

Welcome to A Level English Lang/Lit

- **What you can read:**

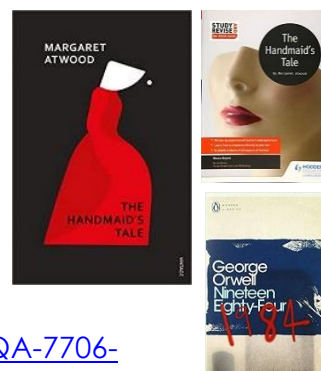
The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood

Nineteen Eighty-Four by George Orwell

Study and Revise for AS/A-level: The Handmaid's Tale by Nicola Onyett

AQA English Language and Literature Specification:

<https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/english/specifications/AQA-7706-7707-SP-2015.PDF>



- **What you can watch:**

Below are some of the skills/topics that you will be learning when you join us at Burnley College. Here are some videos for you to watch to get you started on those topics and/or skills:

- Reversing Roe (Netflix) [WARNING: This deals with difficult themes]
- The Handmaid's Tale (Hulu) [WARNING: This deals with difficult themes]
- The Handmaid's Tale, Part 1: Crash Course Literature 403
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PubyDwbNqYA>
- The Handmaid's Tale, Part 2: Crash Course Literature 404
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zj05QxebnC4>
- How to recognize a dystopia - Alex Gendler
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6a6kbU88wu0>

- **What are some of the topics and skills that you will cover?**

Below are some of the topics and skills that we will cover in September and October:

Topics	Relevant skills to the topic
Introduction to Dystopian Literature	- Understanding of genre conventions and literary tradition/movements. - Establishing key terms and ideas/concepts.
Narrative Voice and Narrative Construction (Narratology)	- Focus on non-linear storytelling and unreliable narrators.
Creating and Establishing New (Imaginary) Worlds	- Focus on language techniques and word choice.
Context and Theory (New Historicism)	- Links to history (1980s), politics, geography – theoretical perspectives applied to literature.

- **Tasks that you can do to prepare you:**

<u>Task</u>	<u>Link to the course/specification</u>
<p style="text-align: center;">Task 1.</p> <p>Watch the video on The Handmaid's Tale, Part 1: Crash Course Literature and consider the following statement by Margaret Atwood:</p> <p>“The majority of dystopias - Orwell's included - have been written by men, and the point of view has been male. When women have appeared in them, they have been either sexless automatons or rebels who have defied the sex rules of the regime.”</p> <p>Arguably, Offred is both an 'automaton' and a 'rebel' – what evidence from the novel/research can you find to prove this? Present your ideas as a mind map.</p>	<p>Narrative Voice and Narrative Construction</p> <p>This topic explores the imagined worlds of the text which is characterised by an unusual narrative, narrator, and events. In studying this, you will consider different perspectives from which to read texts Inc. Feminism.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Task 2.</p> <p>Analyse these quotes by identifying techniques used by the authors (apply terminology where necessary) and consider their similarities/differences. How have they established a new/imaginary world?</p> <p><i>Nineteen Eighty-Four</i>: “It was a bright cold day in April, and the clocks were striking thirteen.”</p> <p><i>The Handmaid's Tale</i>: “We slept in what had once been the gymnasium.”</p>	<p>Creating and Establishing New (Imaginary) Worlds</p> <p>Language analysis is a vital part of the course and allows us to consider not only authorial intention but character motivations and worldbuilding.</p> <p>You should already have knowledge of some terminology from GCSE. We will build on this throughout your A Level.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Task 3</p> <p>Research Atwood's inspirations for the novel – what events impacted the creation of her plot and characters?</p>	<p>Context and Theory (New Historicism)</p> <p>Understanding author intentions and inspirations allows us to delve further into the potential meanings of a text.</p> <p>Research skills are also important to develop – you will need them for coursework!</p>

- **Contact information**

If you have questions regarding this or any other A Level course at Burnley College, please contact alevels@burnley.ac.uk or call 01282733373

We look forward to seeing you in September.