

6th form @ Swakeleys

YEAR 11 INTO 12 TRANSITION BOOKLET

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ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

Dear prospective A level English Language and Literature Student,

Here are tasks you **MUST DO** over the summer – ranging from research, watching and listening to a range of non-fiction texts, writing and learning key vocabulary.

MUST DO

1. Learn the subject terminology for studying drama texts and non-fiction texts.
2. Complete the American history timeline.
3. Watch/listen to the podcasts and radio drama indicated.
4. Ensure you are prepared for the baseline assessment in September.

A Level English Language and Literature

Baseline Assessment Information

There will be two separate baseline assessments for this A Level – one which covers Language skills and one which covers Literature skills.

Language baseline assessment

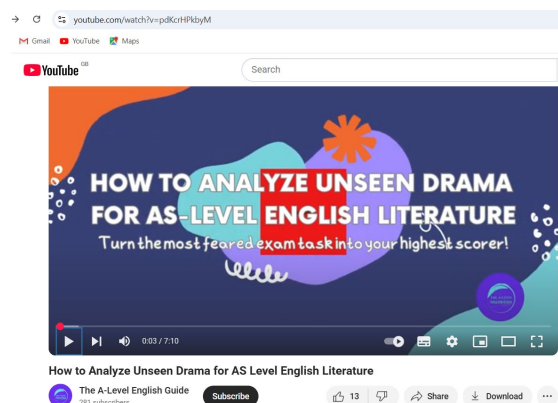
1) Learn the meanings of the non-fiction subject vocabulary – you will be asked to recall 8 from the list.

2) You will be asked to analyse an extract from an unseen non-fiction text. This will be from a memoir. Learn the genre conventions linked to a memoir in preparation for this, as you will need to include some of these in your analysis.

Literature baseline assessment

1) Learn the meanings of the drama text subject vocabulary – you will be asked to recall 8 from the list.

2) You will be asked to analyse an extract from an unseen drama text. The YouTube video below has some useful tips.



Summer Homework 2025: Non-fiction

Essential for the Baseline assessment:

1) Learn the definitions of the key vocabulary from the 'Voices' glossary.

2) Learn the conventions (features) of a memoir*:

- Characterised by a sense of reflection and retrospective – past tense
- Sense of an audience – intended for publication
- Often divided into chapters covering date ranges, or theme/location / significant events
- First person
- Changes in tone and register – dependent on writer
- Figurative language / synecdoche (using a part to represent the whole e.g., 'behind bars' means in prison as bars are a part of a prison)
- Exaggeration
- Presented as a narrative (a story)

* from French, meaning 'from the memory'.

2) Research and listen to:

1. A podcast – you can find episodes here:

- a. Nerdist - <https://nerdist.com/listen/> (about Marvel)
- b. Talking Dead - <https://www.talkingdeadpodcast.com/> (about the show 'The Walking Dead')
- c. Stuff You Should Know - <https://stuffyoushouldknow.com/episodes/> (about everything!)

2. A radio drama -

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b04xxp0g/episodes/player>

Write down features of each. These are two of the modes featured in the 'Voices in Speech and Writing' anthology.

3) **Optional**: Watch 'Black Mirror' on Netflix (all 15-rated episodes):

1. Season 1, Episode 2: Fifteen Million Merits
2. Season 2, Episode 2: White Bear
3. Season 3, Episode 1: Nosedive

The writer/creator of 'Black Mirror' is one of the writers in the 'Voices in Speech and Writing' anthology. Focus on the themes he covers and his writing style.

Voices - Glossary of Terms

Alliterative Phrasing	A number of words close to each other starting with the same sound.
Americanisms	A characteristic feature of American English especially as contrasted with British English. May also relate to an attachment or allegiance to the interests or ideals of the United States.
Asides	Additional information given within brackets or dashes.
Assonance	The repetition of vowel sounds to create internal rhyming within phrases or sentences.
Audience	The group of people watching or listening to a play, film, speech, television or radio programme, etc. The individuals who are reading a particular text, website, newspaper, etc.
Axiom	A statement which is regarded as being established, accepted, or self-evidently true.
Bias	The action of supporting or opposing a particular person or thing in an unfair way. Allowing personal opinions to influence your judgment.
Cliché	A phrase or opinion that is overused and betrays a lack of original thought.
Context-bound References	Special words or expressions used by a profession or group that are difficult for others to understand.
Deixis	Words and phrases that cannot be fully understood without additional contextual information. (Three types: personal, spatial and temporal)
Digression	A temporary departure from the main subject in speech or writing.
Direct Address	Use of the second person pronoun 'you' or the name of the person (normally) who is being directly spoken to. It does not have any grammatical relationship to any part of the sentence. It is set off by commas. For example: Mom, this turkey is amazing. (The subject is not the direct address)
Discourse Marker	A word or phrase which organises text into segments. For example: 'Firstly,' 'however,' 'consequently'
Euphemism	A mild or indirect word or expression substituted for one considered to be too harsh or blunt when referring to something unpleasant or embarrassing.
Figurative Language	Using figures of speech to be more effective, persuasive and impactful. Figures of speech such as metaphors, similes, allusions go beyond the literal meanings of the words to give the readers new insights.
Graphology	Focuses on the writer's choices of language features such as paragraphing, headlines, images, layout, blank spaces, tables, 'bullets', sub-headings, font styles and so on. It looks at the visual form of a text.
Humour	The quality of being amusing or comic.

Hyperbole	A purposeful mass exaggeration. A literary device wherein the author uses specific words and phrases that exaggerate and overemphasise a basic statement in order to produce a grander, more noticeable effect. The purpose of hyperbole is to create a larger-than-life effect and overly stress a specific point.
Intertextuality	A literary device that creates an 'interrelationship between texts' and generates related understanding in separate works. These references are made to influence the reader and add layers of depth to a text, based on the reader's prior knowledge and understanding.
Jargon	Vocabulary linked to a particular group or idea.
Juxtaposition	The practice of putting two contrasting things close together to highlight their differences.
Lexical Field	A set of words <u>from the same word class</u> that are linked semantically (according to their meaning). * See Semantic Field.
Lexis	The total bank of words and phrases of a particular language. This is shaped by social factors, dialect and personal choice.
Mode	The overall style, technique, or form. A socially and culturally shaped resource for making meaning. Image, writing, layout, speech, moving images are examples of different modes.
Multimodal	Multimodality describes communication practices in terms of the textual, aural, linguistic, spatial, and visual resources - or modes - used to compose messages. Several modes may create a single 'artifact'.
Neologism	A newly coined word or expression.
Oblique	Not expressed or done in a direct way.
Onomatopoeia	The formation of a word from a sound associated with what is named. For example: buzz, click, pop, bang, 'tat-tatting'
Pithy Statement	Using few words to say something substantial.
Pragmatics	A branch of linguistics and semiotics that studies the ways in which context (background) contributes to meaning. It is concerned with the relationship of words/sentences to the environment in which they occur. Therefore, many examples of pragmatics refer to cultural assumptions.
Pre-modified Noun Phrase	A noun with a description added before the noun. This may be an adjective, but that is not always the case. For example: 'the big red ball' Noun = 'ball' Pre-modification adjectives = 'big red' Post-modified nouns also exist. They incorporate the description after the noun, e.g. 'the big red ball in the garden.'
Purpose	The reason why the writer is writing. (PIE: to persuade, to inform, or to entertain)

Persona	The aspect of someone's character that is presented to or perceived by others. A role or character adopted by an author or an actor.
Register	Refers to whether speech or writing is formal or informal.
Repetition	The recurrence of something that has already been said or written.
Satire	A technique employed by writers to bring attention to an issue. A genre of literature, and sometimes graphic and performing arts, in which vices, follies, abuses, and shortcomings are held up to ridicule, ideally with the intent of shaming individuals, corporations, government, or society itself into improvement. Employs the use of irony, sarcasm, ridicule, or the like.
Semantic Field	A set of words <u>from different word classes</u> that are linked semantically (according to their meaning). DENOTATION: Factual and objective meanings CONNOTATION: Associated, personal, and subjective meanings
Semiotics	Semiotics is the study of signs and symbols and their use or interpretation.
Sensuous Semantic Fields	Relating to the physical senses.
Tone	The general character or attitude of a place, piece of writing, situation, etc.
Triadic Structure	A group of three, especially of three closely related persons or things.

A' Level English Language and Literature

Summer Homework 2025

Drama Texts

1) Learn the meaning of the key vocabulary linked to studying a modern drama text.

2) Two of your set Literature texts are American. Use the template to create a condensed timeline of American history. You need to include:

- key facts about each era: dates, groups involved, summary of the event

- American literary movements: groups of writers with the same style or aim (for example 'The Lost Generation')



A' Level Language and Literature
Modern Drama Glossary

Literary terms	Explanation
antagonist	character who is the main opposition to the protagonist
authorial voice	the author, as distinct from the characters he/she has created, speaking directly to the reader
denouement	end of the play (or other narrative), in which plot strands are drawn together, questions are answered and conflict is resolved
dialogue	lines spoken by the characters to each other
dramatic irony	when the audience is aware of key information of which at least one character on stage is unaware
dramatic tension	uncertainty of outcome, usually caused by conflict that the audience feels must be somehow resolved; suspense
epigraph	quotation placed at the beginning of a poem, novel or play, hinting at its meaning
Expressionist	presenting a distorted, exaggerated form of reality. The Expressionist movement started in Germany in the early twentieth century in visual arts, and exercised a considerable influence on drama and film as well as on literature
figurative language	language enriched by figures of speech such as metaphor
foreshadow	hint at what is to come later in the narrative
genre	distinctive type of literature

A' Level Language and Literature
Modern Drama Glossary

Literary terms	Explanation
hubris	(Greek) the overweening pride that is the cause of the downfall of a tragic hero
ironic	(1) somehow particularly inappropriate, as in the name Elysian Fields for a rundown street; (2) describing comments in which a character says the opposite of what they really mean, as when Stanley says, 'the place has turned into Egypt and you are the Queen of the Nile!' (p. 94)
melodrama	play with a sensational plot, a violent, often bloodthirsty incident, and with over-simple characterisation of heroes and villains
metaphor	figure of speech in which something is spoken of as if it is something else that it resembles in at least one way, as in referring to sexual desire as a 'streetcar'
morality play	a type of medieval or Tudor play with stock characters which aims to educate the audience morally
motif	a recurring element that is significant – especially in symbolic terms – in a play or other narrative
pathos	quality which evokes strong feelings of pity and sorrow. This quality can of course be tinged with mawkish sentimentality, as in some of Dickens's work
protagonist	main character, especially one with whom the reader or audience identifies
rhetoric	the use of figurative language techniques, especially to persuade
simile	figure of speech using 'like', 'as' or 'than' to compare one thing with another

A' Level Language and Literature
Modern Drama Glossary

Literary terms	Explanation
stage directions	text which sets the scene, describes any special effects, and says how the actors should move or speak, as well as pinpointing their entrances and exits
symbolism	the use of words to represent something else. The symbolist movement in nineteenth-century literature believed in hidden meanings underlying reality
<i>tableau vivant</i>	a living picture, a group of silent motionless actors representing a dramatic event
tragedy	play leading towards the death or downfall of a hero or heroine resulting from a tragic flaw
tragic flaw	traditionally (especially in classical tragedy) a weakness in an otherwise noble character that causes their death or downfall
trope	any figure of speech in which a word is used to represent something else (a metaphor or a simile is a trope)
unities	the rules demanding unity of time, place and action in a play. These rules came to be ascribed to the Greek critic and philosopher Aristotle, and from the sixteenth to the nineteenth century were regarded by literary theorists as imperative for the construction of a drama



American History (Condensed)

