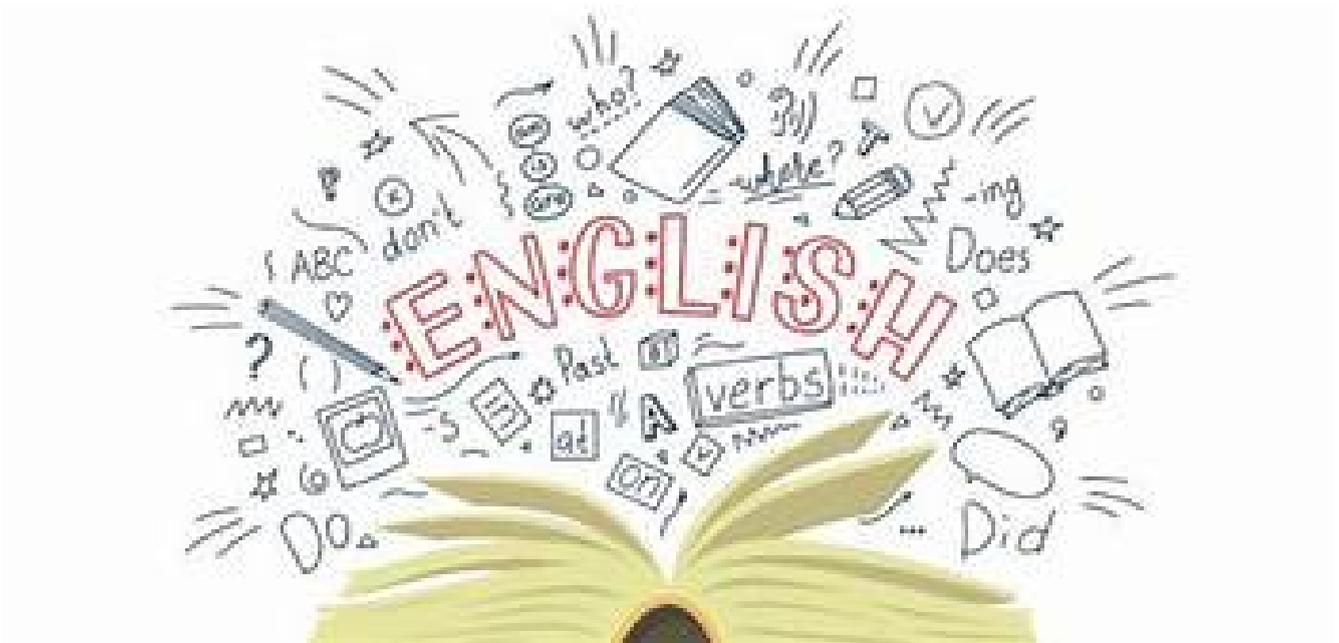


# Year 11 Transition

# A-Level English Language

## Summer Task Booklet



EDEXCEL ENGLISH LANGUAGE

The English Department  
The Cottesloe School

## Welcome to A-Level English Language!

Welcome, Year 11 😊

Firstly, thank you so much for showing an interest in studying English Language at A-Level. It is lovely to see that you have enjoyed the subject at GCSE so much that you are hoping to continue your academic journey with us in September. I hope that you found the induction lessons inspiring and that you are ready to go!

As you are probably aware from the course outline shared with you at induction, there is a lot to cover over the next two years and every lesson is precious. We would therefore like you to get started over the summer so we can delve straight in when you return to school. This booklet will now outline some ideas that you can use over the summer and beyond to develop an even better foundation for the course as well as a few tasks that we would like you to complete in time for your first lessons in September.

We can't wait to see you in September, but if you have any questions in the meantime please get in touch with one of the team below via their email address.

Enjoy!

**Mrs. Onan-Read**

KS5 LEAD FOR ENGLISH

## Meet the A-Level English Language Team



**Mrs. Woodcock**

[EMAIL ME](#)



**Mrs. Webber**

[EMAIL ME](#)



**Mr. Passaro**

[EMAIL ME](#)

# FAQs

## **What resources do I need to bring to my lessons?**

In September, we will provide you with a purple exercise book which is to be used by you to complete any assessed pieces (essays, homework tasks etc.).

You will need to make sure that you have: A4 lined paper for your class notes, an A4 folder to store and organise your work as well as a selection of pens (black, blue and red) and highlighters.

## **How many lessons will I have each week?**

It is likely that you will have 9 lessons over the course of the two-week timetable, so 4 lessons one week and 5 the next.

## **How much independent work am I expected to complete outside of lesson time?**

It is expected that you will use your Quiet Study sessions to complete work/wider reading as well as at least an additional 2-4 hours per week at home.

## **When will we have mock exams?**

A-Level mock exam periods tend to be scheduled for January and June each year, but this could be subject to change.

## **How will I receive feedback on any essays that I write?**

Your teacher will comment on your essay with questions/comments/ideas and then complete an assessment feedback form with a WWW/EBI comment. Your teacher may also provide the group with Whole Class Feedback and accompanying tasks. It is your responsibility to complete all of the fix-it required.

## **If I will be absent for a lesson, what do I do?**

Please email the specific teacher for the lesson that you are going to miss and let them know that you will be absent (or if you are ill and are not in school). Your teacher will either send you the resources from the lesson and/or ask you to meet up with them to go through what you have missed. Again, it will be your responsibility to catch up.

## **If I really don't understand something in the lesson, what should I do?**

Please let your teacher know as soon as possible, either at the end of the lesson, in an email or at a break/lunch time. You may feel embarrassed, but please do speak with us and let us know. We can schedule a 1:1 meeting at a time that suits you if necessary.

## **What should I do if I am not going to be able to meet the teacher's deadline?**

Speak with that teacher directly and be honest! We can arrange for an extension and/or additional support with a 1:1 meeting.

## **Am I allowed to use my phone during the lesson for research etc.?**

Sorry, the school has a strict 'no phones' policy so you will be asked to keep them in your bags on silent. If you need to research something, you can always request to borrow a laptop from the Library.

If you have a question that is not answered here, please email one of the English Language team.

# English Language

## Summer Preparation Tasks 2022

*We would like you to complete the three tasks below over the summer to help with your transition from GCSE to A-Level.*

1

As you have chosen to study Language at the advanced level, it is expected that you are already interested in words and how language works. We would like you to continue reading a range of literary and non-literary material to keep these skills sharp for September. **Read anything that is of interest to you**, as you will experience a range of texts on the course but begin to pay more attention to the writers' language choices and their intended impact on the reader.

We would like you to start collecting examples of different texts you come across in the form of a cuttings book or scrapbook – you could print out online blogs or articles, or copy pages from a book or newspaper. Whilst reading, you may like to annotate your texts with notes/ideas/observations, which you can later discuss in class.

To get you started, take a look at this very interesting TED Talk about Language:

[https://www.ted.com/talks/lera\\_boroditsky\\_how\\_language\\_shapes\\_the\\_way\\_we\\_think?language=en](https://www.ted.com/talks/lera_boroditsky_how_language_shapes_the_way_we_think?language=en)

2

We would also like you to complete a creative writing task. **You will write a short story, with the purpose being to entertain, but you will need to think carefully about the audience you choose to write for by adapting the language, characters and setting to suit.** Other than that, it's completely up to you which direction you take.

The original writing can either be handwritten or word processed. You should be aiming for approx. 750–1,000 words. You will be assessed on AO5, which requires you to demonstrate 'expertise and creativity' in the use of English to communicate.

The deadline will be your first lesson in September.

3

Finally, as an introduction to your teachers and new class, we would like you **to create a presentation about yourself, and more specifically your personal language history.** You will present this during your first week back in September (don't worry – you won't be assessed!).

We would like you to think about the different stages of your language use – see the next page for more details as well as any interesting facts about you. It is likely that you may not have worked with your new classmates before so it will be helpful to get to know one another.

Your presentation can be created in any form that you would like: PowerPoint, poster, storyboard, poem etc. Choose whichever style best suits you!

**HAVE FUN!**

## Some ideas to help get you started on your Presentation

### Babyhood

- 1) What do you know about how you learned to talk? What was your first word and how old were you when you said it? Did you go on to have favourite phrases that you repeated again and again?
- 2) If you are bilingual, which language did you learn to speak first? Did you mix up the two languages? Who spoke English to you and who spoke your other language?
- 3) Can you remember being taught nursery rhymes or being told stories? Which were your favourites?

### Early Childhood

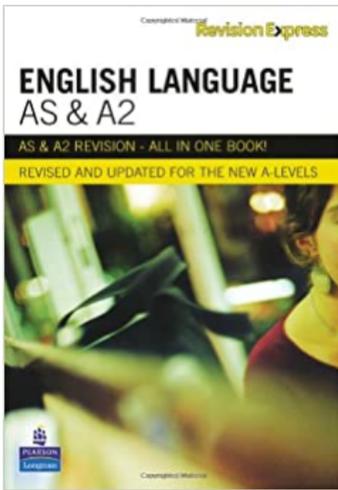
- 4) Do you remember learning to read? Think back to First/Middle/Primary School. Did your coat peg have a name or picture on it? Did you have name tags on your clothes? Could you read your name?
- 5) Did you work through reading schemes like 'Biff, Kipper and Chip'? Did you learn to read letter by letter or did you learn whole words? What did you find easy or difficult about reading? How did you feel about reading aloud?
- 6) Think back to learning to write. Were you taught to use a particular style of handwriting? Were you right or left-handed? What type of comments did the teacher write on your work?

### Secondary School

- 7) How would you rate your oral skills during secondary school? Did you participate in class discussion or were you held back by, for example, shyness? What type of oral work did you do at GCSE?
- 8) What sort of accent did you have at school? Did your parents or teachers ever criticise or try to change the way you spoke? Did you ever move schools? If so, did you find that you spoke differently from the other children? How did they, and you, react?
- 9) If you are bilingual, what was happening to your command of two languages at this time? Was English beginning to dominate? Did you speak different languages to different people? Did you see being bilingual as an advantage?
- 10) How did your language skills progress through secondary school? Can you remember any turning points? Eg. your first GCSE oral assessment; earning a particularly good mark for an essay.

### Present Day

- 11) How do you rate your language skills at present? How would you describe your accent? Do you feel you are judged by the way you speak? Do you ever change the way you speak according to where you are and who you are speaking to? If you are bilingual, what factors influence your choice of language?
- 12) Why have you chosen to study English Language A level? What do you expect to gain from the course?



## Recommended Read

**Revision Express**

English Language AS & A2

ISBN: 978-1408206539

Available on Amazon

## Recommended Website

**British Library**

<https://www.bl.uk/discover-and-learn/online-exhibitions>

