

PiXL Independence

English Lit Lang – Student Booklet

KS5

A Handmaid's Tale

Contents:

- I. Context Quiz – 20 credits in total
- II. Multiple Choice Questions – 10 credits per set
- III. Wider Reading and Summary – 20 credits per summary
- IV. Academic Reading – 50 credits per 300-word response
- V. Exam Style Questions – 80 credits per essay, plus 20 bonus credits for marking

I. Context Quiz

Answer the questions that explore the context of the play. You will need to draw on your contextual knowledge and wider reading to support you in completing this.

20 credits for completing this quiz.

1. Where and when did Margaret Atwood write *The Handmaid's Tale*?
2. How might this be relevant in terms of Atwood's presentation of Gilead and the themes she explores?
3. How does Atwood define the genre of her novel and what does she mean?
4. How is the genre of the novel more usually identified?
5. *1984* by George Orwell is a good example of the genre. Identify 5 similarities between the two novels.
6. Which elements that already existed in the mid 1980s exist in exaggerated form in Atwood's dystopian Gilead?
7. What form do these elements take in *The Handmaid's Tale*?
8. What is the definition of satire?
9. Who or what does Atwood satirise in *The Handmaid's Tale*?
10. What is the significance of the three epigraphs at the beginning of the novel?

II. Multiple Choice Questions

Answer these questions. Each set of questions is based on five chapters in the novel. Questions may also relate to the Levels of Language as set out by the AQA. You could choose to do a set each session or alternatively you could answer multiple quizzes at a time.

10 credits for each set of questions answered.

Quiz One – Chapters 1-5

Chapter 1

1. How does Atwood signal to the reader that the events depicted in chapter 1 of the novel take place after some great cataclysm?
 - a. The women have been injured.
 - b. Refugees are often housed in public buildings following a natural disaster.
 - c. Long multiclausal sentences suggest a state of shock.
 - d. There are only five women left.

Chapter 1

2. What is a palimpsest?
 - a. A palimpsest is an echo.
 - b. A palimpsest is a place where dances used to be held.
 - c. A palimpsest is an impression created in the mind of a character.
 - d. A palimpsest is a wax tablet that has been reused or altered, but which still bears visible traces of its earlier form.

Chapter 1

3. How does Atwood present Offred's use of language differently during the relative freedom of night?
 - a. She is dreaming.
 - b. The use of long, multi-clausal and comma spliced sentences suggests her stream of consciousness.
 - c. Offred 'plays' on words, using puns.
 - d. The use of pre and post modifying adjectives.

Chapter 2

4. How does Offred's language differ in the daytime as she describes her room?
 - a. The use of short, simple or orthographic sentences and higher frequency lexical choices suggests emotional numbness.
 - b. The use of concrete nouns to create a 'story world.'
 - c. Offred 'plays' on words using puns.
 - d. There is a semantic field relating to the military.

Chapter 2

5. How does Atwood use dialogue to present the Marthas ?
- Both characters are given a working class dialect.
 - Cora has a longer length of turn.
 - She uses distinct verbal verb processes.
 - The use of a semantic field of 'the domestic'.

Chapter 3

6. Which statement best explains how Atwood uses direct speech in the encounter with Serena Joy to establish her dominance?
- Serena Joy is presented as rude.
 - Verbal verb processes.
 - Serena Joy is the topic initiator and topic controller.
 - Serena Joy is assertive.

Chapter 3

7. Which pattern of verb processes does Atwood use to convey Serena Joy's potential for violence?
- Material verb processes.
 - Verbal verb processes.
 - Mental verb processes.
 - Relational verb processes.

Chapter 4

8. How would you best describe the register which Offred and Ofglen share when they meet?
- Legal
 - Formal
 - Archaic religious
 - Conversational

Chapter 4

9. How does Atwood convey Offred's guardedness in her dialogue with Ofglen?
- Hedging.
 - b)Short simple sentences and short clauses.
 - Interruption.
 - d)Emotive language.

Chapter 5

10. How would you best describe Offred's initial reaction to the Japanese tourists?

- a. She is attracted to them.
- b. She is jealous of their freedom.
- c. She feels threatened by them.
- d. She is shocked by what she sees as their overt sexuality.

Quiz Two – Chapters 6-10

Chapter 6

1. What is the technical term for the phrase 'angel makers'?
 - a. anachronism
 - b. metaphor
 - c. euphemism
 - d. neologism

Chapter 6

2. Read from "The men wear white coats" to "always pardoned". What do we learn about Giladean society?
 - a. There is no medical provision.
 - b. Anyone could be an informant.
 - c. Doctors opposed the new Giladean state.
 - d. The Giladean state does not believe in the practice of medicine.

Chapter 6

3. In the following quotation, how does Atwood use language to convey Offred's determination to believe that Luke is alive? "Luke wasn't a doctor. Isn't."
 - a. She uses his first name.
 - b. She uses a simple sentence for emphasis.
 - c. She uses two contractions.
 - d. She uses an orthographic sentence for emphasis and changes tense to correct her 'mistake.'

Chapter 7

4. In the final section of the chapter what is signified by the repetition of the second person pronoun?
 - a. Offred is addressing her story to Luke.
 - b. Offred is addressing her story to her daughter.
 - c. Offred addresses a future, unknowable, implied audience in order to stave off loneliness.
 - d. Offred is addressing the tape recorder as if it were human.

Chapter 8

5. Why does Offred use the premodifying adjective 'treacherous' to describe the 'smell' of baking ?
- She has to concentrate on staying alive and must not allow herself to be distracted by sentimental memories of the past.
 - Offred associates Rita and Cora with treachery.
 - Offred dislikes the smell of baking because it reminds her that the state sees women as domestic slaves or child bearers .
 - Offred is feeling nauseous.

Chapter 8

6. What is the hypernym of the semantic field which Atwood develops at the end of this chapter?
- Fear
 - Conflict
 - Nature
 - Military invasion

Chapter 9

7. What do we learn about attitudes to marriage in the 'time before'?
- Polygamous relationships were the norm in the 'time before'.
 - Extra-marital affairs were commonplace,
 - Few people married.
 - Marriage was taken very seriously.

Chapter 9

8. In the paragraph beginning 'But now it's the rooms themselves ...' what is the effect of listing?
- Atwood lists the everyday items to be found in the hotel rooms of the time before, in order to convey Offred's contempt for her former lifestyle.
 - By listing the items to be found in hotel rooms, Offred conveys her disgust at the materialism of the 'time before.'
 - By listing the items to be found in hotel rooms, Offred conveys her boredom as she waited for Luke.
 - Atwood lists the everyday items to be found in hotel rooms in order to convey Offred's positive reevaluation of what she had dismissed and taken for granted before.

Chapter 10

9. How does Atwood present Aunt Lydia?

- a. Atwood presents Aunt Lydia as misguided, but nevertheless caring.
- b. Atwood satirises Aunt Lydia's attitude to the regime.
- c. Atwood presents Aunt Lydia as a frail old lady.
- d. Atwood satirises Aunt Lydia's attitude to sexuality.

Chapter 10

10. Which of Atwood's language choices present Moira as an informal yet powerful personality?

- a. Nouns and adjectives
- b. Mental verb processes, nouns and adjectives
- c. Material verb processes and colloquial lexical choices.
- d. Semantic field of fashion.

Quiz Three – Chapters 11-15

Chapter 11

1. Which statement best explains what the neologism 'compudoc' tell us about this society?
 - a. The 'blend' of computer and documentation reflects the fact that Gilead is a technologically advanced bureaucracy.
 - b. The 'blend' of computer and documentation reflects the fact that people in Gilead are monitored by a technologically advanced bureaucracy.
 - c. The 'blend' of computer and documentation reflects the fact that computers are important in Giladean society.
 - d. The 'blend' of computer and documentation reflects the fact that record keeping is important in Giladean society.

Chapter 11

2. How does Atwood present the encounter with the doctor as unsettling and inappropriate?
 - a. The doctor pulls the sheet aside so that Offred can see him.
 - b. The doctor indicates that the room is bugged.
 - c. The doctor addresses Offred when he should remain silent.
 - d. The doctor does not use an appropriate medical register when addressing Offred.

Chapter 12

3. What does the incident in the supermarket tell us about the time before?
 - a. Society had grown increasingly lawless.
 - b. A fertility crisis led to desperate women stealing children.
 - c. Kidnapping and ransoming of the victims was common.
 - d. Mothers like Offred had grown careless.

Chapter 13

4. What is the significance of the painting of the harem which Offred remembers?
 - a. Offred finds the picture erotic.
 - b. Offred remembers the freedom of visiting art galleries.
 - c. Offred wishes that she could step into the picture.
 - d. Offred feels a kinship with the bored, exploited women in the harem.

Chapter 13

5. Which statement best explains the simile "small glances, like sips"?
 - a. Offred sees Moira as her water, after the drought of loneliness.
 - b. Offred only allows herself quick glances because she is afraid.
 - c. Offred is thirsty all the time.
 - d. Offred is engaging in word play.

Chapter 13

6. How does Atwood satirise the Aunts' testifying?
- By setting the ritual in a 'repurposed' domestic science room.
 - By presenting Janine as ridiculous.
 - By emphasising the cruelty of the ritual.
 - By implying a similarity between a weight watchers' class and the pseudo religious ritual of testifying.

Chapter 13

7. What is the symbolism of the moon in Offred's dream?
- The possibility of romance.
 - The secrecy of night.
 - The menstrual cycle.
 - The female body.

Chapter 14

8. What is the name given to the technique Atwood has used at the beginning of this sentence: "Or maybe it's a parlour, the kind with a spider and flies."
- Anaphora.
 - Fronted conjunction.
 - Epistrophe.
 - Metaphor.

Chapter 14

9. In flashback, Offred remembers the breakfast at the Red Centre when a recording of the Beatitudes was played to the women. Which line from the text has been changed to suit the purposes of the State?
- Blessed are the merciful.
 - Blessed are the meek.
 - Blessed are the silent.
 - Blessed be those that mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Chapter 15

10. Which statement best describes the function of analepsis or flashback in this novel?
- It is used to make the reader curious about the 'next piece of the jigsaw'.
 - It reminds us that this novel was 'discovered' as a series of unnumbered recordings.
 - It is used to disorientate the reader.
 - It is used to fill in 'gaps' in the stories of key characters and presents a sharp contrast between the Gileadean present and the time before

Quiz Four – Chapters 16 - 20

Chapter 16

1. Which statement best describes the methods Atwood uses to present Offred's stream of consciousness during the ceremony ?
 - a. Through the use of clinical lexis.
 - b. Through the use of a variety of semantic fields.
 - c. Through the use of long multi-clausal sentences and free association.
 - d. Through the use of humour.

Chapter 16

2. What is the technical term for the repetition of a phrase at the beginning of a series of sentences ('It has nothing to do with. ..')
 - a. Anaphora
 - b. Parallelism
 - c. Epistrophe
 - d. Emphatic positioning

Chapter 17

3. Why have the wives banned the handmaids from using moisturiser?
 - a. Because they don't want the handmaids to look attractive.
 - b. Because all luxury is banned in Gilead.
 - c. Because it is non-organic.
 - d. Because they want them to suffer.

Chapter 17

4. Why does Atwood present the short, simple sentence, "I want to steal something", as a single paragraph?
 - a. To reveal Offred's criminal nature.
 - b. To remind the reader how Offred 'ration's' language and thought.
 - c. To emphasise Offred's determination and resolve.
 - d. Because it represents a change of topic.

Chapter 18

5. Why does Offred imagine three different versions of Luke?
 - a. She enjoys thinking about Luke.
 - b. She has heard different rumours about what may have happened to him.
 - c. She has no knowledge of his fate and can only imagine different scenarios.
 - d. She is having a nightmare.

Chapter 18.

6. Correctly identify the type of verb process associated with Offred in this chapter and throughout the novel (e.g. I believe; I pray; I can see; I hope; you'd think; I'll have to revise that)
- Verbal.
 - Material.
 - Mental.
 - Relational.

Chapter 18

7. What term describes the effect of words such as 'must', 'would', 'may' which are prominent in the following section: "He made contact with the others" to "Does Luke hope?"?
- Subordination.
 - Lexical density.
 - Lexical patterning.
 - Modal shading.

Chapter 18

8. What is the effect of this technique?
- It conveys both her certainty and her need to believe.
 - It conveys her confusion.
 - It conveys her morbid state of mind.
 - It reflects her confidence that Luke is alive somewhere.

Chapter 19

9. Which of the following statements is not one of the causes of infertility in Gilead?
- Some women sterilised themselves.
 - Exploding atomic power plants.
 - A mutant strain of syphilis.
 - A mumps epidemic.

Chapter 20

10. What is the term for the following linguistic technique: "Jealousy, I put that down to"?
- Anaphora.
 - Fronted conjunction.
 - Emphatic positioning.
 - Metaphor.

Quiz Five – Chapters 21 – 25

Chapter 21

1. Why does the wife of Warren sit on the birthing stool with Ofwarren?
 - a. Because she is a trained midwife.
 - b. To offer comfort.
 - c. To give birth symbolically.
 - d. To oversee the birth.

Chapter 21

2. What does the neologism 'unwoman' tell us about Giladean culture?
 - a. Women must be married.
 - b. Women are only valued for the ability to reproduce..
 - c. Feminine attributes are prized.
 - d. If you are designated 'unwoman' you are sent to the colonies.

Chapter 22

3. In what way is Moira a "loose woman"?
 - a. She is promiscuous.
 - b. She can't control her tongue.
 - c. She is informal.
 - d. She has escaped from the Red Centre.

Chapter 22

4. Pick the two statements which best explain the significance of Offred's wordplay throughout the novel.
 - a. It conveys her sharpness of mind.
 - b. It reflects the fact that she cannot control her tongue.
 - c. It is her way of resisting the degraded, flattened language of Gilead.
 - d. It conveys her love of language.

Chapter 23

5. What is the effect of the repetition of the word "books" in the description of the Commander's office?
 - a. It conveys her intelligence.
 - b. It reflects her shock at seeing books, which are forbidden.
 - c. It reminds the reader that she went to university.
 - d. It conveys her anxiety as she enters the study.

Chapter 23

6. Why is Scrabble a transgressive game in this context?
- It is dangerous to compete with the Commander.
 - It from 'the time before'.
 - It involves reading and forming words.
 - All games are considered transgressive in Gilead.

Chapter 24

7. Which statement best explains the significance of the story about the death camp commander's mistress?
- Offred implies that Gilead is like Germany under Hitler.
 - Offred implies that the woman's story parallels her own.
 - Offred implies that the woman is evil.
 - Offred implies that the camp commander's kindness to his dog reveals his true nature.

Chapter 25

8. What is the significance of flowers in this chapter and throughout the book?
- Flowers are associated with fertility and sexuality .
 - The beauty of flowers affords Offred relief from the ugliness of Gilead.
 - Flowers represent nature.
 - Offred is struck by the intense colours of the flowers , just as she is vividly aware of smell and touch.

Chapter 25

9. Which statement best explains Serena Joy's treatment of the tulips?
- Serena Joy beheads the flowers to encourage new growth.
 - Serena Joy finds solace in tending to her garden.
 - Serena Joy's beheading of the flowers reflects her resentment of the fertile handmaid living in her house.
 - Beheading the flowers is an outlet for Serena Joy's pent up aggression.

Chapter 25

10. Why does Offred "covet the shears"?
- They remind her of the pleasure she once found in gardening.
 - They are a nostalgic reminder of 'the time before.'
 - They represent Serena Joy's relative power.
 - They represent the power to kill or to take her own life.

Quiz Six – Chapters 26 - 30

Chapter 26

1. How has the Ceremony changed for Offred?
 - a. She can no longer remain aloof from it.
 - b. She now sees it as an act of love.
 - c. She is now embarrassed by the presence of Serena Joy.
 - d. She finds it less unpleasant.

Chapter 26

2. What is the correct technical term for the sentence, “Even the Scrabble.”?
 - a. Main clause.
 - b. Simple sentence.
 - c. Orthographic sentence.
 - d. Subordinate clause.

Chapter 27

3. Which authorial technique does Atwood use to describe the Soul Scrolls machines?
 - a. Sibilance
 - b. Personification
 - c. Metaphor
 - d. Metonymy

Chapter 27

4. What do Ofglen and Offred see immediately after they have revealed their true views to each other?
 - a. Their reflections in the window.
 - b. Econowives in a funeral procession.
 - c. A mother and daughter.
 - d. A man bundled into a black van.

Chapter 28

5. How do the Gildean revolutionaries disempower women?
 - a. There are mass arrests.
 - b. They ban them from leaving their houses.
 - c. They transfer the contents of their bank accounts to their male partners.
 - d. They make it illegal to be single.

Chapter 28

6. Which statement best explains why Nick is associated with a semantic field of “flowers” in the paragraph beginning, “Someone has come out of the house”?
- Flowers are associated with fertility and sexuality and therefore convey Offred’s attraction to him.
 - Flowers symbolise romance.
 - Every character in the novel is associated with a particular flower.
 - The beauty of the flowers reminds the reader of Nick’s beauty.

Chapter 29

7. How does the Commander feel about the suicide of his former handmaid?
- He feels very little.
 - He feels guilty.
 - He feels angry.
 - He misses her.

Chapter 29

8. What does Offred realise about the Commander?
- He wants her life to be bearable.
 - He loves her.
 - He doesn’t want her to die like her predecessor.
 - He is having second thoughts about Gilead.

Chapter 30

9. What is the significance of the Night for Offred?
- She is plagued by nightmares.
 - She is free to allow her mind to wander and remember.
 - It is at night that she is most depressed.
 - She is an insomniac.

Chapter 30

10. What do the images of the “rose” and the “lute” suggest about the development of Offred’s feelings for Luke?
- This ironic reference to romantic symbols conveys her cynicism about love.
 - She is being sarcastic.
 - She not only feels sexual desire, but the stirrings of romantic love too.
 - She knows that Luke used to be a musician.

Quiz Seven – Chapters 31 – 35

Chapter 31

1. Read the section beginning, “She knows” to “I can’t speak.” Which statement best describes Offred’s reaction to Serena Joy’s offer of a picture of her daughter?
 - a. A mixture of rage and hope and impotence.
 - b. Hope.
 - c. A mixture of rage and hope.
 - d. Joy.

Chapter 31

2. What is the effect of the repetition of the negation “I can’t” in this section?
 - a. It conveys the intensity of her feelings.
 - b. It conveys Offred’s gratitude.
 - c. It conveys Offred’s sense of impotence.
 - d. It conveys Offred’s anger.

Chapter 32

3. Who is the Commander paraphrasing when he says, “You can’t make an omelette without breaking some eggs”?
 - a. Stalin
 - b. Tony Blair
 - c. Hitler
 - d. Napoleon

Chapter 32

4. Which statement best explains what the neologism “pornycorners” conveys about the time before?
 - a. People enjoyed inventing new words.
 - b. Pornography and the objectification of women is accepted as the norm.
 - c. Language was always evolving.
 - d. Pornography was only permitted in certain areas.

Chapter 33

5. What is suggested by the way the women are made to line up two by two?
 - a. Their friendships are respected.
 - b. They are treated like children.
 - c. They stay close to one another for safety.
 - d. They support one another.

Chapter 33

6. Which statement best explains what the neologism “Prayvaganza” suggests about the ways in which religion is distorted in Gilead?
- Religious ceremonies draw large crowds.
 - People enjoyed inventing new words.
 - Rather than being ‘personal’ and private, prayer is treated as spectacle: something to be seen doing.
 - Religious observance is a legal requirement.

Chapter 34

7. The red banners embroidered with white winged eyes are intended to remind the reader of...
- The decoration in a cathedral.
 - A revolutionary party meeting
 - A Nazi rally.
 - A football match.

Chapter 34

8. Which statement best explains how Offred’s language contrasts with that of the Commander?
- Offred is informal while the Commander is formal.
 - Offred adopts a conversational register while the Commander adopts an archaic religious register.
 - Offred is crude while the Commander is serious.
 - Offred is humorous while the Commander is severe.

Chapter 35

9. What is the effect of the modal patterning and repetition in the paragraph beginning, “I don’t have to tell it”?
- Offred considers the possibilities available to her.
 - Remembering her family fills Offred with courage.
 - Offred is uncertain of the future.
 - For a moment, Offred considers ‘giving up.’

Chapter 35

10. What does Offred mean when she says that she has been “erased”?
- Like all women, she has been “erased” by the Giladean state.
 - Her memories have been “erased” by the drugs she was given.
 - By taking her daughter and her husband, the state has reduced her to nothing.
 - Every trace of her has been removed from her daughter’s life.

Quiz Eight – Chapters 36 – 40

Chapter 36

1. Which statement best explains how the burning of women's clothes in the early days of the regime echoes the burning of pornographic magazines earlier in the novel?
 - a. Both depict extremist acts of destruction.
 - b. Both were about men imposing their images of women upon women.
 - c. Both passages include the description of female bystanders.
 - d. The passages contrast the values of the time before and the Giladean present.

Chapter 36

2. Which statement best explains how Atwood conveys Offred's sense of the beauty of the clothes that were destroyed?
 - a. By writing in the past tense.
 - b. By listing concrete nouns denoting the different items of clothing.
 - c. By using a semantic field of colour and playing on the connotations of silver and gold.
 - d. By suggesting her regret through modal shading.

Chapter 36

3. Why is Offred ambivalent about putting on the costume?
 - a. She disapproves of clothing of that sort.
 - b. She is prudish.
 - c. She disapproves of the garment, but she is thrilled by the idea of dressing up and defying the Aunts.
 - d. She loves the bright colours.

Chapter 37

4. Read the paragraph beginning, "The women are sitting..." Which statement best explains the effect of the list of 'ing' participle verbs?
 - a. It conveys the cheerful mood of the women.
 - b. It conveys the relaxed, informal atmosphere of Jezebel's.
 - c. It suggests the number of women in Jezebel's.
 - d. It recalls the waiting women in the picture of the harem earlier in the novel.

Chapter 37

5. How does the Commander's response to Offred's question, "Who are these people?" reveal his attitude to the women in the room?
- It makes it clear that he doesn't regard the women as 'people'.
 - His reference to the 'important' men in the room reveals his view that the women are lucky to be there.
 - His answer suggests that he is not really paying attention to Offred.
 - He seems proud that some women have the freedom to dress as they like.

Chapter 38

6. Which sentence type is used to present Moira as a forceful personality ("shove over," "lend me one")?
- Orthographic.
 - Complex.
 - Interrogative.
 - Imperative.

Chapter 38

7. Which statement best explains how Atwood uses direct speech to convey Moira's informality?
- Crude language.
 - Conversational register.
 - Pre and post modification.
 - Colloquial lexical choices and elliptical sentence constructions.

Chapter 38

8. Which statement best explains how Jezebel's has affected Moira?
- She is finally happy .
 - She is finally beaten.
 - She feels that it is the best she can hope for.
 - She is even more determined to escape.

Chapter 39

9. What do we learn about Offred's mother in this chapter?
- She has been sent to the colonies.
 - She has escaped to Canada.
 - She continues to avoid capture.
 - She has been deployed as a Martha.

Chapter 40

10. In what sense is Offred's story a "reconstruction"?

- a. Offred's memory is unreliable because of the drugs she was given.
- b. Remembering is always an act of reconstruction.
- c. The word "reconstruction" suggests that Offred is broken.
- d. "Reconstruction" reflects the healing aspect of making love with Nick.

Quiz Nine – Chapters 41 – 45

Chapter 41

1. What does Ofglen encourage Offred to do in this chapter?
 - a. Assassinate the Commander.
 - b. End her affair with Nick.
 - c. Join the Mayday movement.
 - d. Spy on the Commander.

Chapter 41

2. What do we learn about Offred in this chapter?
 - a. Serena Joy knows about her affair with Nick.
 - b. Offred thinks she may be pregnant.
 - c. The Commander is tiring of Offred.
 - d. She hopes to be able to leave the Commander's house.

Chapter 42

3. Which ceremony from the time before does Atwood connect the Salvaging with?
 - a. A wedding.
 - b. A baptism.
 - c. A graduation.
 - d. A funeral.

Chapter 42

4. Aunt Lydia would usually use the diminutive "girls" to address the handmaids, but instead she uses the diminutive "ladies". Which statement best explains this?
 - a. She uses the term ironically.
 - b. The Salvaging is a kind of rite of passage: by taking part the handmaids have become ladies.
 - c. She uses "Ladies" because it is a respectful mode of address and there are Wives present.
 - d. She uses "Ladies," because she must be respectful to the Wives who are present. However, both terms are reductive, one being associated with immaturity, the other with propriety.

Chapter 42

5. Which statement best describes the significance of Offred's use of the present perfect tense and the repetition "I've ..." as she describes the hanging?
- She distances herself from the action by referring to previous hangings that she has seen, rather than describing the hanging which is taking place.
 - By doing so, she reminds the reader of the many executions she has attended before.
 - She wishes executions were a thing of the past.
 - It creates a sense of immediacy.

Chapter 43

6. Which statement best explains the meaning of the colloquial sentence, "They look like showbiz?"
- The word "showbiz" suggests executions are entertainment for the public.
 - Aunt Lydia is a talented presenter.
 - The word "showbiz" suggests that the Salvaging is not religious and idealistic, but it is a staged event – a sham.
 - Offred is remembering the theatre in the time before.

Chapter 44

7. Read the paragraph beginning "I say nothing at first". What type of modal shading does Atwood use here?
- Deontic.
 - Auxiliary.
 - Epistemic.
 - Boulomaic.

Chapter 44

8. Why does Offred tell her new companion that she met the former Ofglen in May?
- She is sharing a happy memory.
 - She hopes to discover whether or not the new Ofglen is a member of the resistance.
 - She met the former Ofglen in May.
 - She is trying to make conversation.

Chapter 45

9. What has alerted Serena Joy to Offred's visit to Jezebel's with the Commander?
- The Commander has confessed.
 - She discovered lipstick on her cloak.
 - Rita has informed on her.
 - Nick has informed on her.

Chapter 45

10. Which statement best explains how Atwood conveys Offred's calm in the final paragraph of the chapter?
- a. She uses simple grammatical structures and high frequency, emotionally neutral language.
 - b. She uses the post modifying adjective "calm."
 - c. She uses a two-sentence paragraph.
 - d. She uses "calm" lexical choices.

Quiz Ten – Chapters 46 – Historical Notes

Chapter 46

1. What is the source of Offred's calm?
 - a. She realises that there is nothing she can do to change anything.
 - b. She is sure that Nick will come to her rescue.
 - c. She has finally rediscovered her faith in God.
 - d. She no longer cares what happens to her.

Chapter 46

2. Which literary device does Atwood deploy in the following quotation, "in my lap is a handful of crumpled stars?"
 - a. Symbolism.
 - b. Simile.
 - c. Personification.
 - d. Metaphor.

Chapter 46

3. What do these "stars" represent?
 - a. Offred's imminent death.
 - b. Offred's state of mind.
 - c. Offred's hopes and lost potential, her daughter and Nick.
 - d. Offred's memories of the time before.

Chapter 46

4. Who is the "ancestress" referred to by Offred?
 - a. Her mother.
 - b. Moira.
 - c. Aunt Lydia.
 - d. The handmaid who occupied the room before her.

Chapter 46

5. What is the effect of the final line of Offred's story?
 - a. Offred's language is playful to the last.
 - b. Atwood's use of metaphor reminds us of how rich Offred's language is.
 - c. Atwood's use of antithesis ensures that the reader is left to guess the outcome for Offred.
 - d. The sentence structure establishes a sense of determination.

Historical Notes

6. How does the tone of the Historical Notes jar or clash with the tone at the ending of the novel?
- Trivial announcements and light hearted punning replaces the emotional intensity of Offred's story.
 - Piexoto's word play recalls that of Offred throughout the novel.
 - Crescent Moon is an academic addressing fellow academics.
 - Giladean neologisms have fallen out of use .

Historical Notes

7. What do the names of the speakers suggest about the world 200 years after the events in the novel?
- Infertility amongst Caucasians means that other racial groups are in the ascendancy.
 - Positive discrimination practices have led to greater equality.
 - Giladean studies are of particular interest to specific groups.
 - Trends in naming children vary greatly over time.

Historical Notes

8. What is suggested by Piexoto's reference to the "The Underground Femaleroad" as the "Underground Frailroad?"
- His use of puns connects him in the readers' mind with Offred.
 - It presents the character as humorous.
 - Casual sexism is still a feature of society 200 years after Gilead.
 - He enjoys wordplay.

Historical Notes

9. What is conveyed by Piexoto's remark that, "Our job is not to censure, but to understand"?
- A lack of sympathy for Offred's plight.
 - Moral relativism.
 - The view that nothing is permanent.
 - It all happened a long time ago.

Historical Notes

10. Which statement best explains the purpose of the Historical Notes?
- They are intended to make us reflect on our own historical moment.
 - They are intended as a satire of academic conferences.
 - They are intended to clear up questions raised by the novel.
 - They are intended to show how societies change.

III. Wider Reading and Summary

Read each of the articles that address key themes, context and ideas within *The Handmaid's Tale*. Once you have completed your reading of each, summarise the key learning points into a ten-point summary.

20 credits per ten-point summary completed.

1. Aliens Have Taken the Place of Angels – Margaret Atwood
<https://www.theguardian.com/film/2005/jun/17/sciencefictionfantasyandhorror.margaretatwood>
2. Margaret Atwood: Feminism is not about believing women are always right
<http://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/books/news/margaret-atwood-handmaids-tale-author-feminism-women-not-always-right-a7847316.html>
3. The Handmaid's Tale and feminism: Examining characterisation in Atwood's novel
<https://ueafeminism.wordpress.com/2013/10/02/the-handmaids-tale-and-feminism-examining-characterisation-in-atwoods-novel/>
4. The Analysis of Language in The Handmaid's Tale and How it Influences Writer's Style
<http://www.fouronesixlit.com/2016/03/24/the-analysis-of-language-in-the-handmaids-tale-and-how-it-influences-writers-style/>
5. George Orwell's and Margaret Atwood's Visions of Future Societies in Foreign Language Teaching
<http://www.heliweb.de/telic/atwoodorwell.htm>
6. Margaret Atwood on What 'The Handmaid's Tale' Means in the Age of Trump.
<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/03/10/books/review/margaret-atwood-handmaids-tale-age-of-trump.html?mcubz=3>
7. The Handmaid's Tale Is a Warning to Conservative Women
<https://newrepublic.com/article/141674/handmaids-tale-hulu-warning-conservative-women>

8. We Live in the Reproductive Dystopia of “The Handmaid’s Tale”
<https://www.newyorker.com/books/page-turner/we-live-in-the-reproductive-dystopia-of-the-handmaids-tale>

9. Why is The Handmaid's Tale claimed as feminist, when it's deeply ambivalent about the movement?
<https://www.newstatesman.com/culture/tv-radio/2017/04/why-handmaids-tale-claimed-feminist-when-its-deeply-ambivalent-about>

10. Every time I write a new novel I wonder what kind of trouble I'll get into: Margaret Atwood on being called offensive and man-hating.
<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/home/event/article-2730204/Margaret-Atwood-called-offensive-man-hating.html>

11. Why The Handmaid’s Tale is so relevant today.
<https://www.bbc.com/culture/article/20180425-why-the-handmaids-tale-is-so-relevant-today>

12. The real life inspiration behind The Handmaid’s Tale
<https://www.penguin.co.uk/articles/2019/09/margaret-atwood-handmaids-tale-testaments-real-life-inspiration>

13. Haunted by The Handmaid’s Tale
<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2012/jan/20/handmaids-tale-margaret-atwood>

14. Margaret Atwood: ‘We’ve seen this before’
<https://www.rollingstone.com/tv-movies/tv-movie-features/margaret-atwood-interview-season-4-handmaids-tale-1171567/>

IV. Academic Reading

Read each of the academic texts below and write a 300-word response to the 'Task Question' for each academic article.

50 credits for each 300-word response completed.

1. Discourse and Oppression in Margaret Atwood's *The Handmaid's Tale*, Fredrik Pettersson
Publisher: Linnaeus University
<http://www.diva-portal.org/smash/get/diva2:321781/fulltext01.pdf>
TASK QUESTION: What role does language play in the oppression of women in Gilead?
2. Margaret Atwood's *The Handmaid's Tale*, Anna Malik
Publisher: Chelsea House Publishers
https://books.google.co.uk/books?id=tIceOlzTQfgC&pg=PA82&dq=Amin+Malak+The+Handmaid%27s+Tale&hl=en&sa=X&redir_esc=y#v=onepage&q=Amin%20Malak%20The%20Handmaid's%20Tale&f=false
TASK QUESTION: How does *The Handmaid's Tale* fit into the dystopian genre?
3. Literary Theory: A Guide for the Perplexed, Mary Klages
Publisher: Continuum
<https://books.google.co.uk/books?id=X7ir1eGyInUC&pg=PA102&dq=Feminin+écriture+Cicoux&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwi5zYfZ1M3WAhURL1AKHbFcDAsQ6AEITjAH#v=onepage&q=Feminin%20écriture%20Cicoux&f=false>
TASK QUESTION: What is Cicoux's theory of *écriture féminine* and how does it relate to *The Handmaid's Tale*?
4. Offred's Complicity and the Dystopian Tradition., Alan Weiss
Publisher: York University
<https://journals.lib.unb.ca/index.php/scl/article/view/12383/13254>
TASK QUESTION: Can Offred be seen as a heroine?
5. Margaret Atwood's *Modest Proposal: The Handmaid's Tale*, Karen F. Stein
Publisher: University of Rhode Island
http://digitalcommons.uri.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1001&context=eng_facpubs
TASK QUESTION: To what extent can *The Handmaid's Tale* be seen as a satire?

6. "From a Distance it Looks Like Peace": Reading Beneath the Fascist Style of Gilead in Margaret Atwood's
Publisher: *The Handmaid's Tale*, Angela Laflen
<https://journals.lib.unb.ca/index.php/SCL/article/viewFile/5824/6829>
TASK QUESTION: What are the similarities between Hitler's Third Reich and the Giladean regime?

7. The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood: Examining its utopian, dystopian, feminist and postmodernist traditions, Angela Michelle Gulick
Publisher: Faber and Faber
<http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1063&context=rtd>
TASK QUESTION: Having read the essay, what do you learn about the significance of mirrors in *The Handmaid's Tale*?

8. The Cambridge Companion to Margaret Atwood, Coral Ann Howells
Publisher: CUP
https://books.google.co.uk/books?id=NaRuLnhbl2QC&printsec=frontcover&dq=the+cambridge+companion+to+Margaret+Atwood&hl=en&sa=X&redir_esc=y#v=onepage&q&f=false
TASK QUESTION: How does Atwood develop themes from her other novels in *The Handmaid's Tale*?

V. Exam Style Questions

Using the knowledge that you have accumulated use this to inform your writing of these essays – Reading you have done for the wider reading tasks should be included in these essays. Once completed download the mark scheme and see if you can grade your essay.

80 credits for each essay completed, plus 20 bonus credits for marking your own essay using the mark scheme.

1. Read the extract from chapter 2, beginning “A chair, a table, a lamp” and ending “said Aunt Lydia”. This is from the opening of the novel in which Offred describes ‘her’ room in the Commander’s house. Explore the significance of Offred’s room in the novel.

You should consider:

- the presentation of Offred’s view of the room in the extract and at different points of the novel.
- the use of fantasy elements in constructing a fictional world.

2. Read the extract from chapter 38, beginning “So here I am” and ending “It might be resignation”. This is from a section of the novel in which Offred encounters Moira in Jezebel’s. Explore the significance of Moira in the novel.

You should consider:

- the presentation of Moira in the extract and at different points of the novel.
- the use of fantasy elements in constructing a fictional world.

3. Read the extract from chapter 4, beginning “The sidewalks here” and ending “having such control”. This is from section of the novel in which Offred walks through Gilead on her way to the shops. Explore the significance of Offred’s memories of the time before in the novel.

You should consider:

- the presentation of the time before in the extract and at different points of the novel.
- the use of fantasy elements in constructing a fictional world.

4. Read the extract from chapter 29, beginning “I think I’d rather just talk” and ending “Within limits, of course”. This is from section of the novel in which Offred asks the Commander about the graffiti she has found in her room. Explore the significance of the relationship between Offred and the Commander in the novel.

You should consider:

- the presentation of the relationship between Offred and the Commander in the extract and at different points of the novel.
- the use of fantasy elements in constructing a fictional world.

5. Read the extract from chapter 13, beginning “It’s Janine” and ending “I deserved the pain”. This is from section of the novel in which Moira is captured and returned to the Red Centre. Explore the significance of Janine in the novel.

You should consider:

- the presentation of Janine in the extract and at different points of the novel.
- the use of fantasy elements in constructing a fictional world.

6. Read the extract from chapter 4, beginning “He’s wearing” and ending “Perhaps he is an Eye”. This is from the section in which Nick is first introduced. Explore the significance of the relationship between Nick and Offred in the novel.

You should consider:

- the presentation of the relationship between Nick and Offred in the extract and at different points of the novel.
- the use of fantasy elements in constructing

7. Read the extract from chapter 1, beginning “We yearned for the future” and ending “June”. This is from the first chapter of the novel in which the Red Centre is introduced. Explore the significance of the Red Centre in the novel.

You should consider:

- the presentation of Janine in the extract and at different points of the novel.
- the use of fantasy elements in constructing a fictional world.

8. Read the extract from chapter 2, beginning “A chair, a table, a lamp” and ending “Government issue?” This is from the section of the novel in which Offred describes her room. Explore the significance of Offred’s state of mind in the novel.

You should consider:

- the presentation of Offred’s state of mind in the extract and at different points of the novel.
- the use of fantasy elements in constructing a fictional world.

9. Read the extract from chapter 4, beginning “The one with the moustache” and ending “retreating shapes”. This is from the section of the novel in which Offred walks to the shops with Ofglen. Explore the significance of the representation of men in the novel.

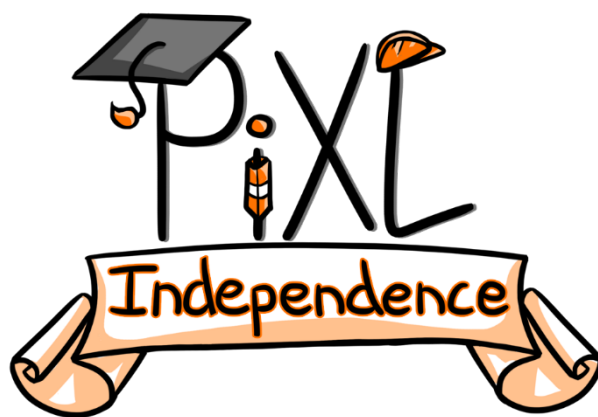
You should consider:

- the presentation of men in the extract and at different points of the novel.
- the use of fantasy elements in constructing a fictional world.

10. Read the extract from chapter 15, beginning “The Commander, as if reluctantly, begins to read” and ending “Nobody said when”. This is from the section of the novel in which the household gathers prior to the Ceremony. Explore the significance of attitudes to religion in the novel.

You should consider:

- the presentation of attitudes towards religion in the extract and at different points of the novel.
- the use of fantasy elements in constructing a fictional world.



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