

Preparation for A-Level Literature: Closure Tasks

Texts available from Amazon/on-line bookstores/Kindle/ebook.

1. Read *Nineteen Eighty-Four* by George Orwell. After reading this, watch the MASSOLIT lecture series and make your own notes regarding the key points made in each lecture. This is one of your core texts for the Comparative and Contextual Unit (Dystopia) and it would be useful for you to have some initial notes and thoughts about it ready for deeper study with your teacher.
2. Read one other text from the list below (these are companion texts for the Comparative and Contextual Unit intended to broaden your understanding of the genre of Dystopia). After reading, write a critical review of the text, using the following as a model for content and style:

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2010/sep/26/the-handmaids-tale-margaret-atwood>

Ray Bradbury: <i>Fahrenheit 451</i>
Aldous Huxley: <i>Brave New World</i>
H G Wells: <i>The Time Machine</i>
J G Ballard: <i>The Drowned World</i>
Anthony Burgess: <i>A Clockwork Orange</i>
Doris Lessing: <i>Memoirs of a Survivor</i>
P.D. James: <i>The Children of Men</i>
Cormac McCarthy: <i>The Road</i>

3. Watch this adaptation of Henrik Ibsen's *A Doll's House*:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZJDnHQT2BDk&t=310s> (it is in English but it has Portuguese subtitles: ignore these!). After watching this, write a short (approx. 500 words) essay commenting on the key themes that you noticed and how these were exemplified.
4. Choose a poetic text to read from the list below. Make a short guide referring to the poet's style: common themes and devices that they employ.

Wilfred Owen: <i>Selected Poems</i>
Elizabeth Jennings: <i>Selected Poems</i>
E E Cummings: <i>Selected Poems</i>
Simon Armitage: <i>Book of Matches</i>
Owen McCafferty: <i>Antigone</i>
W B Yeats: <i>Selected Poems (post-1900)</i>
Seamus Heaney: <i>District and Circle</i>
Jo Shapcot: <i>Of Mutability</i>
Owen Sheers: <i>The Blue Book</i>
Seamus Heaney: <i>North</i>

Preparation for A-Level Literature: Closure Tasks

Texts available from Amazon/on-line bookstores/Kindle/ebook.

5. Read one of the following critical texts.

<i>Literary Theory: A Very Short Introduction (Oxford)</i>
<i>English Literature: A Very Short Introduction (Oxford)</i>
Melvyn Bragg: <i>The Adventure of English</i>
E M Forster and Oliver Stallybrass: <i>Aspects of the Novel</i>
Robert Eaglestone: <i>Doing English: A Guide for Literature Students</i>
Martin Montgomery, Alan Durant, Nigel Fabb, Tom Furniss and Sara Mills: <i>Ways of Reading: Advanced Reading Skills for Students of English Literature</i>
Margaret Drabble: <i>The Oxford Companion to English Literature: Revised.</i>
Jeremy Hawthorn: <i>Studying the Novel</i>
<i>William Shakespeare: A Very Short Introduction (Oxford)</i>
Rob Pope: <i>Textual Intervention: Critical and Creative Strategies for Literary Studies</i>