

# Year 9 English – The Crucible

Key Terminology		
	Term	Definition
1	<b>hysteria</b>	Exaggerated or uncontrollable emotion or excitement.
2	<b>hypocrisy</b>	The practice of engaging in the same behaviour or activity for which one criticise or condemns another.
3	<b>ideology</b>	A set of beliefs and ideas on which people, parties, groups, or countries base their actions and decisions.
4	<b>patriarchy</b>	A system of society or government in which men hold the power and women are largely excluded from it.
5	<b>theocracy</b>	A type of government where the rulers believe they are guided by God.
6	<b>witch-hunt</b>	A search for people labelled "witches" or evidence of witchcraft, often involving moral panic or mass hysteria.
7	<b>persecution</b>	Hostility and ill-treatment, especially because of race or political or religious beliefs; oppression.
8	<b>Puritan</b>	A member of a group of English Protestants of the late 16 <sup>th</sup> and 17th centuries. They wanted to simplify and regulate forms of worship.
9	<b>Puritanical</b>	Having or displaying a very strict moral attitude.
10	<b>communism</b>	A political system where all property is owned by the community and each person contributes and receives according to their ability and needs.

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11	<b>Tragic hero</b>	The central character in a tragedy, who has a flaw that inevitably leads to his/her own destruction.
12	<b>Allegory</b>	A narrative used to convey a message or meaning not directly stated in the text, often a moral or political one.
13	<b>Hubris</b>	A personality trait where someone has excessive pride or self-confidence.
14	<b>Hamartia</b>	The fatal flaw of a tragic hero.
15	<b>Peripeteia</b>	A sudden or unexpected reversal of circumstances, especially in a literary work like a tragedy.

Key Information	
16	The play is a four-act tragedy written in 1952 by Arthur Miller, a celebrated American playwright.
17	The play is based upon a famous series of witch trials that took place in Salem, Massachusetts, in the 17 <sup>th</sup> century; a group of girls living in a Puritan society fell ill and since nobody could explain why some villagers began to accuse one another of witchcraft.
18	The witch trials became an excuse for people with grudges, jealousies and disagreements to accuse others. Hundreds of men and women were imprisoned and twenty were hanged.
19	The play was first performed at the time of McCarthyism in America: this was when an American senator called Joseph McCarthy stirred up terror and hysteria around communists in America.
20	Miller's play uses the Salem witch trials as a way of exposing and criticising the hysteria caused and damage done by McCarthy's actions.