

The School For Scandal – Context Work

INTRODUCTION FOR TEACHERS

The context, period and genre of the play are an important part of almost any higher level course/exam. Students should therefore research a relevant historical and literary topic and do a presentation to the class.

Below, you'll find a range of 20 different topics, together with appropriate sub-topics. Simply print out and distribute as required.

This study resource is brought to you by Stage on Screen, the UK company staging classic stage plays of set texts for schools, students and theatre lovers everywhere. All productions are filmed and distributed on multi-region DVD, and are available in the UK and all over the world. For details, please see www.stageonscreen.com

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YOUR TOPIC

Les Liaisons Dangereuses by Choderlos de Laclos

SUB-TOPICS

Valmont

Merteuil

Laclos' attitude to scandal

French attitudes to sex and money in the eighteenth century

French Revolution

Louis XVI

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YOUR TOPIC

David Garrick

SUB-TOPICS

Eighteenth century "Realism"

Drury Lane Theatre

Adaptations of Shakespeare

New styles of theatre in the eighteenth century

Eighteenth century concepts of "Character"

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YOUR TOPIC

Jews in eighteenth century England

SUB-TOPICS

Money-lending
Jewish Naturalization Act of 1753
Sephardic Synagogues
Samson Gideon
Jacobite Rebellion
Jacob Nathan Moses
Benjamin Hopkins

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YOUR TOPIC

Annuity Bill of 1777

SUB-TOPICS

Money-lending
Inheritance & landowning
Lending to minors
Debt before the age of majority in England

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YOUR TOPIC

The life and politics of Richard Sheridan

SUB-TOPICS

Eighteenth century Ireland
Drury Lane Theatre
Georgiana Duchess of Devonshire
James Fox & the Whig Party
George III
Frances Sheridan

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YOUR TOPIC

Benevolism

SUB-TOPICS

Prudence & monetary meanness

Charity as essential virtue

Henry Fielding

Men of Sentiment

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YOUR TOPIC

Drury Lane Theatre in the eighteenth century

SUB-TOPICS

David Garrick
Investors in the Drury Lane Theatre
The Country Wife
Covent Garden
Colley Cibber
Stucco designs

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YOUR TOPIC

The East India Company

SUB-TOPICS

Nabobs

John Company

White Mughals

Warren Hastings

Marriage between Britons and Indians in the East India Company

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YOUR TOPIC

Conventional morality under George III

SUB-TOPICS

Religion in eighteenth century England

Queen Charlotte – “Mrs King”

Royal Marriages Act 1772

Illegitimacy & adultery among the English and German upper classes

American Revolutionary War

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YOUR TOPIC

Frances Abington

SUB-TOPICS

Lord Shelburne

Love for Love

The Lady's Last Stake

The Abington Cap

Lady Teazle

Flower girls in eighteenth century England

Actresses and prostitutes in eighteenth century England

Joshua Reynolds

Richard Cosway

Isaac Taylor

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YOUR TOPIC

Comedies of Manners

SUB-TOPICS

Moliere
Restoration Comedy
She Stoops to Conquer
The Way of the World
French Sentimental Comedies

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YOUR TOPIC

The Country Wife – Wycherley

SUB-TOPICS

Restoration Comedy

The Country Girl

Town vs Country in Restoration Comedy

Puritans

Cross-dressing in Restoration Comedy

The School for Wives – Moliere

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The Rivals – Richard Sheridan

SUB-TOPICS

Comedy of Manners

Malapropisms

Hoaxes and tricks in the play

The influence of "Sentimental Comedy"

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YOUR TOPIC

The Duenna – Richard Sheridan

SUB-TOPICS

Thomas Linley

Pastiche opera

John Fletcher's *The Chances*

Uses of folk-song in *The Duenna*

Young men marrying rich young women in *The Duenna*

Forced marriage

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YOUR TOPIC

Architecture in England 1720-1780

SUB-TOPICS

The Pantheon
Grosvenor Square
The Bank of England
Drury Lane Theatre
Georgian buildings

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YOUR TOPIC

George Colman the elder

SUB-TOPICS

David Garrick
The Clandestine Marriage
The Jealous Wife
Covent Garden Theatre
Beaumont & Fletcher

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Eighteenth century scandal sheets

SUB-TOPICS

The Morning Post

Henry Bate

Town & Country

Using initials to avoid libel

Eighteenth century gossip columns

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YOUR TOPIC

The eighteenth century class system in England

SUB-TOPICS

Members of Parliament
Marriage
City knights & rural landowners
The House of Lords
Georgiana Duchess of Devonshire
Sex and class
Servants
Money

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YOUR TOPIC

Jonsonian names

SUBTOPICS

Eighteenth century concepts of character
Morality Plays
Ben Jonson
The Vices
Surface
Wormwood
Snake

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YOUR TOPIC

Eighteenth century attitudes to marriage

SUB-TOPICS

Widowhood

Heiresses

Divorce

Actresses & prostitutes

Georgiana Duchess of Devonshire

"A more polite age"

Sexuality & inheritance



Because plays are
written to be seen.