



English Language and Literature 2025

You should be ready to hand your work in on your first lesson in September.

The Handmaid's Tale

When you start your course in September, you will embark upon a unit called *Imagined Worlds* where you will be expected to explore the imagined worlds of texts which are characterised by unusual narratives, narrators and events. The text that you will be exploring is *The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood*.

In order to familiarise yourself with the text to be studied you should of course read it. You should then conduct some research into the context of the novel.

Your task is as follows:

1. Purchase and read *The Handmaid's Tale*
2. Complete a reading log for each chapter (there are 46!) which include:
 - What happens
 - Key quotes (language analysis)
 - Connections to context (social/historical/dystopian genre). Use task three to help you with this.
3. Conduct some research into Margaret Atwood's life and times. Consider:
 - Atwood and her life
 - the background to the novel, when was it written and why
 - what was happening during Atwood's life (social and historical context)
 - what may have inspired or influenced her work
 - any other useful observations

**The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood

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Linguistic Terms

At the beginning of the course, you will be introduced to the framework of Language Levels, which you will use to analyse a range of texts. To prepare for this, find definitions and examples of the following linguistic terms.

Main verb	Demonstrative adjective	Adverb of place
Auxiliary verb		Adverb of degree
Modal verb		Adverb of frequency
Stative verb		Adverb of manner
Dynamic verb		Preposition
Proper noun		Noun phrase
Common noun		Verb phrase
Concrete noun		
Abstract noun	Quantitative adjective	
Collective noun	Distributive adjective	
Pre-modifier		
Post-modifier	Descriptive adjective	
Comparative adjective	Possessive adjective	
Superlative adjective	Interrogative adjective	Possessive pronoun
	Adverb of time	Reflexive pronoun

Relative pronoun

*Demonstrative
pronoun*

*Interrogative
pronoun*

Indefinite pronoun

Simple sentence

*Compound
sentence*

Complex sentence

*Declarative
sentence*

*Interrogative
sentence*

*Imperative
sentence*

*Exclamative
sentence*

