

Flying Start 2018

English Language and Literature

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Introduction to the course:

Welcome to English Language and Literature. You are studying the AQA course. Over the two years of this course you will be studying the following subject areas:

Literary texts from different periods, in all areas of prose, poetry and plays. These texts are:

Othello **William Shakespeare** (*This choice may be changed.*)

The Handmaid's Tale **Margaret Atwood**

The Kite Runner **Khaled Hosseini**

Collection of Carol Ann Duffy poetry (from 'Mean Time' 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.

The course is set out as follows:

Year 12	The Handmaid's Tale	The Paris Anthology	Poetic Voices: Meantime
Year 13	The Kite Runner	Othello	Revisiting texts from Year 12

You will learn how to:

- articulate arguments and analyse texts in a clear and concise way
- learn terminology for language and literary analysis
- analyse the specific effects of techniques used in texts
- develop academic research
- develop creative writing and editing skills
- explore impact of own creative choices

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 by Contemporary Classics)



We also ask you to research **Carol Ann Duffy's poetry (in particular *Mean Time* collection)** and collect **non-fiction texts linked to Paris** (e.g. travel guides, reviews).

Whilst reading the text you may find it useful to use guidebooks to help you understand the novel. Look online or for second hand guides in book or charity shops. You may wish to use post it notes to summarise each chapter and consider your opinion on characters. For example, does your opinion about Offred change as the novel continues? How does Atwood's style impact on the reader? What has influenced her ideas?

Specific Reading Tasks

To prepare you for the start of the English Language and Literature course you have some specific reading tasks to complete and some questions to answer that you will need to bring to your first lesson.

A/ Complete reading *The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood.

1. Write a chapter summary for each chapter (approx. 2 sentences)
2. Create a character profile for **Offred, Moira, The Commander** and **Commander's Wife (Serena Joy)**. This should include physical appearance, key events they are involved in and their relationship with the protagonist, Offred.

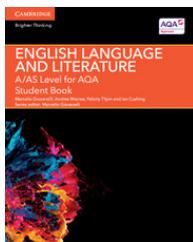
B/ Begin to collect non-fiction texts which describe Paris. These could include:

A mind map of top tourist destinations in Paris.

Research the key details about the French Revolution.

Book List

Course textbook. This is a very helpful textbook, which covers the whole two year course. Written by examiners, it gives you the opportunity to work independently on consolidating the topics covered in class.



Cambridge University Press A/AS Level English Language and Literature for AQA Student Book

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(These are available new and second hand starting at around £14.)