

A LEVEL ENGLISH LANGUAGE**HOLIDAY TASKS 2017****Holiday Task 1****Language Log**

Complete the log below for one day. Write down the type of language activities you engage in and comment on their purpose. Tick whether the activities are spoken, electronic or written.

TIME	ACTIVITY	SPOKEN [+ LISTENING]	ELECTRONIC Texts, email, facebook etc	WRITTEN [+ READING]	COMMENT [Consider the purpose and importance of the language activity – eg social, to get something done, to give or receive information, to express your feelings, to give instructions, to entertain, etc]
7.00 am - 8.00am					
8.00am - 9.00am					
9.00am - 10.00am					
10.00am - 11.00am					
11.00am - 12.00am					
12.00 - 1.00pm					
1.00 pm - 2.00pm					
2.00pm - 3.00pm					
3.00pm - 4.00pm					
4.00pm - 5.00pm					
5.00pm - 6.00pm					
6.00pm - 7.00pm					
7.00pm - 8.00pm					
8.00pm - 9.00pm					
9.00pm - 10.00pm					
TOTAL	Estimate the percentage time spent using each language mode				

Holiday Task 2 - Language Autobiography

- For this assignment we would like you to reflect on your own experiences of language.
- You will need to do some research and some careful thinking as well as some writing.
- Follow the instructions carefully and write your own 'Language Autobiography'.

1. Your earliest memories of language

What were your first words? (You may need to ask family members about this.) How old were you? How did you pronounce these words? Why do you think this was?

Does your family remind you of any funny things that you said as a child?

What are your earliest memories of books? Do these memories include listening to stories? Give details. What were your favourite books as a child and why?

Can you remember learning to read and write? When did this occur? Can you remember how you learned? (For example, can you remember any books that were used; how you learned to form letters; any difficulties that you encountered?)

2. Your family's language

What varieties of language are spoken in your family? (Note: *varieties* can include different accents, dialects, languages and registers.) If you wish, you may use a family tree diagram to illustrate your response (eg Maybe your grandmother spoke Polish, or came from Ireland. Maybe your father is a Geordie, or was brought up in Cornwall, or lived in Africa, etc.)

Does your family have special words for objects/people/ideas? Give examples and explain, if you can, how these originated.

Visit the 'BBC Voices' website (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/voices/>)

- Click on 'Word Map Results'
- Select a 'theme' and 'concept' from the drop down menus.
- Then click on the words in the top ten list to see who uses them across the country.
- Select some of the words. Comment on what you find interesting about them and compare them to the words you and your family use.

Do you change the way you use language when you are with your family, with friends, at school/college or at work? Try to explain how and why you change the way you use language in these different contexts.

3. Why English Language?

- Try to explain (honestly) why you decided to study A Level English Language?
- What expectations do you have of this course? What do you expect to study and why?

1. Make notes to answer the questions above in as much detail as you can.
2. When you have made your notes, organize your material into three paragraphs.
3. Type up these paragraphs under the heading *My Language Autobiography*.
4. Carefully check and proof-read what you have written.
5. Have your Language Autobiography ready to hand in to your teacher in your first A Level English lesson. Make sure it has your name on it and a title.

Holiday Task 3 –Terminology - Word Classes

Using your existing knowledge and independent research, give a **definition** with **examples** of the following terms:

Word Class Term	Definition	Examples
Noun		
Adjective		
Verb		
Adverb		
Pronoun		
Conjunction		
Preposition		
Determiner		

Holiday Task 3 Continued – New Terminology?

When we explore the impact of language, we look at the following 'Language Levels' (how we categorize language to make analysis easier).

Research these terms and write definitions/ explanations below.

TERM	DEFINITION/ EXPLANATION
PHONOLOGY	
GRAPHOLOGY	
LEXIS	
SEMANTICS	
GRAMMAR	
DISCOURSE http://grammar.about.com/od/d/g/discourseterm.htm	
PRAGMATICS	

Holiday Task 4 - Reading

English Language at A Level is very different to English Language at GCSE. We recommend that you find out more about the subject so that you are ready to start the course.

Summer reading:

To prepare for the A Level Language course we want you to read 'Mother Tongue', by Bill Bryson. If you are interested in language, you will find this book very readable and entertaining, as well as informative. It is also a book that you can pick up cheaply.

TASK:

- Read 'Mother Tongue', by Bill Bryson, Penguin. ISBN 0-140-14305-X
- Write down three things you found particularly interesting and explain why.

NOTE: These four tasks are a compulsory part of the course. You will need to complete these tasks and bring them to your first English lesson in September.