



North Halifax Grammar School – A Level Transition Work

A level English Literature

Specification

OCR GCE English Literature

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-and-a-level/english-literature-h072-h472-from-2015/>

Course Overview

Year 1 Subject Content	Year 2 Subject Content
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dystopian Fiction• Nineteen Eighty-four• A Streetcar Named Desire• The Catcher in the Rye• Christina Rossetti Poetry• An Ideal Husband	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Handmaid's Tale• Duffy Poems• Hamlet• Close Reading Coursework• Comparative Essay Coursework

Non-examined Assessment (Coursework)

This counts for 20% of your final grade and consists of two parts.

1. A close analysis of a chosen poem and how it relates to the broader collection. 1,000 words, 15 marks
2. A comparative essay, which compares an element of A Streetcar Named Desire and The Catcher in the Rye. 2,000 words, 25 marks

Recommended Reading

<https://www.bl.uk/people/christina-rossetti>

<https://www.bl.uk/people/oscar-wilde>

<https://www.newstatesman.com/culture/books/2019/03/dystopian-fiction-2019-sam-byers-margaret-atwood-john-lanchester-ben-okri>

<https://www.bl.uk/20th-century-literature/themes/visions-of-the-future>

<https://www.bl.uk/20th-century-literature/articles/nineteen-eighty-four-and-the-politics-of-dystopia>

<http://www.victorianweb.org/authors/crossetti/index.html>

<http://www.victorianweb.org/authors/wilde/index.html>

<http://www.victorianweb.org/history/sochistov.html>

<http://www.victorianweb.org/religion/index.html>

<http://www.bl.uk/learning/langlit/evolvingenglish/accessvers/index.html>

<https://www.bl.uk/shakespeare>



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Recommended Reading (continued)

“The Art of Fiction” by David Lodge, Vintage Books, 2011

“An Introduction to Literature, Criticism and Theory” by Andrew Bennett, Routledge, 2016

Transition work English Literature Students

Choose one of the following dystopian texts to read and then complete the following tasks.

“Brave New World” by Aldous Huxley

“A Clockwork Orange” by Anthony Burgess

“We” by Yevgeny Zamyatin

“The Road” by Cormac McCarthy

“Never Let Me Go” by Kazuo Ishiguro

“Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?” by Philip K Dick

“The Wind-up Girl” by Paola Bacigalupi

Tasks

1. Read the book. Yes, all of it, without skipping or skimming.
2. In one extended paragraph, explain what makes the world of the book “dystopian”. (Think about what elements of this fictional world would make it unpleasant to live in)
3. In one extended paragraph, analyse the opening of the book, commenting on the style, narrative voice and the language used.
4. In one extended paragraph, discuss whether the book seems to be expressing concerns about the world and time in which it was written.

Extension Work

Read a second dystopian novel of your choice (it can be from our list or elsewhere).

Write an essay comparing the key themes and techniques (characters, setting, style of language, narrative perspective) of the two novels.