

Welcome to A Level English Language!  You will study how to compare, create, develop and investigate language from the past to the present day, and in different social contexts.

The activities in this booklet are designed to develop some of the key skills you will need to succeed. There is lots of research and investigation involved. A linguist (student of language) must be able to critique the language they see and hear every day.

Bring this booklet with you to your first lesson in September.

**TASK 1:**

Collect a bank of five articles from at least three different sources that discuss issues surrounding language. It is important that these are topical and current and that you have read and understood them. Use the examples that we looked at in our taster session to guide you. You might look at things to do with:

* Language and politics
* Language and gender
* Language and age (slang, neologisms etc)
* Language and occupation

**TASK 2:**

Collect two adverts which target men and women but advertise the same product (for example, razors, deodorants, cars, soft drinks). Make notes on the specific language choices that are used to try to appeal to each gender. You could do this by annotating an advert. What is interesting about the language choices in each? What does this show?

**TASK 3:**

Complete the following table to reflect on your own speech style (idiolect). Fill in the last column, adding examples of words or phrases you use. Think about the language you use in different contexts, for example around friends/ teachers/ relatives. If you don’t use a particular type of language, try to write where you have heard it used by others!

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Term (AO1)** | **Definition**  | **In your own use?** |
| Idiolect | The form of English unique to a person- words, intonation, grammar |  |
| Slang | Informal, specific to a particular group |  |
| Dialect  | Words and grammar of a particular region |  |
| Taboo | Offensive language  |  |
| Technology influenced words and phrases | New words used to label technological inventions or used as a result (eg text talk) |  |
| Neologisms | New/ invented words- often reflect travel or a discovery |  |
| Occupational register | Language of a particular job (eg pulse dropping) |  |
| Received pronunciation | BBC/ Queen’s pronunciation |  |
| Regional accent | Pronunciation particular to a region  |  |