

# A Level Literature: The Gothic: *Comparative and contextual study*



| Key vocabulary             |                                                                               | Gothic conventions                 |                                                                                               | Critical theory                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>primitive</b><br>       | Being the first or earliest of the kind or in existence                       | <b>Otherness</b><br>               | the quality or fact of being different                                                        | <b>The Male Gaze</b><br>        | Developed from <b>Freud's</b> theory – Mulvey's theory presents women as sexual objects from the viewpoint of a man<br><b>Scopophilia</b> = the pleasure in looking which is associated with sexual drives |
| <b>intertextuality</b><br> | The relationship between literary texts; a product of many outside influences | <b>male archetype</b><br>          | a very typical example of a male                                                              | <b>Sadism</b><br>               | sexual urges which are gratified by the infliction of pain on another person. The term was coined in reference to the <b>Marquis de Sade</b>                                                               |
| <b>epistolary</b><br>      | contained in or carried on by letters                                         | <b>female archetype</b><br>        | a very typical example of a female                                                            | <b>The Sublime</b><br>          | From <b>Romanticism</b> , the sublime excites the senses of the reader to a degree that exceeds the ordinary limits of that individual's capacities                                                        |
| <b>paratext</b><br>        | refers to everything that surrounds or frames the main text                   | <b>Gothic settings</b><br>         | Genre was first established with the publication of Walpole's, The Castle of Otranto in 1764. | <b>Patriarchal ideology</b><br> | men have more power, dominance, and privilege than women                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Modernism</b><br>       | new forms of expression and rejects traditional or accepted ideas.            | <b>Monstrosity of the body</b><br> | Irregularity and the grotesque                                                                | <b>Matriarchal ideology</b><br> | positions of dominance and authority are primarily held by women but it is not embedded in structures and institutions                                                                                     |

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|   |                       |                                                                                                     |  |                                        |                                                                                                       |  |                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|   | <b>pastiche</b><br>   | a work of art that <b>imitates</b> the style or character of the work of one or more other artists. |  | <b>The Unreliable Narrator</b><br>     | Used to build an unnerving sense of uncertainty in the mind of the reader.                            |  | <b>Second wave feminism</b><br>    | a period of feminist activity that began in the early 1960s and lasted roughly two decades,                                                                                           |
|   | <b>depraved</b><br>   | make morally bad or evil                                                                            |  | <b>abhuman</b><br>                     | Separation from a normal human existence                                                              |  | <b>Romanticism</b><br>             | An emphasis on emotional and imaginative spontaneity. The importance of self-expression and individual feeling                                                                        |
|   | <b>perversion</b><br> | human behaviour (usually sexual) that is considered abnormal and unacceptable                       |  | <b>metamorphosis / mutability</b><br>  | The capacity to change or to transform into something else                                            |  | <b>Maximalism</b><br>              | Maximalism is a postmodern artistic movement that embraces the 'excess'                                                                                                               |
|   | <b>Macabre</b><br>    | A theme focusing on death and the ghastly and gruesome                                              |  | <b>lurid &amp; phallic imagery</b><br> | Vividly shocking<br>Referring to the phallus as an embodiment of power                                |  | <b>Psychoanalytical theory</b><br> | Stemming from Freud, the unconscious mind uncovers repressed feelings and emotional patterns; suggests that human behavior is influenced by unconscious memories, thoughts, and urges |
|   | <b>subjugated</b><br> | bring under domination or control                                                                   |  | <b>sensibility</b><br>                 | Characters wallowing in their own feelings. Exaggerated or heightened emotional states or characters. |  |                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 5 | <b>subversion</b><br> | the undermining of the power and authority of an established system or institution                  |  | <b>arcane</b><br>                      | secret, mysterious, understood by few people.                                                         |  |                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                       |