

AS & A Level English Language

Preparation for Year 12

A minimum of 5 hours' language-based listening, reading & reflection

The material for A Level English Language is all around you, all the time. Switch on your eyes and ears and literally anything and everything you hear, say, read or write is fruitful material for language study.

Over the summer, you should start to explore the world of words, and here are some activities you need to complete by the time you start the course in September.

1. **Find and record a minimum of 5 interesting language uses from the world around you.** These can be literally cut out from paper-based texts, old-school; screen-shots from online sources; photos taken while out and about; recordings or transcripts from things you've over-heard. Make a few notes on what interests you about the way language is being used. Be prepared to share these in September.
2. **Listen to at least 1 episode of the Radio 4 Word of Mouth series:**
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006qtnz/episodes/guide>
There are 112+ to choose from on a huge range of language-related topics. Make a few notes (bullet points?) Things to think about:
 - What did you learn?
 - What surprised you?
 - How has this changed your awareness or thinking on the subject?
 - What would you be interested to find out more about?
3. **Read at least 1 article from The Guardian online blog, Mind Your Language:**
<http://www.theguardian.com/media/mind-your-language> Again, we'd like to know what you read about and your thoughts on the issues raised. For this course, you will need to show understanding of the ways in which the language we use is received and judged by others.
4. For those of you who are really getting into this, why not tackle one of the following books:
 - *Mother Tongue*, Bill Bryson
 - *The English Language*, David Crystal
 - *How Language Works*, David Crystal
 - *Language at Play*, David Crystal

AQA website for further course information: <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/as-and-a-level/english-language-7701-7702>

(1) Radio 4: *Word of Mouth*

Programme title:

Programme overview:

What I learnt / found interesting / made me think:

Ideas for further reading / listening / investigation on this area:

(2) The Guardian: *Mind Your Language* blog

Article headline:

Article overview:

What I learnt / found interesting / made me think:

Ideas for further reading / listening / investigation on this area:

