

Welcome to A Level English Language!

What can I read?

Anything and everything! Wider reading and contextual knowledge are both really important parts of the course. Read newspaper articles, opinion pieces, reviews – there are so many out there so find something that interests you! Read fiction too, we look at a number of different genres over the year so anything will be helpful. The most important thing is that whenever you read something, you consider **why** – why are they writing this? Why are they targeting this particular audience? Why do they use these techniques?

What can I watch?

In your exams, you will be marked on 5 different ‘assessment objectives’ or ‘AOs’. The following videos go through each of the AOs – these are really helpful to get an idea of how you will be expected to answer questions. There is also a short video on ‘Genre, Register, Audience, Subject and Purpose’ – something you need to consider when answering every question.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FLcvX_sddV0&list=PLqGFsWf-P-cBjyO6jD2a6e9UKuq2FA1iS

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zp9jTOE2hT8&list=PLqGFsWf-P-cBjyO6jD2a6e9UKuq2FA1iS&index=2>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LzT9t92bNI4&list=PLqGFsWf-P-cBjyO6jD2a6e9UKuq2FA1iS&index=3>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jEupswCGIAA&list=PLqGFsWf-P-cBjyO6jD2a6e9UKuq2FA1iS&index=4>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GM--aH1N9_c&list=PLqGFsWf-P-cBjyO6jD2a6e9UKuq2FA1iS&index=5

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0xxr0zEPBM0&list=PLqGFsWf-P-cBjyO6jD2a6e9UKuq2FA1iS&index=6>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HGAMB7OcXeY&list=PLqGFsWf-P-cBjyO6jD2a6e9UKuq2FA1iS&index=7>

My advice would be to not watch these all at once – we don’t want to lose anyone before we begin! Just watch them over the summer to get an idea of how you will be assessed. I would also recommend watching things like chat shows and interviews – think about the way people use

language differently and why you think this might be. These are really helpful for when we start thinking about spoken language, and also a bit more fun to watch!

What are the topics and skills we will cover?

In your AS year, you will look at two different modules: **Language and the Individual** and **Language Varieties**. Each module depends heavily on your ability to analyse texts and understand why the use of language is so important.

Language and the Individual will look at the study of a range of texts, subjects, writers, speakers and genres, and a focus on how identity is constructed, how texts are shaped and how relationships are created between writer and reader.

Language Varieties will begin to explore elements of Spoken English, such as dialects, sociolects and language representation, with a particular focus on diversity.

As an English Language student, you will:

- Develop and apply your understanding of the concepts and methods appropriate for the analysis and study of language
- Explore data and examples of language in use
- Engage creatively and critically with a varied programme for the study of English
- Develop your skills as producers and interpreters of language

Some tasks that you can do to prepare you...

1) Creative Writing

Let's do some creative writing! Pick a non-fiction genre (think newspaper articles, reviews, speeches) and write about your school experience. You could do a review of a series that got you through your weeks at home during COVID, a speech to persuade your fellow students get through it, or even a diary entry about your experience. There are endless possibilities, and we can't wait to read what you come up with!

2) Analysing Written Language

Find two articles on the same topic from a newspaper, however we would like you to look two different genres - one factual, news piece and one opinion piece. Analyse them and think about the differences in reporting and how they interact with the reader. Think about how one is designed to inform, while the other offers much more than that. Also, think about why readers might engage with the two different types of article. It might be particularly good to look at articles regarding the current pandemic – people want to have updated information but to also understand what everything means, which is when these two genres become particularly useful.

3) Spoken Language

Pick an interview – it could be from any chat show, take your pick! Write notes on the interview while thinking about language used, body language and how the speakers communicate. Consider why the language they use might be different, whether the piece is scripted or not and the impact this might have. Make a note of anything that you find particularly interesting, and research and explore why this might occur.

Contact Information:

If you have questions regarding this or any other A Level course at Burnley College, please contact alevels@burnley.ac.uk or call 01282 733373.

If you have any English Language specific questions, feel free to email me on a.jeeves@burnley.ac.uk.

I really look forward to meeting you in September!