Worksheet 7 – The Body

Review: Lecture 6

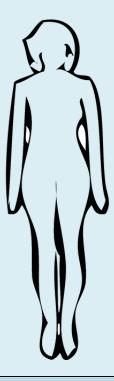
In the fifth lecture of the unit, Dr Madeleine Davies discussed the role of indoctrination and ideology in Gilead.

✓ What were some of the ways that Dr Davies said that women were controlled within Gilead?

Recall: Lecture 7

Complete this task after watching the video lecture to check how much you remember.

1. Annotate the outline below with as many words from the lecture you can remember that Dr Davies or Atwood use to describe Offred's body.



Analysis

- 2. During the lecture, Dr Davies discusses a quotation from Chapter 13 in detail. Annotate each of the extracts below, using the ideas Dr Davies presents in her lecture:
 - a) I sink down into my body as into a swamp, fenland, where only I know the footing. Treacherous ground, my own territory.
 - b) I used to think of my body as an instrument, of pleasure, or a means of transportation, or an implement for the accomplishment of my will. I could use it to run, push buttons of one sort or another, make things happen.
 - c) I'm a cloud, congealed around a central object, the shape of a pear, which is hard and more real than I am and glows red within its translucent wrapping.
 - d) Every month there is a moon, gigantic, round, heavy, an omen.
- 3. How does Atwood use the lexis of geography to present Offred's relationship with her own body? *Write your answer as an analytical paragraph.*

Evaluation

- 4. Towards the end of her lecture, Dr Davies mentions the connections we can draw between Gilead and the alt-right movement in the United States. Research one of the contexts she mentions, making notes about your findings:
 - a) Firebombing of abortion clinics
 - b) Rhetoric relating to women's roles as mothers
 - c) Attacks on the provision of contraception at Planned Parenthood
- 5. Make an essay plan, answering the following question: **To what extent is** *The Handmaid's Tale* **a warning about alt-right politics?**

Remember:

- You do not have to write the whole essay: practice making a detailed plan.
- You may wish to make a mind map first and then consider the order your points would go in.
- Ensure you have a clear overarching argument that would be explained in your introduction and conclusion.
- Include quotations from the novel and your research from 4.a)

Glossary

- **Instrument** a tool or implement, especially one for precision work.
- **Alt-right** (*in the US*) an ideological grouping associated with extreme conservative or reactionary viewpoints, characterized by a rejection of mainstream politics and by the use of online media to disseminate deliberately controversial content.
- Rhetoric the art of effective or persuasive speaking or writing; language designed to have a
 persuasive or impressive effect, but which is often regarded as lacking in sincerity or
 meaningful content.