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| A level English Language If you have chosen to study English at A level, there’s lots you can be doing to prepare yourselves for this exciting subject. READ! The best way to prepare for a subject at A level is to do some reading. Luckily for you, there’s lots of interesting articles, books and websites you can explore.  The Linguistic Research Digest is a great place to start. It covers all the subjects we will be studying and more. Here you can find out about:   * Multicultural London English * Teenage sociolects * Language and identity * Child Language Acquisition * Language change over time   <http://linguistics-research-digest.blogspot.com/> **Magazines especially about the English language can be found online, two great ones are Babel magazine and E magazine.** <https://babelzine.co.uk/>  <https://www.englishandmedia.co.uk/e-magazine/>  Use your time at home to read these through the accessible and interesting articles on these websites. |  | | Questions we ask in A level English Language Are emojis ruining the English language?  Do men and women communicate differently?  How do people use language to gain power over others?  Do teenagers have their own language?  How do children learn how to talk? How do we learn how to read and write? |  |  |  |
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|  | A level English Language |

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| **Variation Over Time**  How has language changed over time?  What new words have been coined in the last year?  How does online communication differ from face to face speech and writing?  In the following videos and Ted Talks leading linguists talk about how technology has influenced language change.  <https://www.ted.com/talks/john_mcwhorter_txtng_is_killing_language_jk?language=en>  <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P2XVdDSJHqY>  Child Language  Are we born with an innate ability to learn language or do we simply learn how to talk by copying others? In this fascinating unit we’ll be exploring the tiny brains of babies!  To get a sense of this 2nd year unit, listen to the following Ted Talk where Patricia Kuhl asserts that babies are linguistic geniuses.  <https://www.ted.com/talks/patricia_kuhl_the_linguistic_genius_of_babies/transcript?language=en> |  | The A level Course Four Units   1. Language Variation – covering identity and how language changes over time. 2. Child Language – how do children learn how to speak? How do we learn how to read or write? 3. Investigating Language – compiling your own investigation into an area of language your interested in. 4. Crafting Language – this is the ONLY language A level with a 20% creative writing unit.   Crafting Language  Why not get creative? Try the following creative writing exercises.   1. Stream of consciousness writing and ‘sifting for gold’. Write continuously for five minutes beginning with ‘I remember..’ Sift through your writing, take a favourite phrase or sentence and use this to start a new piece. 2. Cut-ups and found poetry. Find an article from a newspaper and highlight or cut out random phrases. Rearrange these phrases in a random way to create a poem/ |  | **Variation in Identity**  List all the different aspects of your identity, for example, I’m a woman, Northern, a teacher, mother, sister, daughter, writer, artist, a ‘certain’age.  Think about how you express each of these identities, in particular how you adapt your language for each identity.  For more on language and identity, look at:  <https://debuk.wordpress.com/> for interesting discussions of language and gender.  <https://research.ncl.ac.uk/decte/toon/index.html> for an exploration of the ‘Geordie’ identity  **Investigating Language**  In preparation for the 2nd year independent study unit, think of an area of language that interests you and gather data to study. If you are interested in the language of the Kardashians(!), record some of their shows and transcribe conversational extracts. Or perhaps you are interested in the language of COD? Whatever you’re interested in, collect lots of examples of this kind of language. Data collection is an integral part of linguistic study. For examples, see below.  <http://www.teachrealenglish.org/language-investigations/> |
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