



English Language



These tasks help you to consider different aspects of linguistics, exploring different levels of language (or frameworks) used in discourse. This is a key part of the AQA A Level English Language course, and builds upon similar aspects from GCSE English Language.

You will also begin to consider how language is used to create particular representations in texts; throughout the course we will look at representations including gender, age, class, organisations, events, and these tasks give you an introduction to this idea.

TASK 1

The purpose of this task is to introduce you to exploring discourse and how language is used to fulfil its purpose within a specific context.

You will need the PDF “Obama Task”, which has a copy of President Obama’s inaugural speech. This is followed by some “Initial questions” and then some more “Detailed questions”.

You should answer all of the questions, on separate paper if you cannot print it out.

The full speech can be watched here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JwcR00oGbv0>.

TASK 2

Exploring the way things are represented in different discourse is a key component of the AQA A Level English Language course, and this activity gives you an introduction into looking at how men and women can be represented through language.

For this task, you should find some printed adverts selling a product to men and some selling a product to women. How is each gender represented in the texts? (This means you are considering what version of men and women is being constructed by the adverts). Repeat the exercise for adverts aimed at teenagers and older people.

The format your work will take is flexible – you could write a more structured response, or a mind-map, Powerpoint, or even a recorded (video or audio) presentation of your findings.

TO DEEPEN YOUR UNDERSTANDING



Complete some of the activities in the “10 Things To Do To Prepare for A Level English Language” document.



Watch and learn about some of the more peculiar aspects of English Language on Tom Scott’s “Language Files” YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL96C35uN7xGLDnHuhD7CTZES3KXFnwm0>



Engage with all things linguistic by listening to the Lexis podcast: <https://anchor.fm/lexispodcast>

Read the emagazine Resource Pack “Leaping into Language: Moving from GCSE to A Level Language Study”.



YouTube

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