



TRANSITION WORK

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

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Now is your chance to be inspired and become passionate about your chosen subject. The recommended time you should spend on each task is provided, but spend longer if you want, particularly if something really grabs your interest.

Transition work is designed to challenge you and make you think. Take it as far as you want to and don't give up if you find it hard.

Once you have worked through all the tasks (you can do them in any order), you will submit a **250-word piece of writing** in which you reflect on what you have learned. We also expect to see your **notes on each task** in your English Lang folder (more details on your folder will be provided at the start of term).

Task 1

Watch **one** (or more if you are inspired) of the 8 videos in Melvyn Bragg's The Adventure of English series on YouTube. Make notes on key points that interest you. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K1XQx9pGGd0&list=PLbBvyau8q9v4hcgNYBp4LCyhMHSyq-lhe>
(1 hour 30 minutes)

Task 2

Explore the English and Media Centre *emagazine*, a magazine and website for A Level students with articles written by academics, critics, writers, teachers and students on texts and topics set for A Level – and on literature and language more generally. **(2 hours)**

www.englishandmedia.co.uk click on the **emagazine** tab on the home page and enter login details (case sensitive):
Username: GuildfordCounty Password: English

- Spend some time browsing the site, dipping into articles on English Language, then choosing one that interests you. Dip into the openings of several articles and choose the one that most immediately grabs your attention.
- Read the article and pick out three points. These could be ideas you find interesting, that you want to question (perhaps because you disagree, perhaps because you want to find out more), or a point you don't understand.
- Take one of the points and add your own ideas to it or write a new point of your own.

Task 3

Watch the Ted Talk by Anne Curzan, *What Makes a Word Real* (https://www.ted.com/talks/anne_curzan_what_makes_a_word_real) What are two of your favourite slang words? Should they be in a dictionary? Give your reasons why they should or should not be listed
(30 minutes)

Task 4

Listen to Stephen Fry discussing the standardisation of spelling with David Crystal (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p01fwg2f>) Make brief notes on key points that interest you
(1 hour)

For more from Stephen Fry, his *Planet Word* is available on Amazon Prime https://www.amazon.co.uk/Frys-Planet-Word-Episode-1/dp/B00HV5UFP2/ref=sr_1_1?crid=3K47ZF9LVUWTV&dchild=1&keywords=planet+word&qid=1588663449&s=instant-video&sprefix=planet+wo%2Cinstant-video%2C153&sr=1-1

Task 5

Learn your terminology. One of the first things you have to get your head round at the start of the course is learning a lot of language to describe language – otherwise known as a *metalanguage*. You already know some of this, such as word classes like nouns, verbs, adjectives etc. but there are more layers to these than you ever thought possible. Get ahead of the game by creating a glossary of terms. For each entry you make you should include a definition and an example of the word in use. **(2 hours)**

Use the internet to help you, for example: www.usingenglish.com and www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com as well <https://www.slideshare.net/BCALevels/alevel-english-glossary>

Task 6

Learn about language and gender. Deborah Cameron is one of the country's leading experts on language and gender, so spend time reading her funny, thought-provoking and insightful blog, *A feminist guide to language* (2 hours) <https://debuk.wordpress.com>

Task 7

Learn about child language development. Watch the TED Talk by Deb Roy and make notes on the key points that interest you (30 minutes)

https://www.ted.com/talks/deb_roy_the_birth_of_a_word

Written work

Once you have completed all the tasks above you need to produce a piece of writing reflecting on what you have learned. You should include ideas such as what new knowledge you found the most interesting and why. Were you inspired to go further and study more in depth on a particular topic? If so, which topic and why? What did you find the most challenging and why?

You should write about 250 words. (1 hour)

Also, please remember that we will expect to see the **notes you made on each task**, where relevant. These will form the basis of the Independent Learning section of Your English Language folder.

Resources

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K1XQx9pGGd0&list=PLbBvyau8q9v4hcgNYBp4LCyhMHSyq-lhe> (The Adventure of English)

https://www.ted.com/talks/anne_curzan_what_makes_a_word_real

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p01fwg2f> (David Crystal on spelling)

<https://www.usingenglish.com/glossary/>

<https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/about/practical-english-usage/language-terminology>

https://www.ted.com/talks/deb_roy_the_birth_of_a_word

<https://debuk.wordpress.com>

www.englishandmedia.co.uk