

Preparation for English Language:

Congratulations on joining the A level English Language course! In Y12, you will be studying the following:

- Meanings and Representations – exploring different texts and the way that the language writers use links to audience, purpose, genre, mode and representation.
- Methods of language analysis – understanding language levels such as grammar, lexis and semantics, phonetics, graphology, pragmatics and discourse and using these to analyse texts.
- Language varieties – looking at texts and analysing the social contexts that impact the way we use language, particularly focussing on gender, occupation, age and disability and the attitudes towards these.
- Language diversity - looking at texts and analysing regional, national and international varieties of English and the attitudes towards these.

Your language use:

Fill in the sheet on the next page, exploring your language identity. In the inner boxes, put your notes for the what questions; in the middle boxes, answer the how questions; in the outer boxes, write answers to the why questions.

Gender	Friendship Groups	Geographical location	Family	Cultural identity	Identity
What is your gender? Do you think that you have been socialised to speak a particular way because of your gender? Do you think you are similar to other people of your gender? Do you think you are different to people of another gender?	What friendship groups do you belong to? How would you describe your friendships? What things do you have in common? How old are your friends (on average)?	Where do you live? → start with type of house (flat, detached, estate etc) and then the part of Sheffield, Sheffield → South Yorkshire → Yorkshire → The North → England Have you lived anywhere else? Do you speak a different language at home?	Who are your family? Are you a big or small family? Do you have older or younger siblings? How old are your parents? Do you live with your family or other people? Do you split your time between different households? Are your family all from the same place or different places?	What is your culture? Are you part of a particular ethnic group? Do you speak multiple languages? Are your family from different places? Do you follow a particular religion? What things do you know about because you grew up where you did which people in other countries or continents might not?	Do you have any specific interests or hobbies? What might you know about that someone else in the room might not? What do you like to watch on TV, games you play, music you listen to, instruments you can play, skills you have?
How might you talk differently because of your gender? Do you think you are more direct? Or more hesitant? Do you think males and females talk differently? Think back to some of the words you used when you were little – were they influenced by your gender?	How is your language different when talking to your friends vs talking to your teachers or grandparents? What words and phrases might you use? Do you and your friends have specific ways of speaking?	What words and phrases do you use which link directly to where you have grown up? Think about your accent and dialect, and how it is different to someone from London or New York.	Do you and your family have particular names for things? What phrases do your family use often? Do you think you talk like anyone else in your family?	Are there any particular sayings/idioms you can think of which other cultures might know? What specific words and phrases might you know of because of a particular cultural belief? Consider the festivals you celebrate, and how this might impact your language.	Do your hobbies or interests mean that you know very subject specific words that others won't? Do you think that by watching certain programmes (e.g. American comedies, Love Island) your language has been altered? Are there certain phrases or ways of speaking that link to your interests? How does the way you communicate here differ from in the classroom?
Why do you think this might affect your language identity?	Why do you think our friendships might influence our language?	Why do you think where you live affects your language use?	Why might your family influence your language use?	Why do you think the culture you experience affects your language use?	Why do you think your language is influenced by your interests?

