



Flying Start 2019

English Language and Literature

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Introduction to the course

Welcome to English Language and Literature. You will be studying the AQA course – you can find out more about the course here:

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/as-and-a-level/english-language-and-literature-7706-7707>

Over the 2 years of this course you will be studying the following subject areas:

Literary texts from different periods, including poetry, prose and plays. These texts are:

<i>Othello</i>	William Shakespeare
<i>The Handmaid's Tale</i>	Margaret Atwood
<i>The Kite Runner</i>	Khaled Hosseini
<i>Mean Time</i>	Carol Ann Duffy (poems from this collection)

Non-literary texts from an anthology based on the theme of Paris. This anthology includes extracts from websites, blogs, autobiographies, travel writing, reviews, tour guides.

You will learn how to:

- articulate arguments and analyse texts in a concise but imaginative way.
- learn and utilise terminology for language and literary analysis.
- analyse the specific effects of techniques used in texts.
- understand the effect of contextual factors on shaping language use.
- explore issues concerning our valuation of language use in its myriad different forms.
- develop the skills of academic research.
- develop both creative writing and editing skills.
- explore the impact of your own creative choices in writing.

Course Reading

Over the course of your first year you will be asked to read several books and texts. Prior to starting the course you will need to buy and read:

The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood (suggested copy – Vintage classics edition)

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Handmaids-Tale-Vintage-Classics/dp/1784873187/>

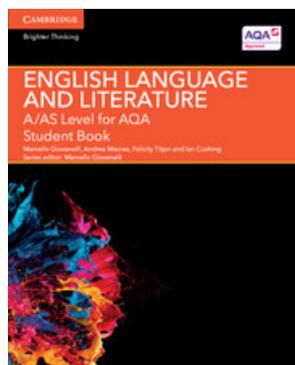


Whilst reading the text you may find it useful to use study guides to help you understand the novel. Those pictured above from the 'York Notes' series and the 'Study and Revise' series published by Hodder Education (shown above), would be a good place to start.

Now that you are about to become an advanced level reader, you may wish to use post it notes to summarise each chapter and consider your opinion on characters as you move through the book. For example, does your opinion about Offred change as the novel continues? It is also worth thinking about how *The Handmaid's Tale* differs from other books that you have read? How does Atwood's particular style impact on the reader? How does it fit into the dystopian genre? What has influenced her ideas?

This novel has enormous contemporary relevance at the moment given the release of the second series of the Hulu series based on the novel and Atwood's long-awaited sequel, *The Testaments*. You may like to read/watch these, remembering that the TV series is a distinct adaptation of the novel.

An optional, but absolutely fantastic resource is the course text book. The details of this are below:



CUP A/AS Level English Language and Literature for AQA Student Book

ISBN: 9781107465664

Authors: Marcello Giovanelli, Marcello Giovanelli, Andrea Macrae, Felicity Titjen, Ian Cushing

£22.09

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Level-English-Language-Literature-Student/dp/1107465664/>

General Preparation

As well as the very specific preparation outlined in the section above, you will get the most out of this course if you have a good general knowledge of geography, history and current affairs and are well informed about cultural trends.

More specifically, in preparation for studying the 'Paris Anthology', it will be helpful to know something about the culture and history of Paris. Before you start the course in September, you should look through these chronologies of French history and write your own timeline, starting with 1789 and ending with the present day. It does not need to be incredibly detailed as long as it contains major events in the country's history and the names given to key periods.

- <https://www.france-pub.com/history-timeline.php>
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-17299605>
- <https://www.thoughtco.com/key-events-in-french-history-1221319>

Wider reading resources

Open Book (BBC Radio 4) - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006qp6p>

Programme looking at new fiction and non-fiction books, talking to authors and publishers and unearthing lost classics.

The Culture Show (BBC 2) - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006t6c5>

The best of the week's arts and culture news, covering books, art, film, architecture and more.

Peripeteia - <https://peripeteia.webs.com/>

A site for students studying English at 'A' Level/University. Discussion Forums and unique online Seminars to build confidence, creativity, and individual analytical style.

English Review Magazine - <https://www.hoddereducation.co.uk/subjects/english/products/16-18/the-english-review-magazine-volume-30,-2019-20>

English Review Magazine includes in-depth analysis of key texts, contextual background, and articles designed to focus students' exam skills, including tackling unseen extracts. You will need to subscribe to this magazine to get access to the articles.

British Library: Discovering Literature - <https://www.bl.uk/discovering-literature>

Follow up on your own literary interests, by browsing the overwhelming resources that this site has to offer, from original manuscripts that you can view online to thought-provoking academic articles.



Additional Tasks

Complete at least one of the tasks below:

ACTIVITY 1

Read, *'The Yellow Wallpaper'* by Charlotte Perkins Gilman, it can be found here:
<http://image.guardian.co.uk/sys-files/Books/documents/2009/01/09/TheYellowWallpaper.pdf>

Identify ten points in the short story where we are encouraged to feel sympathy for the narrator (AO1). Then, try and write 300 words of John's account, considering his viewpoint and attitude towards his wife (AO5).

ACTIVITY 2

Find the extract from, *'Notes on a Small Island'* by Bill Bryson which starts: *'My first sight of England was on a foggy March night in 1973' to 'wasn't so much walking as being dragged along on three legs'*. The extract can be located online, for example:
<http://www.welovethisbook.com/features/notes-small-island-extract>

Identify aspects of Bryson's writing which mimics a conversational tone and how this shapes our understanding of his viewpoint (AO1 & AO2).

ACTIVITY 3

Choose two poems by **either** Sylvia Plath **or** two poems by Ted Hughes. Produce a Venn diagram looking at similarities and differences between the two poems. You should consider literary terms as well as linguistic terms, use the glossary included to help you (AO1 & AO4).

ACTIVITY 4

Find a blog online. Print out 2 pages and annotate it, paying close attention to the conventions specific to this form and how this allows it to meet its purpose (AO1 & AO3).



ACTIVITY 5

Locate a copy of your favourite book from when you were a child. Imagine you have been asked to rewrite it for a teenage audience. Write the blurb to indicate changes which you would need to make to the plot, structure and language (AO3 & AO5).

Kit List

In order to be prepared for you're A-level course, it is suggested that you purchase the following:

- Arch-lever folder
- Dividers
- Highlighters
- Coloured pens
- Post-it notes
- Sticky labels to use as markers/bookmarks
- File paper
- Plastic wallets



Summary

In September, you should be ready to hand in/show the following:

- Evidence of your reading of *The Handmaid's Tale*
- A timeline of French history
- One of the additional tasks from the list on page 5
- An arch-lever folder with dividers ready to file your work