

## English Language A Level

### Preparation work: Pre-course Reading, Research and Tasks

We are delighted that you have chosen to study English Language A level when you join us in the autumn. We hope you have enough time and space to complete the following tasks before you start the course.

### Specification :

A good place to start to look at the A level specification and familiarise yourself with what you will be studying on the course:

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-and-a-level/english-language-h070-h470-from-2015>

### Task 1:

#### A personal anthology of short texts

As part of the course, you will be looking at a wide variety of texts from all sorts of different contexts. Please collect ten different texts of your own, then cut them out and stick them onto A4 paper. Here are some types of text you could choose: news article, print advert, letter from the bank, health leaflet, the back of a cereal packet, photocopy of a first page of a children's story, transcript of a speech from the internet, email, tweet, text message, instant message conversation, screen grab of a website – and so on! Collate all ten in an ordinary A4 ring binder. When you arrive in September we will use these texts in our first lesson and then set you a short piece of writing comparing two of your texts. To help prepare for this, for each text, on a separate sheet of paper, make notes on its genre (type of text), audience (who it is aimed at – age, gender, level of education) and purpose (inform, entertain, advise, instruct, persuade) and anything else you notice about the language used.

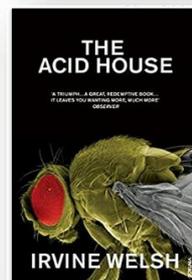
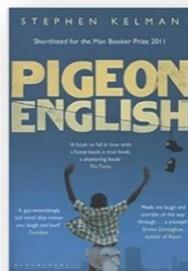
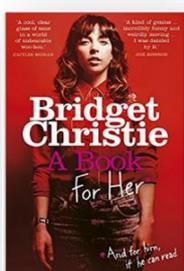
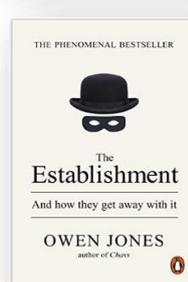
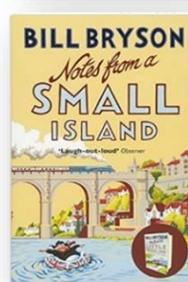
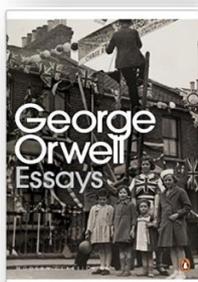
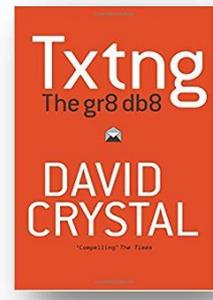
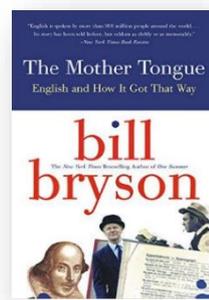
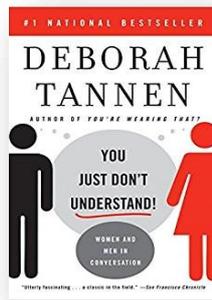
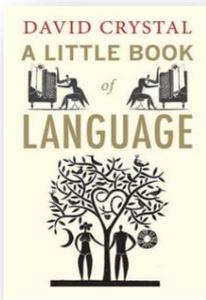
### Task 2:

#### Some preparatory reading

Students who read a lot tend to succeed on this course. Try reading something from each of the columns on the list on the next page. Please also get hold of **A Little Book of Language** by David Crystal and also tuck in to some general reading of anything that you enjoy that seems to you to be doing interesting things with language. There are some suggested books here to get you started. It makes an excellent introduction to language study, from the acquisition of language through to debates about the evolving mode of electronic communication. Make a page or two of notes on this text.

Radio	Print Media	Fiction	Non-fiction	About Language
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Listen to Radio 4 three times a week, particularly current affairs programmes (<b><i>The Today Programme, PM</i></b>), programmes covering ideas such as <i>The Moral Maze</i></li> <li>Anything to do with the English Language, (<u><a href="#">Word of Mouth</a></u>, <u><a href="#">Fry's English Delight</a></u>)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Read a broadsheet newspaper three times a week (Guardian, Independent, Times, Telegraph)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>horror</li> <li>historical</li> <li>romance</li> <li>science fiction</li> <li>fantasy</li> <li>literary (see department reading list)</li> <li>try the stories/novels in the bottom row – all fascinating for the way they use language</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Travel books (eg <b>Notes from a Small Island</b> by Bill Bryson)</li> <li>Biographies of footballers, politicians, actors etc</li> <li>Popular history books</li> <li>Popular science books</li> <li>Political writing (e.g. Owen Jones, George Orwell)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Txtng, The Gr8 Db8</b> by David Crystal</li> <li><b>A Little Book of Language</b> by David Crystal</li> <li><b>The Mother Tongue</b> by Bill Bryson</li> <li><b>You Just Don't Understand: Women and Men in Conversation</b> by Deborah Tannen</li> <li><b>Eats Shoots and Leaves</b> by Lynne Truss</li> <li><b>The Language Instinct</b> by Steven Pinker</li> <li><b>Stories of English</b> by David Crystal</li> <li><b>How Language Works</b> by David Crystal</li> <li><u><a href="#">Deborah Tannen's superb Language: A Feminist Guide blog</a></u></li> </ul>

### Suggested further reading:



## Progression Opportunities

### Why choose English Language A Level:

A Level English courses are taken by students doing a wide variety of other subjects, in Arts, Humanities and Sciences. They go on to many different courses and careers. English is often a component in degree courses in Humanities as well as being a very popular choice as a single-subject degree. The skills that you learn are a useful starting point for careers in the arts and the media, law and business, and in other professions where creativity, critical awareness and the ability to communicate clearly are needed.

*We hope you enjoy completing these tasks and look forward to you joining the course.*

