

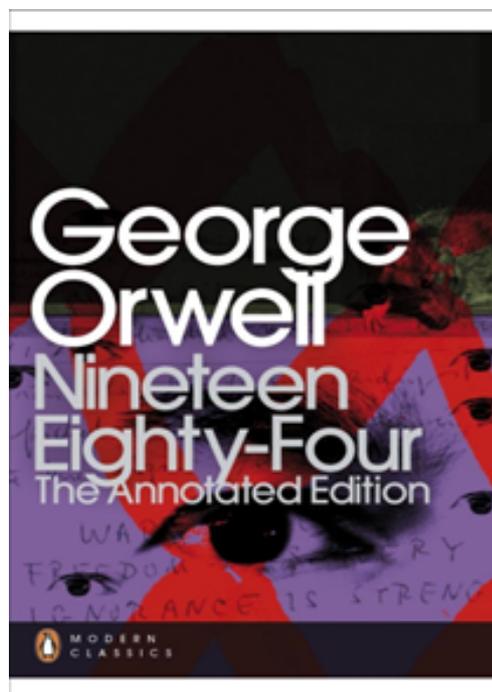
A LEVEL ENGLISH LITERATURE SUMMER ASSIGNMENT

1. Reading Task (compulsory)

Before you attend your first lesson in September you need to read *Nineteen Eighty-Four* by George Orwell. This text is available quite affordably from all good 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>





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2. Quiz (compulsory – prepare/revise in time for Lesson 1)

As you read Chapter 1 look out for the answers to the quiz questions below. In your first lesson you will do this quiz from memory, to prove you have absorbed what you have read!

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?



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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 (one side of A4) answering the following question: In what ways is the main character in *Nineteen Eighty-Four* oppressed by the ruling regime? Use quotations, and comment on Orwell's language choices.

4. Wider Reading (desirable)

Ambitious students aiming for top grades need to read beyond the exam texts. We strongly suggest that you undertake wider reading/research over the summer. Some suggestions:

Literary contexts

- Any Shakespeare tragedy
 - Any version of *The Canterbury Tales* by Geoffrey Chaucer
- Any dystopian novels or films, for example:
- *Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley
 - *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury
 - *The Road* by Cormac McCarthy