



St Joseph's College English Department

Preparation work for AQA A Level English Language and Literature

Task:

- Read *The Handmaid's Tale* (this is one of your set texts) over the summer. Be prepared to discuss the novel and present ideas. Annotate with information regarding key characters and themes.
- Prepare notes to discuss the question: Are the male characters victims in this society? Notes must include key references from the entire novel.
- Research critical readings / interpretations of the novel. Chose one that you find interesting and you can either support or refute.

Extension tasks:

- Read *1984* by George Orwell. In conjunction with this, research dystopian fiction and feminist literature. Make notes on the key elements of these genres. How far does either novel fit these models?

Texts to purchase

ISBN numbers given are for the editions of texts which will be used in examinations. We strongly recommend purchasing the same edition for your own study for ease of navigating texts in the exam.

Examined set texts:

The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood, ISBN 9780099 740919

Othello by William Shakespeare, ISBN 9 781107 615595

The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald, ISBN 9 78014 182636

AQA 'Remembered Places' (Paris) and 'Poetic Voices' (Seamus Heaney) anthologies will be provided by the exam board.

Optional Study guides:

York Notes – available for *Othello*, *The Great Gatsby* and *The Handmaid's Tale*

A Critical Study Guide for the AQA AS and A Level English Language and Literature Paris

Anthology by M Parks, ISBN 978-1978039100