



English Language and Literature 2023

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

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.

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|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <i>Main verb</i> | <i>Quantitative adjective</i> | <i>Possessive pronoun</i> |
| <i>Auxiliary verb</i> | | <i>Reflexive pronoun</i> |
| <i>Modal verb</i> | <i>Distributive adjective</i> | <i>Relative pronoun</i> |
| <i>Stative verb</i> | <i>Descriptive adjective</i> | <i>Demonstrative pronoun</i> |
| <i>Dynamic verb</i> | | <i>Interrogative pronoun</i> |
| <i>Proper noun</i> | <i>Possessive adjective</i> | <i>Indefinite pronoun</i> |
| <i>Common noun</i> | <i>Interrogative adjective</i> | |
| <i>Concrete noun</i> | <i>Adverb of time</i> | <i>Simple sentence</i> |
| <i>Abstract noun</i> | <i>Adverb of place</i> | <i>Compound sentence</i> |
| <i>Collective noun</i> | <i>Adverb of degree</i> | <i>Complex sentence</i> |
| <i>Pre-modifier</i> | <i>Adverb of frequency</i> | <i>Declarative sentence</i> |
| <i>Post-modifier</i> | <i>Adverb of manner</i> | <i>Interrogative sentence</i> |
| <i>Comparative adjective</i> | <i>Preposition</i> | <i>Imperative sentence</i> |
| <i>Superlative adjective</i> | <i>Noun phrase</i> | <i>Exclamative sentence</i> |
| <i>Demonstrative adjective</i> | <i>Verb phrase</i> | |

