were banned from playing football. Two years later more games were banned including a new popular activity called shuffleboard (shove-halfpenny).

One pastime that all classes enjoyed in Tudor England was bear-baiting. Individual bears were chained to a post in a bear-ring. A group of dogs were then set on the bear. The dogs tried to kill the bear by biting its throat. Henry VIII and Elizabeth both enjoyed watching bear-baiting. A ring was even built in the grounds of Whitehall so that the Tudor monarchs could watch bear-baiting from the windows of the palace. Queen Elizabeth went on her tours of England, towns put on large bear-baiting shows for her. When the House of Commons in 1585 voted to ban bear-baiting on Sunday, Elizabeth overruled them.

Elizabethans also enjoyed watching other cruel events, for example, bears that had been blinded being whipped by five or six men. Another event involved donkeys and bulls being attacked by teams of fierce dogs. People also paid to visit mental institutions like Bedlam Hospital in London, where they enjoyed watching the strange antics of the patients. Bedlam even hired out patients to appear as entertainers at weddings and banquets.



**A woodcut of a bear-garden (c. 1620)**

## Punishment and Torture

There were no police during the Tudor times. However, laws were harsh and wrongdoing was severely punished. In Tudor times the punishments were very, very cruel. People believed if a criminal's punishment was severe and painful enough, the act would not be repeated and others would deter from crime as well.

### Entertainment

A public execution was an event not to be missed and people would queue through the night to get the best places. There was always a carnival atmosphere and pie sellers, ale merchants and producers of execution memorabilia did a good trade. Some 70,000 people suffered the death penalty during the reign of Henry VIII.

#### **Beheading** ("Death by the Axe")

This was a punishment that resulted in your head being chopped off! The heads were sometimes placed on spikes along London Bridge or other places. Beheading was considered less degrading than hanging, and it usually killed more quickly. Noblemen (rich) who committed crimes were more likely to be beheaded than hung.

#### **Hanging** from the gallows.

A piece of rope was put around the neck making it hard for the person to breathe. The person would be hung from the rope until he/she had stopped breathing and was dead. People were hung for crimes such as stealing, treason, rebellion, riot or murder.

#### **Burning**

Women found guilty of either treason or petty treason were sentenced to be burned alive at the stake

#### **Boiled alive**

For attempting to murdering someone you could be boiled alive in a big bowl of hot water.

#### **Whipping** (flogging)

Many towns had a whipping post. The victim was chained to the post, stripped to the waist and whipped. You could be whipped for stealing a loaf of bread!

#### **Branding with hot irons**

Hot irons were used to burn letters onto the skin of offenders hand, arm or cheek. A murderer would be branded with the letter 'M', vagrants with the letter 'V', and thieves with the letter "T".

#### **The pillory** (standing)

The pillory was a T shaped block of wood with holes for the hands in the crossbar of the T. The person being punished would have to stand in the device in the middle of the market to be ridiculed by passersby.

#### **The stocks** (sitting)

Stocks were used in the same way as the pillory, except that with stocks, the feet were bound. The stocks were a block of wood with two holes for your feet to go in. Local people threw rubbish and rotten eggs at people in the stocks.

#### **The ducking stool** (Punishment for women)

Accused witches were dunked into a river, to see if they were innocent or guilty. If they floated, they were considered guilty and burnt at the stake. If they sank, they were innocent but died anyway, by drowning. Either way, they perished.

#### **Limbs cut off**

Some people who stole things from shops had their hands cut off.

#### **The Drunkard's Cloak**

This was a punishment for public drunkenness. The drunk was forced to don a barrel and wander through town while the villagers jeer at him. Holes were cut in the barrel for the person's hands and head, causing it to become like a heavy, awkward shirt.