



# Sixth Form Preparation for Success

## Welcome to A Level English Language

AQA, A Level English Language 7702

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### Introduction:

The work in this section will introduce you to the module Language Change. This area of English Language study focuses on the different concepts that have shaped and are continuing to shape the language that you use today. The tasks will develop your research skills and wider knowledge of why English Language functions differently across different periods and contexts. It also introduces the attitudes adopted by some about the way the language is changing.

## Part I – Y11 into 12 A Level English Language Specific

### Bridging Work - to be completed May – Sept

Remember that prizes will be awarded for 'exceptional' work that demonstrates effort above expected!

#### a) Investigate places of interest



This is the British Library in London – you can look at texts from as early as the first century. Please visit their website [www.bl.uk](http://www.bl.uk) – look at texts written by Shakespeare, Charles Dickens, look at sections of the Magna Carta, recipes from the 1700s. This is just one of the websites we use for research purposes. You can listen to a range of English accents in their Accent and Dialect section. They have a timeline for the different stages of the English Language.

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## b) Wider reading

### For the Language change: spelling (orthography and grammar)

Watts, R. (2011), *Language Myths and the History of English*, Oxford Press

David Crystal – How is the internet changing language today?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P2XVdDSJHqY>

David Crystal – The effects of new technology:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qVqcoB798Is>

Jean Aitchison – *Language Change: Progress or Decay?*

Oxford online dictionary - <https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/>

English Language blog: <http://englishlangsfx.blogspot.com/>

### For accents and dialects:

Fry.S. (2008-17), *Fry's English Delight*, series on BBC Radio 4:

[www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b00v1k1/episodes/player](http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b00v1k1/episodes/player)

Hughes, A., Trudgill, P. and Watt, D. (2012) *English Accents and Dialects*

British Library Accents and Dialects archives recordings - <https://sounds.bl.uk/Sound-Maps/Accents-and-Dialects>

## c) Compulsory task

Research and create a timeline for the different stages of English Language from the first century (all the stages are on the British Library website).

Find examples of Words, phrases/texts/articles for the period of 1600 to present day

Find examples of spelling (orthography) changes and record any ideas of why these spelling or grammar changes took place. Create a bank of resources that you can continue to use when the course starts.

Research and read the different metaphors that Jean Aitchison uses to describe the effect of change on the English Language. Research an oppositional viewpoint to Jean Aitchison's metaphors to help you develop a balanced opinion. Write an opinion piece (at least 2 sides of A4), where you argue whether you agree or disagree with these theories. Use your research to support your argument. You can use some of the websites listed in the next task below, to help you develop your ideas.

## d) Stretch!

### Researching media representation of language

Choose a year in the last two decades and, using a range of media websites (e.g. The Guardian, The Huffington Post, The Independent, Slate.com, Daily Telegraph, Mail Online), identify the main stories that offer opinions about English Language. Can you categorise the main topics or areas that give rise to concerns about English language use? For example, are some of them about accent prejudice, new words in the dictionary, or texting and literacy? What kind of concerns are raised and how are these expressed?

## Part II - Year 12 Head Start! for completion June – September

AQA A Level English Language is a two year course covering the following modules:

	Term 1.1 9 <sup>th</sup> September – 24 <sup>th</sup> October (7 weeks)	Term 1.2 4 <sup>th</sup> November – 20 <sup>th</sup> December (7 weeks)
<b>Y12</b>	Teacher 1 (6 hours) Introduction to A Level Language (Paper 1)  Academic Writing skills: - writing discursively about language issues in an academic essay (End Point) - writing analytically about texts as parts of discourses about language (End Point)  Introduction to Linguistic framework: - Lexis - Semantics - Grammar  Stylistic analysis and comparison skills (representation and meaning) (End Point)	Teacher 1 (6 hours) Children's Language development (Paper 1)  Explore how children develop their spoken and written skills  - The functions of children's language - Phonological, pragmatic, lexical, semantic and grammatical development - Different genres of speech and writing - Different modes of communication (spoken, written, multimodal) - Theories and research about language development  Linguistic research and data collection
	Teacher 2 (4 hours) Paper 1 Introduction to Linguistic framework: - Graphology - Phonology - Pragmatics - Discourse  • - writing about language issues in a variety of forms to communicate their ideas to a non-specialist audience (introduction to different styles of writing and linguistic methods) (End Point)  Representation and meanings in different discourses and modes	Teacher 2 (4 hours) Paper 2 Language Diversity: - Accent - Dialect  How language varies because of personal, social, geographical and temporal context  Why language varies and changes, developing critical knowledge and understanding of different views and explanations Attitudes to language variation and change (End Point)  The use of language according to audience, purpose, genre and mode  How language is used to enact relationships  Texts that include different dialects (including regional, national and international varieties)  Linguistic research skills – data collection

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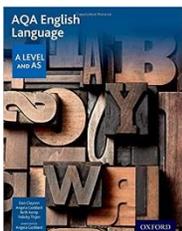
There is a distinctive difference when studying English Language at A Level, in that it focuses on how language functions within different social contexts.

To prepare yourself for the course it is important that you become familiar with a wide variety of text types. Therefore, you need to stretch yourself with your reading: if you are not a newspaper reader then start; if you haven't read political speeches then start; if you have only read contemporary texts then start to read texts from the 17th, 18th, 19th and early 20th century. Ensure that you understand how a dictionary works i.e. how to find the etymology of a word and how some word classes can change according to their use.

Recommended reading list for students (do not feel that you have to read all of these – you can find extracts on the internet):

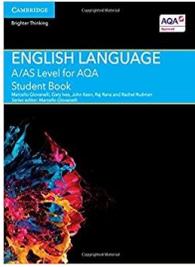
- The Story of Language: C.L. Barber (Pan Books)
- Introduction to English Language: Blake and Moorhead (Macmillan)
- The English Language: ed. W.F. Bolton and David Crystal (Sphere History of Literature)
- Mother Tongue – The English Language: Bill Bryson (Penguin)
- The English Language: David Crystal (Penguin)
- Introducing Stylistics: John Hayes (Routledge)
- Language: the Basics: R.L. Trask (Routledge)
- The State of the Language: Philip Howard (Penguin)

Course recommended textbooks:



**AQA English Language: A Level and AS (AQA A Level English Language) Paperback – 16 April 2015**

**We do have some copies of these in school for you to use during your lessons**



## **A/AS Level English Language for AQA Student Book (A Level (AS) English Language AQA) Paperback – 4 Jun. 2015**

**Please note that the A Level English Language course is the full two-year course. We do not do the (AS) part of the course a separate module.**

News Articles about attitudes towards English Language

<https://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk>

<https://www.theguardian.com>

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk>

Please research other news websites and look at how language is functioning to persuade, inform and represent ideas about the world around you.

A good starting point would be to look at the news articles over the last few weeks and the way our current situation has and is being presented.

Please look at the following time periods 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th and 21st century texts – focus on grammar and spelling.

<https://www.bl.uk/>

Mr Bruff's guide to A Level English – these are quite good to give you an deeper insight into the different modules on the course

<https://youtu.be/rfIVFvAjTq4>