



## English Language Summer Tasks 2021

In order to get you set up for the exciting year ahead, you will need to purchase a few items:

1. **One lever arch folder** (to keep all of your notes in).
2. **A pad of lined paper** (at A Level you should be supplying your own lined paper, as we do not use exercise books).
3. **A pack of file dividers** (this will enable you to keep your work in order, making it easy to revise).
4. **A fully equipped pencil case** (you may use a laptop but note you need to practice writing for the exams at the end of the year, so you will always be expected to bring pen and paper to every lesson)

We will provide students with a copy of the AQA syllabus and guide booklets.

English Language is all about investigating how and why we communicate and how language has changed and diversified over time:

**Holiday Home Learning** – Owing to the unique circumstances and challenges facing you as students this year, we are setting a range of tasks for you to complete over your extended summer break. This will allow you to develop your understanding of the course and English Language more generally. Please complete as many of these tasks as you can; they will give you a real head start in the build-up to Year 12.

**Task 1:** Collect a variety of text styles. We will be using these in the first week of lessons to analyse form, audience and purpose. This task is a non-negotiable!

**Please collect one of each of the following:**

Magazine article  
Leaflets  
Online article  
Blog post  
Advertisements (one aimed towards a male audience/ one aimed towards a female audience)  
Review  
Forum thread  
Poster  
Page/ extract of fiction writing (descriptive or narrative)  
Instructional writing (contract/ terms of conditions/ recipe)

**Task 1:** The methods we will use to analyse language are called “Language Levels” The following areas of language form the basis of study:

1. Phonetics, phonology and prosodics (How speech sounds and effects are labelled and analysed)
  2. Graphology (The visual aspects of texts)
  3. Lexis and Semantics (Vocabulary and meanings)
  4. Grammar and syntax (How language is organised at sentence, clause, phrase and word level)
  5. Pragmatics (Context and implied meanings)
  6. Discourse (How longer stretches of communication are organised in a variety of modes and contexts)
- Use Seneca at <https://www.senecalearning.com/> to introduce yourself to some of the terminology used within these frameworks.

Start by creating a working glossary document so that you can collect all the key terms you learn in one place, making it easier to revise in the future.

<https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/english/AQA-7701-7702-GLOSSARY.PDF>

Do not be put off by the amount of terminology in this document – by the end of the course, you will be able to use everything confidently.

### Task 2: Exposing yourself to arguments around language.

Radio 4's 'Word of Mouth' programme: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006qtnz/episodes/player>

In this half hourly programme, Michael Rosen discusses various sorts of language from broad areas, such as the use of slang and language linked to gender identity, to more niche areas such as the naming of diseases and clichés in football commentary

Ted Talks: [https://www.ted.com/playlists/228/how\\_language\\_changes\\_over\\_time](https://www.ted.com/playlists/228/how_language_changes_over_time)

For each of the broadcasts, make notes about the arguments and then choose one of the topics to investigate in more depth:

### Task 3: The joy about studying English Language is that it is everywhere.

As part of your summer work, start a 'scrapbook' where you collect different examples of language. Find at least five.

1: Annotate the examples looking at how they use language to meet the demands of the different audiences, forms and functions of the text.

For example:

The image shows a train ticket for an 'Off-Peak Single' from Watford Junction to Coventry, dated 05-Jun-15. The ticket price is £22.55. Three callout boxes are present:

- Top box:** Jargon – language unique to this type of text. Demonstrates the cost of the ticket and implies that it is cheaper than other types.
- Middle box:** Abbreviations due to limited size of
- Bottom box:** Colours are typical of this text type and are the same regardless of the train company.
- Bottom box:** Implied legal language showing the authority of the ticket. Hints at the power behind the people who issue and check tickets.

The expectation will be that you bring these scrapbooks to your first lesson back in September.

2. Pick 3 social or ethnic group e.g. immigrant workers, travellers, City Bankers OR an individual e.g. The Duchess of Cambridge, Kim Kardashian, Simon Cowell (!). Collect a series of 3-4 articles about these groups or individuals, using online archives or your own newspaper and magazine sources. Reflect on how language is used to represent these groups/individuals. Be ready to present your findings to the rest of the class in September

### Task 4: Reading around the subject.

There are a lot of books written about English Language. Some of the most accessible include:

**Rediscover Grammar: David Crystal** Your own copy of this will be really useful – a recommended read over the summer, as a detailed knowledge of grammar is essential at A Level.

**The Cambridge Encyclopaedia of Language: David Crystal** Includes lots of fascinating stuff on all sorts of language related topics. Worth dipping into if you have a spare 5 minutes. Don't be put off by the size - it is very readable.

**Language and Society: Susan Cockcroft** Comprehensive coverage of major theories of language and social context.

**The Story of English in 100 Words; How Language Works; The English Language: A Guided Tour of the Language: David Crystal** (in fact, most books by this author are accessible and interesting. Have a look in your local library for them.)

**Mother Tongue: Bill Bryson**

#### Recommended Websites

<https://www.englishandmedia.co.uk/> Full of brilliant articles and resources. Some of it does require a subscription I'm afraid.

[www.englishbiz.co.uk](http://www.englishbiz.co.uk) Contains a very useful section on grammar

<http://www.englishlangsfx.blogspot.com> Postings of topical language debates and links to other useful sites

<http://www.universalteacher.org.uk/> Covers all the basic topics

**Recommended Blogs** There are also some really useful blogs to have a look at:

<https://blog.oxforddictionaries.com/> - Gives some interesting insights into new words and the changing uses of existing words.

<http://flashfictiononline.com/main/> - A useful website for looking at short pieces of creative writing. This will prove useful as you start preparing for coursework.

<https://www.theguardian.com/media/mind-your-language> - An interesting blog that looks at attitudes towards the ways in which language is used.

Please feel free to get in touch with either of your course teachers should you have any queries regarding these tasks or the course in general.

We hope that you enjoy English Language and we look forward to seeing you all in September.

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