



DIXONS
SIXTH FORM
ACADEMY

SUMMER WORK

A LEVEL
ENGLISH
LANGUAGE

STUDENT NAME:

20
24

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About the Summer Work

This booklet contains a number of tasks that students are expected to complete to a good standard in order to be able to be enrolled in this subject.

The work handed in should be:

- written in black or blue ink on A4 lined paper
- written in full sentences with no copying and pasting from external sources
- have all compulsory tasks completed
- have students' full names on each sheet
- multiple sheets should be connected together

You should have completed all tasks in this booklet by the first day in September. Do not hand it in on enrolment day, just bring it with you to your first ever English Language lesson when you have been given your timetable.

This booklet also contains significant additional information and a range of optional wider reading tasks. We would encourage you to complete all the tasks including the optional ones to fully prepare for Sixth Form study.

Welcome to English Language

English Language has a few similarities to GCSE English Language but many differences; your knowledge of language and the meanings and representations it produces will increase over the next two years. You will cover an array of different and interesting topics which will take you out of your comfort zone and increase your appreciation and knowledge of language and how it works. The topics you will study include:

- 1. Textual Variations and Representations** – how language is used to create representations and allow audiences to form meanings and views on certain topics
- 2. Children's Language Development** – how we acquire and develop language from a young age; we will focus on reading, writing and speaking.
- 3. Language Diversity** – how language is used differently by different groups of people and how it creates our identity
- 4. Language Change** – how language has changed over time and what impacted this change
- 5. Language Discourses** – how language can create different ideas and attitudes

The assessments for the course are broken up into 3 components.

Component 1 (exam): Language, the individual and society – 40% of A Level

Component 2 (exam): Language diversity and change – 40% of A Level

Component 3 (coursework): NEA (coursework) Language in action – 20% of A Level

You will also complete a coursework component where you select your own question and write a 2000 words language investigation; you have control over what you focus on. You then write a piece of creative writing and a commentary; 750 words for each piece. This component is worth 20% of your final grade.

You will be challenged to improve and display your knowledge of how language is used and to demonstrate this by analysing various pieces of language over the two years, these will range from newspaper articles, speeches, leaflets, travel guides, children's story books amongst others. You will also be expected to improve your understanding and use of key terminology and apply them, where relevant, to your analysis. We will focus on grammar, sentence structure, pragmatics, etymology amongst others.

Careers and Higher Education

What are my career opportunities following this A-Level?

English Language can lead you into some exciting and rewarding careers which revolve around the appreciation and understanding of language and how to use it effectively. It is required and desired in most fields of work and employees see it as a quality they can utilise. More specifically, English Language can lead you into some of the following career paths:

- Speech and Language Therapy
- Teaching
- Copywriting
- Journalism
- Marketing and advertising
- Media researcher
- Social Media Manager
- Retail/hospitality

This list is not exclusive and there are many more opportunities based on the specific skill set you will develop over the duration of the course. Skills such as essay writing, proof reading, analytical skills and critical thinking are all necessities to most careers.

If you enjoy English Language, then going onto complete a degree in it will increase your knowledge and appreciation of the subject and allow you to become an expert in your field

Where are the most jobs in Bradford? How does this tie in with A-Level Literature?

When taking into consideration the local labour market in Bradford, English Language can stand you in good stead for careers beyond 'teaching' and 'journalism'. Marketing careers within the 1,200 manufacturing businesses within Bradford are certainly an option, along with careers in the Health and Social sector as a speech and language therapist. More obvious career paths suited to the current labor market would include those in the classroom, either as a teacher, classroom assistant or support staff.

Links to key information

English Language Course Information Guide:

<https://www.dixons6a.com/uploads/files/English-Language.pdf>

AQA Specification

[AS and A-level English Language Specification Specifications for first teaching in 2015 \(aqa.org.uk\)](https://www.aqa.org.uk/qualifications/AS-and-A-level-English-Language)

Summer work tasks

Task 1: Building your linguistic vocabulary

The website below takes you through some key definitions of word classes in an interesting and focused way. You will need to be able to identify and define as many words as possible in order to display knowledge of how they work and the effect they have upon the reader.

Pick 12 tiles on the page, and create a summary sheet (out of a possible 33). Pick terms you're unfamiliar with.

<https://quizlet.com/113155532/flashcards?funnelUUID=eecf0b33-889a-4623-92b5-4de9e8d5a045>

Task 2: Understanding how writer's express their opinions

This is an opinion piece from The Guardian newspaper: [The affluent can have their souls enriched at university, so why not the poor as well? | Kenan Malik | The Guardian](#)

It is written by a journalist to express their opinion on a topic they believe strongly about. I'd like you to:

- a) **Read** the opinion piece in detail
- b) **Write down the key arguments** which are presented – what opinions is the journalist expressing?
- c) **Write your own article (opinion piece)** of around 200 words which challenge the opinions from this article.

Task 3: Understanding how writer's use language to influence readers

Read the campaign article on the next page about conserving water. What do you think the **purpose** of the text is? Identify 5 words within the article and explain how they support your understanding of the purpose.

1. **Define** what the word is based on its word class
2. **Explain why** it has been used and what meaning it creates
3. **Explain how** it positions the reader – what does it make us feel?

Major campaign launched to encourage the nation to 'Love Water'

The British public are being asked to help the country protect water resources for future generations as part of a major campaign launched today by more than 40 environmental groups, charities, water companies and regulators.

Clean, healthy and readily available water is essential for health and wellbeing, as well as economic growth, but as the climate emergency and population growth put increasing pressure on the water environment, the UK is facing hotter and drier summers and an increased risk of water shortages.

The UK already has less available water than most other European countries and the average person uses a staggering 150 litres per day. Sir James Bevan, Chief Executive of the Environment Agency, gave a stark warning earlier this year that the country is approaching the 'jaws of death' as parts of England are at risk of running out of water within 25 years.

The 'Love Water' campaign aims to raise awareness of the importance of water and the role everyone plays in protecting it. It is the first time such a large group of partners have joined together to work with businesses and consumers to tackle issues such as pollution and wastage.

The long-term campaign is led by bodies including the Environment Agency, Water UK, Ofwat, NFU and Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT) among others. It will feature events and initiatives, such as beach and river cleans-ups and water saving projects, designed to engage the public and encourage them to enjoy water and the environment.

'Love Water' is also inviting businesses and other companies to get involved by supporting the campaign through promotional activity while pledging to do their bit to save water and protect the environment by reducing pollution and waste.

The campaign's long-term ambition is to call on businesses to make water-saving and pollution reduction part of their operational and corporate responsibility targets.

It is being launched as part of the government's Year of Green Action which aims to help people to connect with, protect and enhance nature.

Many people are not aware that actions like tipping waste liquids down roadside drains, flushing wet wipes or washing up greasy pans in the sink harm wildlife and affect water quality by causing pollution in local rivers, lakes and the sea.

Task 4: Purposeful writing

As a final task, you are to show how you can write for a particular purpose. Produce a persuasive newspaper article which persuades the reader to believe in something; you can choose the subject matter. 200 words in total.

Ensure that you:

- Use a catchy and purposeful heading
- Pay attention to the types of words you use to create meaning
- Have a clear line of argument
- Think outside the box! BE CREATIVE!

Reading list

Reading around the subject is beneficial in ensuring you make a positive start to your A Level studies. The exam board, AQA, have put together a comprehensive reading list below to get you started; it isn't realistic to read all of the texts but you could use it as a starting point and research into the authors, ideas, topics and terminology.

[A-level English Language Recommended reading list \(aqa.org.uk\)](https://www.aqa.org.uk/qualifications/a-level/english-language/reading-list)

The following books are also highly recommended:

1. **Course Student Guide:** English Language A Level for AQA Student Book, Marcello Giovanelli, Gary Ives
2. **Additional Revision Material:** Letts A-Level Revision Success – AQA A-Level English Language Practice Test Papers

The following videos are also a good place to start with your research into the subject:

1. **Overview of the AOs:** [A' Level English Language: Understanding A01 \(1 of 2\) - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HX3D4zDFnOw)
2. **Grammar and morphology:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HX3D4zDFnOw>
3. **Semantics:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YuZ8IEUFmas>

This is also a helpful guide for any key terminology you may want to use:

[AS and A-level English Language Glossary of key terms and guide to methods of language analysis \(aqa.org.uk\)](https://www.aqa.org.uk/qualifications/a-level/english-language/glossary)