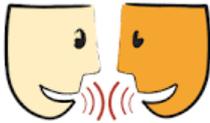


Subject: *A-Level English Language*

Exam Board: *AQA*

Welcome to A-level English Language. We are delighted that you are considering this A-level as an option in Year 12 and 13. To demonstrate your commitment to the course and to prepare you for September, you must complete the following tasks to the best of your ability. These tasks are compulsory and must be completed prior to your first English Language lesson in Year 12.



We expect you to spend at least 3 hours completing the tasks outlined in this pack. The activities have been designed to help you begin to develop some of the key skills you will need for A-level English Language.

Please be aware that this is an essay based subject and will require the learning of numerous key terms.

Learning Objectives:

- To develop a basic understanding of the kinds of areas that linguists debate and to include your own thoughts on the debate to facilitate a discussion in lesson one.
- To use the levels of language for syntax as a basis for the metalanguage you will need to use throughout the course.
- To start to develop evaluation and essay skills which will be vital in A-Level English Language.

Contacts for Support:

-  Mrs Bell – Please email via Insight or visit the 6th Form Office, Room 11 or the English Staff Room in A Block
-  Mrs Hunt – Please email via Insight or visit Room 12 or the English Staff Room

What is English Language?



Together we will study many things about the English language such as: grammar (what types of sentence are there? What is a subordinate clause? What types of noun are there?); meanings and representations (how do we create an identity through language? How do we represent ourselves or others?); occupational groups (how is our language different at work?); language and power (how do we maintain a hierarchy through language?);

language and gender (do men and women use language differently?); language and dialect (how and why does English change across the UK?); how children acquire language skills (is this ability always within us or are we influenced entirely by caregivers?); language change (where did our language begin and what changed it over the centuries? What types of English exist across the world?). As you can see, there are many questions still left to answer and this is partly what makes this course so varied, interesting but also challenging. Other wider questions you should prepare to answer might include:

- **Why do we talk in the myriad ways that we do?**
- **Why are we influenced by what others say?**
- **What do language theorists say about our language?**
- **What different techniques can we apply when we study the many aspects of English Language?**



Task 1: What is your idiolect?

Idiolect (noun): your own unique way of talking encompassing vocabulary, grammar and pronunciation.

Write down five ways in which your language changes, what the influences on your language are and some examples of what you might say in this group (or place) that is different to other places. One example will obviously be your family. You could add your own examples. Fill in the remaining options.



1. **Group or place: family environment**

Influences: relaxed setting, with people who know me well, totally informal

Examples of unique speech: mummy, dad

2. **Group or place:**

Influences:

Examples of unique speech:

3. **Group or place:**

Influences:

Examples of unique speech:

4. **Group or place:**

Influences:

Examples of unique speech:

5. **Group or place:**

Influences:

Examples of unique speech:



Task 2: Reading Challenge

Planning, studying and conducting research plays an important role in English Language. The more wider reading you can do, the better informed you will be.

Aims:

- To show you can work independently and that you have a genuine interest in English Language.
- To show your interpretive skills and areas of interest.
- To actively read and begin to ask important questions.

Task:

- Study a number (if not all!) of these possible wider reading opportunities. This will take time – do not rush or skim through this long term task.
- Choose one to write about below in the 'review' section. Use good detail.
- Be prepared to share your ideas with the group as part of initial discussions.

Wider Reading Opportunities:

Blogs:

One of the most important language theorists is David Crystal. You can (and should) read his blog on a regular basis: <http://david-crystal.blogspot.co.uk>.

Language – A Feminist Guide: <https://debuk.wordpress.com>

Deborah Tannen: <http://www.deborahannen.com>

Geoff Barton: http://blog.geoffbarton.co.uk/site/Blog/Entries/2016/5/16_Language_Change.html

Any books by David Crystal, Deborah Tannen, Deborah Cameron, Jennifer Coates, Norman Fairclough, Noam Chomsky, Jean Piaget eg:

- You Just Don't Understand, Deborah Tannen
- Gender & Discourse, Deborah Tannen
- The Myth Of Mars and Venus, Deborah Cameron
- Verbal Hygiene, Deborah Cameron
- How Language Works, David Crystal
- The Gr8 Db8, David Crystal
- Spell It Out, David Crystal
- A Little Book Of Language, David Crystal
- Words, Words, Words, David Crystal
- Language and Power, Norman Fairclough
- Language and Gender, Jennifer Coates
- Language and Gender, Penelope Eckert
- Talking From 9 To 5: Language In The Workplace, Deborah Tannen
- Language & Woman's Place, Robin Lakoff

Or student books:

- Language & Power, Routledge
- Language & Gender, Cambridge
- Linguistics For Dummies
- AQA A Level Language: Student Book, Clayton & Goddard
- A/AS Level English Language: Student Book, Giovanelli & Ives

Review:

The wider reading I found most interesting was (put title of book/blog here):

What interested me in particular was:

I agree / disagree with:

After reading, I have the following questions about this area:





Task 3: Learn The Metalanguage

Metalanguage (noun): language used to talk about language.

A key part of studying English Language is the ability to use metalanguage. This is also part of what forms a good grade (Assessment Objective 1).

Research the meaning of the following terminology and give examples:

Language Term	Definition	Examples
Metalanguage	Language used to talk about language	Noun, verb, grammar
Sociolect		
Noun		
Verb		
Adverb		
Pronoun		
Superlative		
Comparative		
Suffix		
Conjunction		
Imperative sentence		
Interrogative sentence		
Exclamatory sentence		
Declarative sentence		