

## 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.