

## Study guidance for students considering A Level English Language

For those of you interested in studying English Language at A Level, you may find the following list of guidance and resources useful.

The course is incredibly diverse and encourages students to consider the ways language is used and manipulated in a range of different contexts. For example, looking at the different ways men and women use language; the ways that status and power affect the ways speakers use language; the impact of technology and communication on language use.

What is essential to recognise is that issues surrounding Language are in a constant state of change. Therefore, reading and watching relevant texts regarding language is an essential habit for all A Level students, and a fantastic way for you to prepare for September.

### Websites and blogs:

- <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/as-and-a-level/english-language-7701-7702> - a link to the exam board website and the course specification. This will provide a clear overview of the course and what you will learn.
- <http://englishlangsfx.blogspot.com> - a fantastic resource created by Dan Clayton, offering loads of guidance for the course and links to useful websites and articles for further reading.
- <http://david-crystal.blogspot.com> - David Crystal is the Godfather of linguistic study. His blog is a goldmine of trinkets for the prospective student of linguistic study.
- All newspapers feature interesting articles/opinion pieces on the uses/misuses of Language in society; often they will adopt quite different perspectives on the ways language is used (e.g. teenagers and slang or political correctness). Check out [www.guardian.com](http://www.guardian.com), <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/home/index.html>, <https://www.telegraph.co.uk> and any other news sources to locate debates around language use.

### TV and Radio:

- <https://www.dailymotion.com/video/xqa1zt> - Stephen Fry's 'Planet Word' (2011) is a real gem of a series. It charts the evolution of language from early forms of human communication; the ways language have shaped our society and how the futures of some languages, accents and dialects face both exciting and uncertain futures as globalisation takes hold of societies.

### Interesting TED Talks for prospective A Level English Language students

[https://www.ted.com/talks/steven\\_pinker\\_what\\_our\\_language\\_habits\\_reveal](https://www.ted.com/talks/steven_pinker_what_our_language_habits_reveal)

[https://www.ted.com/talks/david\\_peterson\\_why\\_language\\_is\\_humanity\\_s\\_greatest\\_invention](https://www.ted.com/talks/david_peterson_why_language_is_humanity_s_greatest_invention)

[https://www.ted.com/talks/john\\_mcwhorter\\_txtng\\_is\\_killing\\_language\\_jk?referrer=playlist-how\\_language\\_changes\\_over\\_time](https://www.ted.com/talks/john_mcwhorter_txtng_is_killing_language_jk?referrer=playlist-how_language_changes_over_time)

[https://www.ted.com/talks/anne\\_curzan\\_what\\_makes\\_a\\_word\\_real?referrer=playlist-how\\_language\\_changes\\_over\\_time](https://www.ted.com/talks/anne_curzan_what_makes_a_word_real?referrer=playlist-how_language_changes_over_time)

[https://www.ted.com/talks/lera\\_boroditsky\\_how\\_language\\_shapes\\_the\\_way\\_we\\_think?language=en](https://www.ted.com/talks/lera_boroditsky_how_language_shapes_the_way_we_think?language=en)

[https://www.ted.com/talks/erin\\_mckean\\_go\\_ahead\\_make\\_up\\_new\\_words?referrer=playlist-how\\_language\\_changes\\_over\\_time](https://www.ted.com/talks/erin_mckean_go_ahead_make_up_new_words?referrer=playlist-how_language_changes_over_time)

[https://www.ted.com/talks/mark\\_pagel\\_how\\_language\\_transformed\\_humanity?referrer=playlist-how\\_language\\_changes\\_over\\_time](https://www.ted.com/talks/mark_pagel_how_language_transformed_humanity?referrer=playlist-how_language_changes_over_time)

[https://www.ted.com/talks/mark\\_forsyth\\_what\\_s\\_a\\_snollygoster\\_a\\_short\\_lesson\\_in\\_political\\_speak?referrer=playlist-how\\_language\\_changes\\_over\\_time](https://www.ted.com/talks/mark_forsyth_what_s_a_snollygoster_a_short_lesson_in_political_speak?referrer=playlist-how_language_changes_over_time)

[https://www.ted.com/talks/suzanne\\_talhouk\\_don\\_t\\_kill\\_your\\_language?referrer=playlist-how\\_language\\_changes\\_over\\_time](https://www.ted.com/talks/suzanne_talhouk_don_t_kill_your_language?referrer=playlist-how_language_changes_over_time)