

Hello new Literature and Language students and welcome to the course.

It's obviously very strange times, and by the time we meet, you will have been out of school for a long while. To keep your study skills fresh, I would like you to start some of your A level reading over the summer.

One of the books we are studying this year is *The Handmaid's Tale*, by Margaret Atwood. In this folder, you will find a pdf of the book that can be read on an ipad, screen or Kindle. Sorry it's a bit of a odd layout – but it was free! Ideally, you will have a paper copy too but that can wait till things are more normal.

Your task is just to read and enjoy the book! If you are really keen, then I have added some chapter questions in the folder that you can answer (just type up in a word document) but I understand if you aren't able to do all of these – just do what you can.

If you are the type of person that wants to watch it on TV first, then it was made in to a series (available on Netflix) We can discuss in class how close it is to the book when we have all watched it.

A level is really different to either of your GCSE subjects, and you will be looking at the book in different way than you did at GCSE. If you want to read about the whole course then you can do so here: <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/as-and-a-level/english-language-and-literature-7706-7707>

The unit that we will begin with is called Imagined Worlds (as Gilead, the place in which *The Handmaid's Tale* is set is entirely fictional). Similar to GCSE, you will look at writers' language choices, but will start to look in more depth at:

- point of view
- characterisation
- presentation of time and space/place
- narrative structure.

If you want to email me to say hello, then feel free to do so. My email is [etheobald@stvincent.ac.uk](mailto:etheobald@stvincent.ac.uk).