



CITY AND ISLINGTON SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

ENGLISH LITERATURE

BRIDGING ASSIGNMENT (GCSE TO A LEVEL)

Task 1

Reading Task (compulsory).

Read *Nineteen Eighty-Four* by George Orwell. This text is available affordably from bookshops and online retailers. We strongly recommend the edition pictured (see right). Alternatively, you can find an online version of the text here:

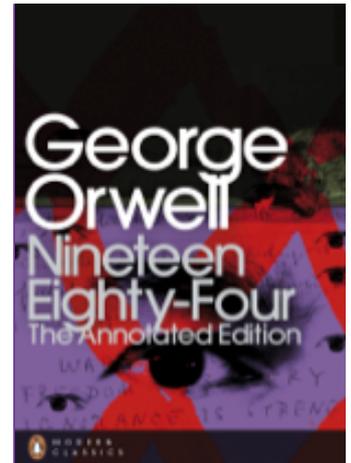
<http://gutenberg.net.au/ebooks01/0100021.txt> *

Task 2

Quiz (compulsory – prepare/revise in time for September lessons).

As you read Chapter 1, look out for and write down the answers to the quiz questions below:

1. What is described as 'an oblong metal plaque like a dulled mirror'?
2. A narrow scarlet sash wound around the waist is the emblem of which organisation?
3. What does O'Brien's expression seem to be saying to Winston when their eyes meet?
4. In Orwell's futuristic world, what place name seems to have taken the place of England/Britain?
5. Who is described as 'a large burly, man with a thick neck and a coarse, humorous, brutal face'?
6. What brand name is used on many consumer products in Oceania (cigarettes, gin, etc.)?
7. Whose voice and appearance suddenly starts to resemble a sheep?
8. What term is used to describe the fate of people whose whole existence has been utterly annihilated?
9. What is 'Minipax'? And what does it do?
10. What is described as 'an act of self-hypnosis'?
11. How does Orwell describe the eyes of Big Brother on the posters in Winston's block of flats?
12. Fill in the blanks: 'Only the _____ mattered.'
13. Why is Winston not used to writing by hand?
14. How old is Winston at the beginning of the novel?
15. What is the name of the underground network of conspirators dedicated to the overthrow of the State?



Task 3

Writing Task: (compulsory – bring your response, typed or handwritten, to Lesson 1).

Focusing on any 2-page section of your choice from Chapter 1 (though you may not do the first two pages), write a short essay (no more than 2 sides A4) answering the following question:

In what ways is the main character in *Nineteen Eighty-Four* oppressed by the ruling regime?

You should use at least six quotations from your selected pages in your answer.

Task 4

Wider Reading (desirable).

Students aiming for top grades need to read beyond the exam texts. We strongly suggest that you broaden your literary reading over the summer. Some suggestions:

Pre-twentieth Century Texts:

- Any Shakespeare tragedy play – e.g. *King Lear*, *Macbeth*, *Othello*, *Antony and Cleopatra*, *Coriolanus*.
- Any version of *The Canterbury Tales* by Geoffrey Chaucer

Any dystopian novels, for example:

- *The Handmaid's Tale*, *The Testaments*, or *Oryx and Crake* by Margaret Atwood
- *We* by Yevgeny Zamyatin
- *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury
- *Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley
- *The Road* by Cormac McCarthy



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*The online version of Nineteen Eighty-Four means you can get started on your summer work without delay; however, when you begin your lessons in September you will definitely need a hard copy of the book. We are planning for the college library to have a limited number on sale for the reduced price of £5 (while stocks last), but when these are gone you will have to buy your own.

Task 5

Ambitious in English? Read emagazine!.

Emagazine is a magazine and website for A Level students with articles written by academics, critics, writers, teachers and students on texts and topics set for A Level, and on literature and language more generally. Here's how you can access emagazine online:

1. Go to <https://www.englishandmedia.co.uk/e-magazine/magazine-archive/>
2. When you are prompted to input a Username, type candi
3. When you are prompted to input a password, type student
4. Click emagazine archive and use the search function to look for articles on writers that interest you. You could start by searching for 'Orwell' or 'Atwood' if you want to do more research on dystopian authors. Make some notes on what you read and keep them somewhere safe, ready to put in your A Level English folder.
5. You can also select emagazine clips to watch videos of academics talking about literature. Again, try to make (and keep safe) some notes on what you hear.

Task 6

Ambitious in English? Read books about books! (optional)

As well as essays and articles about specific writers, there are also a wide range of books available about literature more generally. Some of these are written for people studying literature at university, others are written for a more general audience.

The opening pages of all the books listed below are available online via Amazon's 'Look Inside' feature. Read the opening pages of two or three (or more) of these books. Which would you most like to go on to read? Why? Select short quotations which interest or please you. Use these to create an A4 sheet of notes and ideas that come from the book you have chosen. You should keep these notes to put into your folder when you start English Literature at Candi. Your teacher will also be interested to discuss what you have read with you when you arrive.

On novels:

John Mullan: How Novels Work

(<https://tinyurl.com/hownovels>)

David Lodge: The Art of Fiction (<https://tinyurl.com/lodgefiction>)

Francine Prose: Reading Like a Writer

(<https://tinyurl.com/prosereadwrite>)

On poetry:

James Fenton: An Introduction to English Poetry

(<https://tinyurl.com/fentonpoetry>)

Ruth Padel: The Poem and the Journey

(<https://tinyurl.com/padelpoetry>)

Mark Yakich: Poetry –

A Survivor's Guide (<https://tinyurl.com/yackichpoetry>)

On Shakespeare:

Bill Bryson: Shakespeare – The World as a Stage

(<https://tinyurl.com/brysonshakes>)

Emma Smith: This is Shakespeare –

(<https://tinyurl.com/smithshakes>)

On Drama:

David Edgar: How Plays Work

(<https://tinyurl.com/playswork>)

Richard Eyre: Interviews with Theatre People

(<https://tinyurl.com/talktheatre>)

Steve Waters: The Secret Life of Plays

(<https://tinyurl.com/lifeplays>)

On English in general:

Robert Eaglestone: Doing English

(<https://tinyurl.com/doingenglish>)