

## A Level English Language – Summer Transition Work

Welcome to A Level English Language! Hopefully our taster sessions, as well as our course information have given you a small insight into what to expect with the course in September. This work is designed to help prepare you for the jump from GCSE English Language to more complex – and more exciting – world of Linguistics at A Level.

One of the best things you can do to prepare for A Level English Language is to read and keep your eyes open for anything to do with language in the media. A newspaper article about accents in the workplace, tweets about gender, blogs on new words, adverts aimed at teenagers... anything to do with language in the real world! Suggestions for independent reading are included at the bottom.

### Task 1: Reading

Find an article on a topic in English Language (accent and dialects, gender, power, technology, language change, etc.) to read and answer the following questions in as much detail as you can:

1. **What is the main message or argument of the article, and how does the writer make it clear to the reader?**
2. **What tone does the writer use (e.g., serious, humorous, critical), and how does it affect the way the ideas are presented?**
3. **Does the writer include any facts, examples, or expert opinions to support their ideas? How do these strengthen the article's argument?**
4. **What interested you about this issue/topic? Why did you choose this article? Has it help you to understand anything in greater detail or presented ideas you may not have considered before?**

Have both the article and your answers ready for your first A Level English Language lesson.

Some of the best places to find these types of text are:

- English and Media's e-magazine: <https://www.englishandmedia.co.uk/e-magazine/emag-login/>
  - Username: MytonEng
  - Password: Mytonschool
- *The Guardian* Language section <https://www.theguardian.com/science/language> (avoid the brief letters)
- *The Conversation* has well-written articles by academics and researchers: <https://theconversation.com/uk/search?q=language>
- *Aeon* is another great, academic source: <https://aeon.co/search?q=linguistics>
- EngLangBlog contains some great blog posts with links to interesting and relevant articles: <https://englishlangsfx.blogspot.com/>
- *The Mail Online* can have some interesting views on language (the comments section can also be very enlightening!)

If you find you are struggling to find an appropriate article, please email Ms Tully who can provide a few suggestions at [tully.e@myton.co.uk](mailto:tully.e@myton.co.uk)

## Task 2: Personal Language Histories

To get you thinking about the importance of language in your own life, complete the Personal Language History questions. You may not be able to answer all of the questions, but try to fill in as much as you can to get a better picture of your own development and abilities.

## Task 3: Activities from the 'Making the Leap from GCSE to A Level English Language Guide'

This guide, produced by The English and Media Centre, is brilliant and has 19 different activities included. There is a resource and audio file pack which you will need for some of the tasks – all saved into the school website.

You are welcome to browse all of them and try as many as you like if you want to start doing wider reading and getting engaged in the subject, but you **must** complete **Task 7: Textercise**. This activity gives you eight texts. You need to read them all, choose three to work on specifically and then answer the questions on your chosen three.

### **Suggested wider reading:**

[www.englishlangsfx.blogspot.com/](http://www.englishlangsfx.blogspot.com/) Written by Dan Clayton at St Francis Xavier College; provides excellent materials and discussions, plus lots of links to other relevant sites.

<http://www.universalteacher.org.uk/> Lots of invaluable information on all aspects of your Linguistics course.

<http://www.ling.lancs.ac.uk/> Lancaster Uni Language and Linguistics site. Enormous. They have a specific A Level site within this and loads of resources.

<http://www.geoffbarton.co.uk/> useful site which covers many aspects of the course.

<http://www.phon.ucl.ac.uk/> Very good for dialects, phonology.

<https://www.diplomacy.edu/blog/language-time-coronavirus-crisis-uk-case-study>