



Getting Started with... A Level English Language

Welcome!

We've collated some of the most useful things you can be doing to prepare for joining us in the Autumn term. Work through them in any order, explore anything that you enjoy further, take your time - make the most of having the time to really broaden your knowledge before we start working together on the A level course. We're looking forward to working with you!

Core skills: Tasks you'll need to have done before you start in September -

1. Follow the link to look at the A level Specification: <https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-and-a-level/english-language-h070-h470-from-2015/>
You don't need to read it all of course, but page 10 gives you an overview of the course, and you might want to read a bit more detail on the pages that follow.
2. Build on your GCSE analysis skills:
<https://app.senecalearning.com/classroom/course/1e248169-fb0c-4ca7-9692-7c46f316728b> DON'T try to do it all at once. Work through it a bit at a time – see how you do on the global leader board! You'll be revising lots you already know from GCSE, but also be able to see how analysis and terminology becomes more detailed and specific at A Level.
3. Language issues: <https://theday.co.uk/stories/extra-london-school-cracks-down-on-slang> A Level Language is about what is happening all around us – you may have noticed some of the ways in which language is being used during the coronavirus crisis in information campaigns and in politicians' statements as well as in the press. Read the article and have a think about how your GCSE school guided students in their use of language. Then write your own article with the title: 'Hey, teachers, leave our words alone!' (look up Pink Floyd 'Brick in the Wall' on YouTube if you don't recognise the reference!) You could argue on either side of the debate.

Challenge tasks: Push yourself to develop your skills further

1. English Language is about investigating and researching how language is used. Read about what researchers into Game of Thrones found:
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/entertainment-arts-48335099>.

Or join in with some data collecting about swear words!

https://mmu.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cwLF8ayUD6r8qkR

Have a go at collecting data for and developing your own mini investigation – you could focus on a TV programme, song lyrics, adverts, the names of trainers..... and look at any aspect of how language is used. You'll be starting your language investigation coursework in Year 12 and this will give you some really valuable experience in preparation for it.

continued.....

2. Choose and sign up for a short online MOOC – these are some of our favourites English ones:

<https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/understanding-dictionaries>
<https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/explore-english-shakespeare>
<https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/improving-study-techniques>
<https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/start-writing-fiction>
<https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/screenwriting>

Exploring further: During the A level course you'll use a wide range of resources. Start exploring some of them now. You could start with the resources we recommend and then follow your own interests: explore topics that interest you, aim to access one a week and start broadening your language horizons! Keep notes, mind maps or key ideas as it will all be useful during the course.

1. Log on to the A Level English and Media Magazine with your HAJC login – 'English' and 'HAJC' <https://www.englishandmedia.co.uk/e-magazine/emag-login/> You could start with magazine 85 'C ya l8tr bbz' or 'Language, Gender and the Rise of the Intelligent Machines'.
2. Bookmark the podcasts on <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006qtnz/episodes/downloads> 'NHS Language Use' is a topical episode, or you might prefer 'Biscuit names'.....
3. Explore the British Library website where they have loads of really useful English Language resources: <https://www.bl.uk/english> Try 'Sounds Familiar' 'Accents and Dialects' where you can use the interactive map to hear speakers from across the UK.

And finally - Looking ahead: Find out where English A level could take you.....

<https://online.flowpaper.com/79590737/English20/#page=1>

Not sure about any of this? Struggling to follow any links?

Email us on: JC6@hajc.leics.sch.uk