

High Storrs Sixth Form

2024 Bridging Work

Subject: English Language

Name: _____



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Task One:

Look up the terms below and make brief notes on their meanings. **Be ready to hand in your list of definitions and notes when you attend your first English Language lesson in September.**

- Standard English
- Received Pronunciation
- Linguistic Prestige
- Multicultural London English
- Dialect Levelling
- Semantic change
- Prescriptivism
- Descriptivism
- Pedantry
- Pragmatics

Task Two:

Consider the following quotations and questions about language. Write a short paragraph or set of bullet points for each giving your opinion with reasons. **Be ready to share your ideas in discussion in a lesson at the start of term.**

- Which came first, speech or writing – and which is more important?
- Is it true that some kinds of English are ‘better’ than others?
- Which is the biggest influence on your language use – friends, family, or school?
- What are the main ways your use of English has changed since you were in Year 7?
- What are some of the main ways written and spoken English differ?

Task Three:

Choose one of the following topics. Do some research, possibly using the wider reading suggestions below, and produce a side of A4 summarising some key ideas you have found out. You might include some of:

- Linguistic examples
- Possible attitudes with reasons
- Linguistic theories and research

Be ready to hand in your work when you attend your first English Language lesson in September.

- How men and women use language differently
- How technology has affected the way we use language
- How English has become a global language
- How the language used in the workplace is different from the language used in other settings
- How new words are developed and where they come from
- How young children begin the process of learning to speak

English Language reading list

There follows a list of books, websites and others sources which you may find useful in developing and consolidating your knowledge of language topics throughout the course.

Books

[NB – there is no imperative to buy or read all of these. Copies of most of them are available in school. You may also find you can sources some from local libraries or second hand shops]

Jean Aitchison – ‘Language Change: Progress or Decay’

Melvyn Bragg – ‘The Adventure of English’ – language change

Deborah Cameron – ‘The Myth of Mars and Venus’ - gender

Jenny Cheshire – ‘What is Sociolinguistics?’

Dan Clayton – ‘Attitudes to Language’

Rob Drummond – ‘You’re All Talk’ – language variation and identity

Jennifer Coates – ‘Men Talk’ – gender

Ben and David Crystal – ‘You Say Potato’ – accents and dialects

David Crystal - ‘How Language Works’

David Crystal – ‘A Little Book of Language’

David Crystal – ‘Encyclopedia of the English Language’

Susie Dent – ‘Modern Tribes’ – language and social groups

Janet Holmes – ‘An Introduction to Sociolinguistics’

Robert Lane Greene - ‘Talk On The Wild Side’

Robert Lane Greene - ‘You Are What You Speak’

Gretchen McCulloch – ‘Because Internet: Understanding the New Rules of Language’ – language change

Steven Pinker – ‘The Language Instinct’ – child language acquisition plus some sociolinguistics

Paul Simpson – ‘Language and Power’

Felicity Titjen – ‘Language and Gender’

Various authors – ‘Language - A Student Handbook on Key Topics and Theories’

Language magazines:

Emagazine – from the English and Media Centre

Babel – from Huddersfield University

Both are full of interesting articles about language topics, which are aimed at students. Some content is available to read for free on-line, or ask for the High Storrs login details to get full access to Emagazine.

Online sources of wider reading for English Language – blogs, podcasts, etc.:

- <https://anchor.fm/lexispodcast/> - Lexis Podcast – lively and useful review of language issues
- <http://englishlangsfx.blogspot.co.uk/> Detailed, readable, aimed specifically at 'A' Level students
- <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b040hx6v> Word of Mouth - BBC radio discussions and documentaries on language
- <https://www.theguardian.com/science/language> - news and opinion articles about language from The Guardian newspaper
- <https://debuk.wordpress.com/> Deborah Cameron's language and gender blog
- <https://mashedradish.com/> Blog on word origins by John Kelly
- <http://www.superlinguo.com/> Posts, articles and podcasts about linguistic topics
- <https://stancarey.wordpress.com/> Various English language topics
- <http://www.universalteacher.org.uk/contents.htm#langa> Andrew Moore's guide to 'A' Level English Language topics.

Online sources of wider reading for English Language – 'X' accounts:

- [@RobDrummond](#) Linguist at Manchester Met University - various articles and opinions on language in the news
- [@EngLangBlog](#) Language-related stories from the media
- [@MerriamWebster](#) Word meanings, histories and controversies
- [@susie_dent](#) Word meanings and histories, plus links to language in the news
- [@wordspinster](#) Blog on language and gender by the linguist Deborah Cameron