

YEAR 12 – BRIDGING UNITS

A-LEVEL ENGLISH LANGUAGE



ST HILDA'S
COLLEGE

The 6th Form
@ St Hilda's

bridging
units

Name:

Anything is

POSSIBLE

English Language

- Please complete the following bridging tasks by Thursday 17th September.
- File them in your A4 ring binder under 'Bridging Tasks'.

Units/Topics Studies

Paper 1: Language, the individual and society (40% of the qualification)

- You'll analyse a range of texts in the real world, analysing how meanings and representations are created through them. You'll expand your knowledge of how to label language, and the rules that govern correct grammar: all those rules from school will start to make sense!
- For section B, you'll study how children learn to speak and write.

Paper 2: Language diversity and change (40% of the qualification)

- For section A, you'll study how language varies between different genders and social groups. You'll also learn how language has changed since the 5th Century, evaluating the influences on the English Language in an increasingly globalised world.
- For section B, you'll investigate and compare modern discourses/ideas about the English Language. What are journalists saying about language? What are the prevailing narratives? You'll then get to write your own opinion article, expressing your own ideas.

Non-exam assessment: Language in action (20% of the qualification)

- Original Writing: this can be fiction or non-fiction
- Investigation: you get to become the theorist! You'll pick an aspect of language you've really enjoyed and conduct your own investigation.

Bridging Task 1

One thing you'll have to decide on the course is: **how much of a prescriptivist am I?**

1. **Prescriptivists** are those who believe the English language's traditional rules should be followed at all times.
2. **Descriptivist** are those who aren't interested in 'right' and 'wrong' uses of language, they are just interested in observing language and seeing how it's used.

Which are you? You could be a bit of both! (Miss Bird is a prescriptivist when it comes to Tesco NOT using an apostrophe in women's' (grrr) but she doesn't mind slang in spoken language.

To help you decide, **keep a language diary!** As you listen to conversations at home, watch the news, TV shows, movies or scroll through social media, make a note of any uses of language that you really enjoy, and those that really annoy you! Do you love the new phrases and words being generated online? Or do they make you shudder? It would be great to discuss these at the start of the course.

Bridging Task 2

Did you know there is more than 1 type of verb? They're like transformers: they hide in sentences.

See if you can find definitions and examples of the verb types below.

1. Auxiliary verbs
 - a. Primary verbs
 - b. Modal verbs
2. Main verbs
 - a. Dynamic verbs
 - i. Speech verbs
 - b. Stative verbs
 - i. Relational verbs
 - ii. Cognitive verbs

Anything is

POSSIBLE

Bridging Task 3

Aim to collect at least one of each of the following text types. If you have a scrapbook, place them in there with room around the outside of each one. If not, just collate them and keep them safe.

1. Tabloid newspaper article (this can be from a website) eg. The Sun, The Daily Star, The Mirror.
2. Broadsheet newspaper article (this can be from a website) e.g. The Guardian, The Telegraph, The Times.
4. Opinion article from a magazine or newspaper. Ideally, this will be an opinion article related to language (again, this can be from a website).
5. An opening to an adult novel.
6. A travel article – you can search for travel on any online newspaper's website.
7. Sports journalism: any sports report.

Bridging Task 4

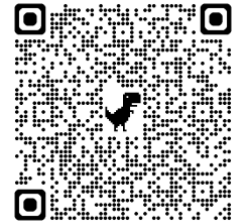
Independent Research Task

Look at a selection of greetings cards aimed at male/ female family members (mum, dad, aunt uncle etc), age related cards and cards for key events (births, weddings etc). How do they represent gender?

- Which stereotypes are there of men/ women?
- Which topics are associated with men/ women?
- How is gender represented through images or pictures and slogans, jokes or sayings?
- Why do you think men and women are represented in this manner? Does it raise any questions for you about gender roles in our society?

Key Resources/Websites

1. Use broadsheet newspapers' websites to search their opinion articles for 'language'. Start to familiarise yourself with how language is discussed in the press.
2. Search 'David Crystal' and 'Jean Aitchison' on YouTube. You can also search any of the topics you study.
3. Consider purchasing the AQA textbook:
<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/as-and-a-level/english-textbooks> (will be worth looking for a 2nd hand one)



4. <http://englishlangsfx.blogspot.com/>



5. <http://www.davidcrystal.com/>



6. <http://passenglishlanguagealevel.blogspot.com/>





