

Independent Study Ideas: English Language

- Create new learning materials every week using your class notes. These will build up over the year, so think carefully about what will be most useful for revision. Many students find it is helpful to create terminology flashcards (term on one side, definition on the other): you can use your flashcards to test yourself. Other students prefer mindmaps to help get information clear. Consolidating your learning as you go along really helps to avoid stress as the exams approach.
- Practise linguistic analysis every day. This could happen while you are brushing your teeth (read the toothpaste label), eating breakfast (read the cereal box) or listening to conversations in the café (spoken language analysis). Vary the texts you analyse, so you are ready to handle anything in the exam. The examiners seem to particularly favour internet forums and newspaper or magazine articles- make sure you regularly practise your analytical skills in these genres.
- You can find some AQA-approved study materials here: <http://www.teachit.co.uk/language>
- Read the specification for a detailed look at the whole course: <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/as-and-a-level/english-language-7701-7702>
- Lesson powerpoints can be found on the FROG Department Resources tab. Use these to revise material already covered in class.
- Spend 30 minutes with someone in your class or another AS class – what can you teach them? What can they teach you? Or, find a text for each other and analyse it together.
- Prepare for the Paper 2 Q3 Opinion article question by frequently reading opinion articles. You could download the app of the publication you plan to write for and read articles every week to help to develop a convincing voice for your own piece. These two websites make a good starting point: <https://www.theguardian.com/uk/commentisfree> <https://www.independent.co.uk/voices>
- Use quizlet or memrise to test yourself. If you put in terms such as ‘language and gender’ or ‘A level English grammar’, lots of study sets can be found. Some students like to create their own study sets- give it a try!
- Use the two theorist overview documents on FROG to consolidate what we have done in class and to extend your knowledge to theorists we don’t have time to cover together. The documents are called ‘All Language Theorists’ and ‘A level English language theories’. These documents are great for making study sets on Quizlet or for making flashcards and mindmaps.
- Listen to podcasts. The Allusionist is particularly good with dozens of past episodes you can download for free. Word of Mouth on Radio 4 is also good. Browse to find one you like the sound of. Make notes as you listen so you can use this learning in your exam responses. <https://www.theallusionist.org/>
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006qtnz>
- Assemble a linguistic stationery kit. You could use different highlighters for each framework, for example, or create mindmaps for each topic on large revision cards.
- Search for language stories in the news. They regularly appear on the BBC website, plus there are often stories in newspapers such as The Daily Telegraph and The Guardian. Try searching terms such as ‘accent’, ‘dialect’, ‘slang’ etc.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/learningenglish/english/features/6-minute-english/ep-160901>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b07cx2cq>

- Work your way through the pre-course task reading list. Anything by David Crystal or Guy Deutscher is good and will extend your thinking about linguistic issues. We have some of these books in the RC.
- Though not updated for the current spec, this website has lots of information and is well worth dipping into: <http://www.universalteacher.org.uk/>