

Independent English Work for Prospective Year 12 Students
(new tasks in purple)

English Language

The great thing about studying language is that any source of words is a set text. Please use these tasks to explore the language you encounter in your everyday life as well as seeking out some new sources and ideas.

<p>Independent Research</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Read this blog by linguist Deborah Cameron about the use of language, often around a topic of gender. ➤ Watch this video about the linguistic genius of babies. ➤ Watch this video about how language shapes the way we think. ➤ Listen to Word of Mouth, a programme on BBC Radio 4 with Michael Rosen and guests such as Stephen Fry, all discussing language. Fascinating. ➤ Read this website created by the University of Central London (UCL). Loads of great, well-explained grammar stuff. ➤ Read this website which has lots of links to the different aspects of the course. ➤ Read this guide about studying English Language for A Level.
<p>Spoken English</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Find a conversation online such as an interview. Try to transcribe (write down) about 2 minutes of speech. You will need to use the pause button! Once you have everything, try to decide who the dominant participant was and come up with five reasons explaining your choice. ➤ Review some of the press briefings and speeches given by Prime Minister Boris Johnson during the coronavirus outbreak. How does he adapt his language to both command and reassure the public? Make notes and try to identify the effects of specific language choices. ➤ Read this article about Prime Minister's Questions and the linguistic strategies of Keir Starmer as the Leader of the Opposition.
<p>Written English</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Collect examples of advertisements. Consider what language they use to attract different buyers. Does the language show gender bias? How is non-standard grammar used to create effects? Toiletries are good sources of data (ie language) for analysis. Choose two of your examples and compare them. ➤ Track the same news story across a range of newspaper websites (The Guardian, The Daily Mail, The Mirror and Metro are all available for free online). Record the different headlines and analyse the language choices in each, comparing the different meanings and effects created. ➤ Write a light-hearted guide for entertaining yourself at home during self-isolation that would appear in the lifestyle or culture section of one of the above newspapers.
<p>Online English</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Keep a record of all the texts and/or online messages that you send in a given time period (an hour, an afternoon or a day depending on the number!). What are the most common phrases and features that you tend to use? Do you use grammatical features such as punctuation? How formal or informal are you? And do any of these things change in certain situations: how does context affect the language produced?

English Literature

There is a wealth of material that you can read and research online in preparation for your literary studies. Some skilful searching will bring up original texts and relevant background material. Revision websites like Shmoop and Sparknotes are available to help you understand more complex material on a first reading. Productions, films, key scenes and summaries are all available on YouTube too.

Online Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Enter the Young Foyles Poetry competition.➤ Go to the Poetry by Heart website and read a poem a day – try to interpret the meaning, form, structure, imagery and poet’s intention.➤ Enter this creative writing competition.➤ Research a genre or area of literature that interests you, starting by watching relevant TED talks.➤ Read this guide explaining why the study of literature is so valuable.
Poetry in preparation for studying Seamus Heaney & John Keats	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Investigate the life and early poems of Seamus Heaney starting with his Poetry Foundation page which has a biography and selected poems.➤ Have a look at poems by the other Romantic poets: Shelley, Byron, Wordsworth and Coleridge. They can usually be found by just googling the name of the poet but you could use the Poetry Foundation website. Choose a favourite and email us the link with your reasons for choosing it.
Drama in preparation for studying <i>The Tempest</i> , <i>A Streetcar Named Desire</i> and <i>The Duchess of Malfi</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Research Shakespearean comedy online then watch the National Theatre production of <i>A Midsummer Night’s Dream</i> (streaming live on YouTube on Thu 25/06). Write a review judging the quality of the production.➤ Find copies of the scripts for your set texts online and read them.➤ Read another play by Tennessee Williams or try ‘Death of a Salesman’ by Arthur Miller which is also relevant.➤ Research and make notes on Jacobean Revenge Tragedy.
Prose in preparation for studying dystopian novels <i>The Handmaid’s Tale</i> and <i>The Road</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Watch some dystopian movies from these lists: https://thevore.com/dystopian-utopian-movies/ https://www.businessinsider.com/best-dystopian-movies-ranked-from-worst-to-best-2017-7?amp&r=US&IR=T➤ Read a recent dystopian novel such as <i>The Hunger Games</i> or Naomi Alderman’s <i>The Power</i>. Then move on to a classic in the genre such as George Orwell’s <i>1984</i> and Aldous Huxley’s <i>Brave New World</i>. Try to write a list of common features that you would expect to find in any dystopian novel.

Please contact us via email if you have anything to ask or share:
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