



The Thomas Hardy School

Summer Preparation Task

English Language A Level
AQA 7702

Purpose of task:

The tasks below will give new students a broad understanding of the topics which are considered part of modern English Language study.

Recommended resources:

Oxford English Dictionary Online
(library card number required)

Task:

Please read *A Little Book of Language* by David Crystal (second-hand copies are readily available online). After reading, please complete the following tasks:

- Chapter 26 explains etymology. Choose four words that you find interesting – David Crystal offers his examples to give you some ideas – and research their origins and various meanings using the Online Etymology Dictionary. Make notes of your findings in your own words and bring these along in September.
- The final chapter 'Your Language World' contains Crystal's views on why we should value and protect language. As you ready yourself to begin your study of the English Language, explain in roughly 400 words your reasoning for whether you feel the English Language should be protected or not. As part of your response, you could make reference to aspects of language that Crystal refers to in other chapters of the book.
- Watch Dan Clayton explain debates in language use and why they matter (<https://massolit.io/courses/topical-language-issues/debates-in-language-use-why-do-they-matter>) on MASSOLIT, the lecture platform. You have free access to this to explore the English Language lectures, some of which we will use on the course. Your login details that you can use prior to joining us in September are:
Email: massolit@ths.wessex.ac
Password: massolit (all lower case)

Required Stationery and Equipment for A Level English Language

Lever arch file with dividers to store notes at home

Plastic wallet to store current learning plus a set of highlighters

Things to Consider Throughout the Year

You will be encouraged to participate in enrichment activities which, provided that restrictions allow, include:

- a visit to The British Library
- participation in the English and Media Centre Language Conference
- English Language taster event at UWE Bristol

Deadline for Task: First lesson in week commencing 14th September 2026

Recommended reading & activities list:

Good general knowledge is essential if students are to understand the contexts of language. Regularly reading newspapers, either in print or online, to keep abreast of cultural, political and global issues should be established and continued throughout the course of study.

Some linguistics podcasts you might like...

