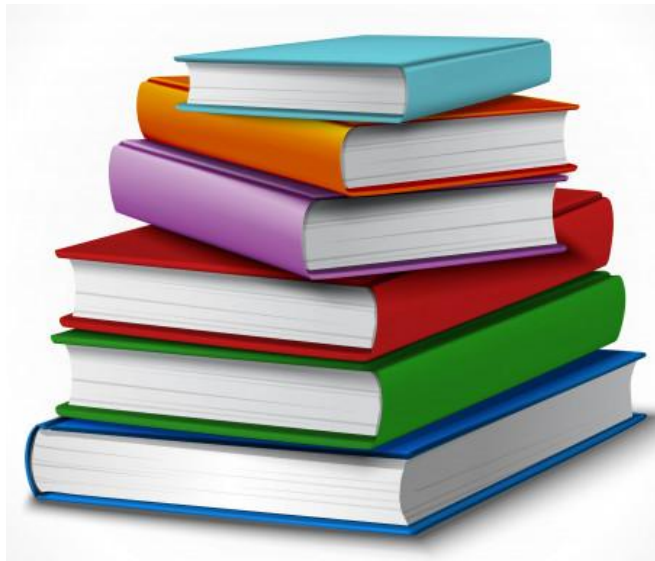




# A Level English Transition work



This transition work book are designed to give you an introduction and prepare you for advanced study in your chosen subjects. The tasks are to be completed independently over the summer and handed into your subject teachers in your first lesson. You should aim to spend a minimum of four hours on this transition booklet. The exam board you will be studying is OCR.

# OCR English Literature

## What to expect from your English Literature A-Level course:

### Component 01 Shakespeare, and Drama and Poetry pre-1900

- For this component, you will study **Hamlet** by William Shakespeare, and compare the play **A Doll's House** by Henrik Ibsen with a selection of poems by **Christina Rossetti**.
- Assessment of this component is by one exam (2 hours 30 minutes), and is worth 40% of your A level.

### Component 02 Close reading, and comparative and contextual study from chosen topic area

- For this component, the chosen topic area is Dystopian fiction. Our focus will be the core set texts: **Nineteen Eighty-Four** by George Orwell and **The Handmaid's Tale** by Margaret Atwood.
- Assessment of this component is by one exam (2 hours 30 minutes), and is worth 40% of your A level.

### Component 03 Close reading or re-creative writing piece & commentary

#### **Comparative essay**

- For this component on literature post-1900, we are studying literature which explores *Identity, Place and Belonging*. Our focus will be the poems of **Elizabeth Bishop**, the play **A View from the Bridge** by Arthur Miller and the novel **N-W** by Zadie Smith.
- Component 03 is a non-examined assessment. Your written responses will be internally assessed and are worth 20% of your A level.

OCR	Title of component	Texts	Assessment	%
H472/01	<i>Shakespeare, and Drama and Poetry pre-1900</i>	Hamlet A Doll's House & Rossetti poems	Exam - 2 hours 30 mins	40%
H472/02	<i>Close reading, and comparative and contextual study</i>	1984 & The Handmaid's Tale	Exam - 2 hours 30 mins	40%
H472/03	<i>Close reading and comparative essay</i>	Elizabeth Bishop poems A View from the Bridge and N-W	Coursework	20%

<b>AO1</b>	Articulate informed, personal and creative responses to literary texts, using associated concepts and terminology, and coherent, accurate written expression.
<b>AO2</b>	Analyse ways in which meanings are shaped in literary texts.
<b>AO3</b>	Demonstrate understanding of the significance and influence of the contexts in which literary texts are written and received.
<b>AO4</b>	Explore the connections across literary texts.
<b>AO5</b>	Explore literary texts informed by different interpretations.

# Just for fun!

## Figures of Speech

Can you find 27 figures of speech from the image below?  
For example: 'time flies'.



# Summer Pre-Learning Tasks

## **Task 1: Pre-Reading of Core Texts**

### **Dystopian Fiction**

Complete your first reading of the first two core texts you will study in your first term:

*1984* by George Orwell

*The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood

**You will need to purchase a copy of these texts:**

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Nineteen-Eighty-Four-Novel-George-Orwell/dp/1840228024>

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Handmaids-Tale-Contemporary-Classics/dp/0099740915>

## **Task 2: Note-taking on the Dystopian Genre**

You have studied the dystopian genre within your key stage 3 curriculum, and should already have a foundation of knowledge on it. When studying A-level English Literature, you will develop your existing knowledge and wider reading within this genre, to support your analysis and links to contextual ideas.

Read the articles linked below to create a set of notes and timeline of the evolution of the dystopian genre. You must use the Cornell Notes template in this booklet to organise your findings.

<https://electricliterature.com/the-rise-of-dystopian-fiction-from-soviet-dissidents-to-70s-paranoia-to-murakami/>

<https://www.nawe.co.uk/DB/wip-editions/articles/a-creative-exploration-and-analysis-of-contemporary-dystopian-fiction.html>

<https://www.city-journal.org/article/the-dystopian-imagination>

<https://blogs.bl.uk/americas/2021/12/dystopian-fiction-long-feminist-histories.html>

<https://www.britishlibrary.cn/en/articles/freedom-or-oppression/>

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1002/9781118827338.ch102>

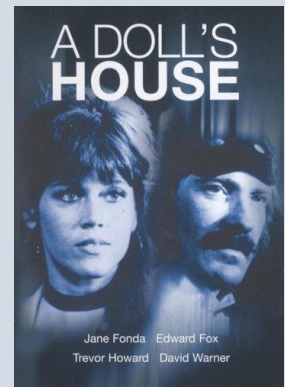
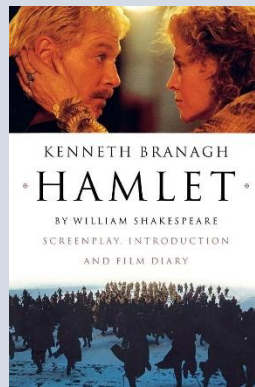




# Summer Pre-Learning Tasks

## LitFlix

Not only is wider reading important when studying English Literature, watching a range of literature texts that have been adapted into films/ television series, can support understanding of different time periods and cultural expectations. Check out the films/ series below over the summer break:





# Wider Reading List- A-Level English Literature

At the start of your course, we'll focus on Dystopian Fiction and *Culture and Identity* coursework. We recommend that you begin your summer reading by exploring some texts from the lists below.

## Dystopian Fiction

Oryx and Crake – Margaret Atwood

The Heart Goes Last – Margaret Atwood

Fahrenheit 451 – Ray Bradbury

A Clockwork Orange – Anthony Burgess

Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep -  
Philip K Dick

The Circle – Dave Eggers

Neuromancer – William Gibson

Lord of the Flies – William Golding

Fatherland – Robert Harris

Brave New World – Aldous Huxley

Never Let Me Go – Kazuo Ishiguro

The Children of Men – PD James

The Road – Cormac McCarthy

I am Legend – Richard Matheson

Cloud Atlas – David Mitchell

Animal Farm – George Orwell

Battle Royale - Takami, Koushun

The Time Machine – HG Wells

The Day of the Triffids – John Wyndham

### Short stories (available online)

The Machine Stops – EM Forster

The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas  
– Ursula Le Guin

Is this your day to join the revolution? –  
Genevieve Valentine

## Culture and Identity – post-2000 novels

Americanah – Chimamanda Ngozi  
Adichie

Brick Lane – Monica Ali

Celestial Bodies – Jokha Alharthi

The Runaways – Fatima Bhutto

Queenie – Candice Carty-Williams

A Thousand Splendid Suns - Khaled  
Hosseini

Small Island – Andrea Levy

The Long Song – Andrea Levy

Home – Tony Morrison

Mercy – Toni Morrison

God Help the Child – Toni Morrison  
(Un)arranged Marriage - Bali Rai,  
2001

Home Fire – Kamila Shamsie

White Teeth – Zadie Smith, 2000

End of Mr. Y – Scarlett Thomas