**English Language Bridging Work**

**Task 1: create your language profile**

One of the most interesting aspects of studying language is that you learn more about **your own language use**, so let’s make this first task all about you…

Create a **language profile** of yourself by answering the following questions and then writing

them up as a set of **bullet points, a mind map or poster** that highlight what you think are the most **interesting and important aspects of the language you use**:

* What’s your earliest language memory? Can you remember a nursery rhyme, song or picture book from when you were very little?
* Have your family or extended family kept any records – video, audio, family memories – of any of your earliest words?
* Have you kept any old school books from when you were learning to read and write?
* Where were you born and where in the UK, or the wider world, are your family from? Go back a few generations if you like and think about any other languages that your family members might speak, or other places your family members might have lived.
* Are there any words or expressions only you or your family use, which others don’t really understand?
* Do you or your friends at school use language in any ways that you notice as being

different from other people around you? These could be other people in your year, your teachers, your family, whoever.

* Do you listen to or watch anyone on TV, online or in films or music videos who uses language in a way that interests or annoys you?
* Do you ever look at or hear someone else using language in a way that you find is totally new or strange to you?
* Have your teachers or family ever talked to you about the way you speak?

One of the most useful resources for language on this course is you. Language is made up of so much more than the words we see printed on a page, so when you are thinking about language, come back to these ideas here to keep the range wide. We are often told there is a right way and a wrong way to use language, but the more you study about language, the more you’ll realise that it’s more complicated and interesting than that.

And you’ll also start to build up a bigger picture of the different influences on your own language identity as this course goes on – all the factors that influence who you are linguistically and how you can choose to behave with language in different situations.

**Task 2: mini language investigation**

While the A Level English Language course will take you to new places, it also builds on things you’ve studied and read before. That’s because it’s still about English: something you’ve been using and learning about for years. And if you like reading novels, plays, poems and short stories, you don’t have to leave them behind when you’re studying English Language A Level, because all those forms use language in one way or another and they can all be part of what you study. You can also write creatively on this course.

* Over the summer, **make a list of all the things you read, watch and listen to**. This could be books, news, live events, online material, TV, film, radio, games or social media. What have been your favourites recently?
* Consider **two of the following questions** about this material:

1. Was there something interesting about an accent being used? What and why?
2. Did you hear/read a new word or expression you heard that you hadn’t come across before? What does it mean?
3. Was there a paragraph of writing that you thought was particularly powerful? Why was this?
4. Was there an image that you were struck by? Why?
5. Was there a plot structure or character that interested you? Why?
6. Was there an interesting issue being covered? Why did it interest you?
7. Did you notice language being used differently by different people? Who and why did you think this was?

One of the ways to inspire your own creativity on the course is to think about the things that have inspired you. At some point, you’ll be asked to produce your own creative writing on this course and that might be an article about a language issue, an opening to a short story, a review of a gig, film or restaurant, or even the text of a speech. The more you read, listen to and think about language, the more you’ll have to draw on.

**Fancy doing something extra?**

Choose an episode of **Michael Rosen’s ‘Word of Mouth’** to listen to on BBC Radio 4. Make notes on the **language issue** being discussed and **your** **personal opinion** on the issue.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006qtnz/episodes/player?page=2>