



St Joseph's College English Department.

Preparation work for A Level Study: English Language / Literature.

One of the set texts for study at A Level is Margaret Atwood's '**The Handmaid's Tale**'.

1

Read *The Handmaid's Tale* fully. Be prepared to discuss the novel and present ideas.

Annotate with information regarding key characters and themes.

2

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.

3

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?

You will need to bring all of your notes and your copy of '*The Handmaid's Tale*' to your first lesson. Be prepared to discuss, argue and justify your ideas. Bring also your chosen critical interpretation. All of these elements will form your first tasks in class.