



Unit 1 — Dystopias

Track E · Klasse 12 · Niveau E (Basisfach / Leistungsfach)

Learning objectives

- *I can read extracts from three canonical dystopias (Orwell, Huxley, Atwood) and identify each text's central control mechanism.*
- *I can use the vocabulary of literary dystopia (surveillance, complicity, conditioning, dehumanisation, language control).*
- *I can write a 350-word comparative literary essay tracing one motif across three texts.*

Lead-in

The class opened the dystopia unit with three short extracts, one from each of *1984* (Orwell, 1949), *Brave New World* (Huxley, 1932), and *The Handmaid's Tale* (Atwood, 1985). The shared question: *by what means does each regime control its citizens?* The class noticed quickly that the answer was different in each — surveillance, conditioning, and ritual were not interchangeable.

Key points

- *Orwell — 1984*: The telescreen watched and broadcast simultaneously; Newspeak was designed to narrow the range of thought.
- *Huxley — Brave New World*: Conditioning began in the bottle; soma dissolved discontent without argument; pleasure replaced suppression.
- *Atwood — The Handmaid's Tale*: Ritual replaced law; reading was forbidden to women; the regime's language was scripture-coded ('Blessed be the fruit').

Practise

- Match: 1984 → ?, Brave New World → ?, The Handmaid's Tale → ?
- T or F: Orwell's regime forbids pleasure; Huxley's regime weaponises pleasure; Atwood's regime uses scripture-coded language.
- Build 4 close-reading sentences using literary-dystopia vocabulary on the three extracts.

Your turn

Comparative literary essay, 350 words. Trace one motif (language, ritual, surveillance) across the three texts. Use 3 integrated quotes + 5 academic discourse markers + 1 cleft.

Reflect

- I can identify each text's central control mechanism.
- I can use 6+ literary-dystopia vocabulary terms.
- I can write a 350-word comparative literary essay.