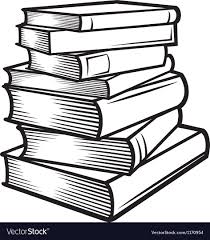
AS Level English Language

*Get ready for language……….*

**

**Book Recommendations**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **‘The Mother Tongue’ – Bill Bryson**  Only Bill Bryson could make a book about the English language so entertaining. With his boundless enthusiasm and restless eye for the absurd, this is his astonishing tour of English. From its mongrel origins to its status as the world's most-spoken tongue; its apparent simplicity to its deceptive complexity; its vibrant swearing to its uncertain spelling and pronunciation, Bryson covers all this as well as the many curious eccentricities that make it as maddening to learn as it is flexible to use. |
| **‘The Adventure of English: the Biography of a Language’ – Melvyn Bragg**  In this book Melvyn Bragg shows us the remarkable story of the English language; from its beginnings as a minor guttural Germanic dialect to its position today as a truly established global language. THE ADVENTURE OF ENGLISH is not only an enthralling story of power, religion and trade, but also the story of people, and how their day-to-day lives shaped and continue to change the extraordinary language that is English. |  |
|  | **‘Language and Society’ (Living Language series) - Susan Cockroft**  The Living Language series has been written to meet new developments in the teaching of A level English Language and A level English Language and Literature. |
| **‘The Cambridge Encyclopaedia of the English Language’/‘Rediscover Grammar’ – David Crystal**  The Cambridge Encyclopedia of the English Language provides the most comprehensive coverage of the history, structure and worldwide use of English |  |
|  | **Mastering Advanced English Language (Macmillan Master Series)**  Written primarily for AS and A-Level English courses, but of interest to university students on related courses, this book is designed to make an intuitive understanding of language explicit. By focusing on language use in different contexts, it encourages an investigative and interpretative approach. |

Movie Recommendations

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **The Miniaturist**Based on: Jessie Burton, The Miniaturist (2014).  This three-part miniseries begins as a familiar story: a young bride is sent off to her mysterious new husband’s creaky, secret-filled home. But instead of finding a closet full of dead women or similar, Nella is given a dollhouse that looks exactly like her new home—filled with figures that look remarkably like those who live there, and whose movements, coordinated by an unseen miniaturist, seem to predict the future. |  |
|  | [**Midnight in Paris (2011)**](https://in.bookmyshow.com/movies/midnight-in-paris/IEMV041533) A fantastic [**Woody Allen film**](https://in.bookmyshow.com/person/woody-allen/7073), which is literally a **nostalgic trip** down memory lane, featuring some of the greatest figures of not only literature but also the bygone era. Surprise followed by surprise |
| [**Dead Poets Society (1989)**](https://in.bookmyshow.com/movies/dead-poets-society/IEMV059698)[**Robin Williams**](https://in.bookmyshow.com/person/robin-williams/1915)shines as an English teacher who inspires his students through his teaching of poetry. **Carpe diem**! |  |
|  | [**Big Fish (2003)**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Big_Fish) Another **fantasy film**, it beautifully portrays the art of **storytelling**. It is the enchanting story of a father and son, but it's really the story of stories themselves. Stories are only as great as they are told. |
| [**Finding Neverland (2004)**](https://in.bookmyshow.com/movies/finding-neverland/IEMV031866) Starring [**Johnny Depp**](https://in.bookmyshow.com/person/johnny-depp/1048), the**semi-biographical film** is about playwright [**J. M. Barrie**](https://in.bookmyshow.com/person/j-m-barrie/32448) and his relationship with a family who inspired him to create **Peter Pan**. |  |
|  | [**Shakespeare in Love (1998)**](https://in.bookmyshow.com/movies/shakespeare-in-love/ET00006460) How can we miss anything about the father of literature? The film depicts an **imaginary love affair**involving Viola de Lesseps and playwright **William Shakespeare** while he was writing **Romeo and Juliet**. |

**TED Talks**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **The danger of a single story** | Our lives, our cultures, are composed of many overlapping stories. Novelist Chimamanda Adichie tells the story of how she found her authentic cultural voice -- and warns that if we hear only a single story about another person or country, we risk a critical misunderstanding. |  |
| **Why language is humanity’s greatest invention** | Civilization rests upon the existence of language, says language creator David Peterson. In a talk that's equal parts passionate and hilarious, he shows how studying, preserving and inventing new languages helps us understand our collective humanity -- and gives a quick lesson on High Valyrian, one of two languages he created for "Game of Thrones" (along with Dothraki). "Language is not merely a tool," he says. "It is our legacy, it's our way of conveying what it means to be human." |  |
| **3 ways to speak English** | Jamila Lyiscott is a “tri-tongued orator;” in her powerful spoken-word essay “Broken English,” she celebrates — and challenges — the three distinct flavors of English she speaks with her friends, in the classroom and with her parents. As she explores the complicated history and present-day identity that each language represents, she unpacks what it means to be “articulate.” |  |
| **Go ahead, make up new words!** | In this fun, short talk from TEDYouth, lexicographer Erin McKean encourages — nay, cheerleads — her audience to create new words when the existing ones won’t quite do. She lists out 6 ways to make new words in English, from compounding to “verbing,” in order to make language better at expressing what we mean, and to create more ways for us to understand one another. |  |
| **What reading slowly taught me about writing** | Reading slowly -- with her finger running beneath the words, even when she was taught not to -- has led Jacqueline Woodson to a life of writing books to be savored. In a lyrical talk, she invites us to slow down and appreciate stories that take us places we never thought we'd go and introduce us to people we never thought we'd meet. "Isn't that what this is all about -- finding a way, at the end of the day, to not feel alone in this world, and a way to feel like we've changed it before we leave?" she asks. |  |

**Getting ready to study…..**

Completing some of the following activities will help prepare you for studying A Level English Language in September:

Task 1 – Synonyms

What are synonyms? Check out the Grammar Monster glossary



Find as many synonyms as you can for the adjectives in the left hand column but sequence them according to their register with the least formal on the left and the most formal on the right.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **GREAT** |  |
| **SCARED** |  |
| **CALM** |  |
| **SIMPLE** |  |
| **UNSURE** |  |

**Task 2 – Idioms**

**What are idioms? Check out the Grammar Monster glossary**



The following English idioms all have a Preposition – Noun – Preposition sequence. You must choose the appropriate prepositions from the list and place them on either side of the noun.

Cross them off as you use them. Then put each idiom into a sentence.

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_exchange \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_cahoots\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_virtue\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_the sake \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_behalf \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_the advice \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

7. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_need \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

8. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_basis\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

9. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_charge\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

10. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_odds \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

11. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_honour \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

12. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_accordance \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

13. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_place \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

14. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_return\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

15. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_the exception \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

at with in with on of by for on of on of for of in of in with in of in of in of with of in of in for

**Task 3 – Nouns**

**What is a noun? Check out the Grammar Monster glossary**



1. In the following lists of words, three belong to the same part of speech, state which part of speech the odd one belongs to.

a. elegant, beautiful, sweetness, bright

b. servant, messenger, serve, porter

c. addition, subtract, multiplication, division

d. shrub, creeper, grow, tree

e. really, Raleigh, rally, alley

f. he, him, his, them

g. compulsory, obligatory, stationary, stationery

h. contrary, wary, fairy, chary

I. arithmetic, geometry, pathetic, rheumatism

j. danger, anger, enrage, infuriate

2. Give the nouns that express the ideas of the following verbs e.g. depart = departure.

depart receive succeed compel

resign arrive reject fail

resist try believe merry

deceive pursue expect

**Task 4 – Adjectives**

What is an adjective? Check out the Grammar Monster glossary



1. Fill in each blank with the most suitable adjective from the list.

resolute mischievous discernible indulgent mournful impermissible pampered lavish avaricous propitious anonymous exorbitant

a. The .......... owl hoots in the night.

b. He was a .......... lad to tease the cat.

c. The castle became .......... through the mist.

d. It is hardly a ..........moment to ask your father to lend you some money when he has just been robbed.

e. The ..........mother foolishly gave in to her .......... child.

f. A .......... use of sugar during the war was quite ..........

g. Owing to the .......... rent demanded by an .......... landlord, we had to decline the offer of the house.

h. He showed a .......... desire to discover the writer of the .......... letter.

2. Arrange the following adjectives in order of intensity.

a. best, good, better

b. astonishing, disturbing, stunning

c. likeable, adorable, tolerable, lovable

d. disquieting, terrifying, alarming, frightening

e. corpulent, well-covered, fat, plump

f. bright, vivid, brilliant, glossy, light

g. dark, dim, obscure, gloomy, pitchy

**Task 5 – Adverbs**

What is an adverb? Check out the Grammar Monster



1. State whether the italicised word is an adverb of time, place, manner or degree.

a. The actress moved *gracefully* across the stage.

b. I will meet you *outside*.

c. He advanced towards me *immediately*, informing me that he had seen me *before*.

d. I am *very* glad to have made the acquaintance of this *exceedingly* charming person.

e. *Finally* he crossed the road and disappeared quite suddenly.

f. The boat drew *almost* alongside and then turned *completely* round.

g. He leaned *forward* and spoke *rather* sharply to the *extraordinarily* unmannerly child.

h. I have told you *twice*, but will repeat *again* that Julian played *best* but Terry *most* consistently.

2. Fill in the blank with a suitable adverb of place.

a. I will work \_\_\_\_; you can work \_\_\_\_.

b. Confronted with an impenetrable jungle, they turned \_\_\_\_.

c. As he could not climb over the chair he crawled \_\_\_\_.

d. \_\_\_\_ stands the ancient castle, grey and mossy.

e. \_\_\_\_ were these adventurers leading there followers?

3. Fill in the blank with a suitable adverb of manner.

a. A log fire burnt \_\_\_\_ in the grate.

b. Jack slept \_\_\_\_ on the hearth rug.

c. \_\_\_\_ the escaped convict crawled along the wall.

6

d. \_\_\_\_ the conjurer whisked away the handkerchief.

e. The wind in the trees whispered \_\_\_\_ through the night.

4. Fill in the blank with a suitable adverb of time.

a. We shall be broadcasting a full account \_\_\_\_.

b. \_\_\_\_ listen to me.

c. A stranger \_\_\_\_ rushed in and brusquely addressed us.

d. He was thirteen years old \_\_\_\_.

e. \_\_\_\_ the sound of sweet music was heard.

5. Fill in the blank with a suitable adverb of degree.

a. Next day the tempest roared still \_\_\_\_ angrily.

b. The child lay \_\_\_\_ snugly among the bracken.

c. The patient was \_\_\_\_ helpless with pain.

d. I have walked \_\_\_\_ far today; my feet are sorely blistered.

e. Her French is \_\_\_\_ good; she is placed thirteenth on the Form list.

**Task 6**

Pick a social or ethnic group e.g. Polish immigrant workers, travellers, City bankers OR an individual e.g. The Duchess of Cambridge, Kim Kardashian, Simon Cowell (!).

Collect a series of 3-4 articles about these groups or individuals, using online archives or your own newspaper and magazine sources.

Reflect on how language is used to represent these groups/individuals. Be ready to present your findings to the rest of the class in September

**Task 7**

**Read and annotate this film review from the Sunday Times, identifying the key language features of this genre. Comment on:**

The voice and how it’s created

The syntax (sentence length and type)

**Any non-standard grammatical features**

How it’s structured and how the plot summary is embedded

The lexical choices and the levels of formality

The purpose (Inform, Persuade, Entertain etc.) and how this is achieved.

**Once you’ve done this analysis, write a film review for a film you’ve seen recently, replicating these genre features, then do a short commentary (500 words) explaining why you’ve made the language choices you have.**

From The Sunday Times December 20, 2009 Avatar Cosmo Landesman

The good news is that James Cameron’s Avatar, his first big film since Titanic, 12 years ago, is a good film. The bad news — at least for Cameron — is that his film is not the masterpiece he set out to make. Nobody spends so much money (more than £214m, according to one estimate) or spends so much time (the project was first conceived in 1995) to make just a good film. No, Cameron has set out to make nothing less than a classic sci-fi epic that will take its place alongside Star Wars, The Matrix or his own Terminator films. But let’s give him his due. Avatar, which he also wrote, is bold and beautiful. It’s almost too rich to take in and appreciate on one viewing. And although it’s a crowd-pleasing Hollywood film driven by special effects, it’s not afraid of social and political commentary. Cameron is a populist patrician, educating us in the evils of capitalism while entertaining us with the evils of capitalism. He offers bread, circuses and sermons for the masses.

Never mind the quantity (yes, it could have done with a trim): consider Cameron’s meticulous attention to detail. The unreal world of fantasy has never been portrayed with such realism. And the final battle sequence is a masterful, adrenaline-boosting finale.

Set in the future, Avatar’s action takes place on a faraway jungle-like planet called Pandora, where the Na’vi, a tribe of 10ft blue people with tails, live in close harmony with nature. Their world is threatened by a greedy American corporation prepared to use military force in pursuit of the valuable minerals found there. Attached to the corporation is a group of scientists led by Dr Grace Augustine (Sigourney Weaver), who want to find a peaceful solution. From the safety of their ship, they interact with the Na’vi via artificial bodies known as avatars. When one of Grace’s team dies, his brother Jake

Sully (Sam Worthington), a paraplegic soldier, takes his place. Although meant to be helping to find a diplomatic solution, Sully agrees to work secretly for the hawkish Colonel Miles Quaritch (Stephen Lang), collecting information on the Na’vi for a forthcoming attack.

Through his avatar body, Sully can walk again and charges off to Pandora. There he falls in love with Neytiri (Zoe Saldana), the warrior daughter of the head of the tribe. Things come to a head when the corporation decides talking time is over and moves in for the kill, and those valuable minerals. You can guess who leads the resistance.

The curious thing about Avatar is that, for all of its state-of-the-art technological wizardry, there is something rather dated about it. If the more excitable reports on Cameron’s use of 3-D and special effects are to believed, then I can say I have seen the future of the cinema — and it looks like the past.

Take the whole idea of avatars. The prospect of humans inhabiting surrogate bodies to travel in other worlds or cyberspace was an exciting concept for novelists and film-makers back in the 1990s. One of them was Cameron himself, who began writing this in 1995. Since then we’ve seen numerous avatar-driven films and, with games like Second Life, they’ve become familiar. To be fair, Cameron’s avatars have a degree of human realism and dramatic expressiveness that has been lacking in films so far. But they still have a rubbery quality that undermines the naturalism. Cameron has said that, ideally, the audience would not be able to tell the difference between actors and avatars; well, he’s not there yet.

Avatar’s political thrust also seems dated. Even though “shock and awe” turns up in the script, it’s not about anything so contemporary. Cameron’s view of rapacious corporations destroying habitats and native people in the name of profit might have had a nightmare feasibility to it in the days when Sting was campaigning to save the rainforests. Now we’re all primitive people, and it’s the entire planet supposedly facing extinction.

Still, the great challenge for Cameron was to create a whole new world of visual wonders — and he does it with a mix of strange animals, plants, predators and flying creatures. And his Floating Mountains are as beautiful and surreal a sight as you’ll ever see. Cameron is a keen deep-sea diver, and you can see the influence of that passion on his portrayal of Pandora, for his jungles resemble the bottom of the ocean; they glow like coral reefs.

This wonderful shell of beauty can’t disguise Avatar’s lack of, dare I say it, heart. In the past, Cameron could always mix big spectacle with big emotions. What’s missing here is the lump-in-the-throat moment. The love story between Jake and Neytiri doesn’t take off the way Jack and Rose’s did in Titanic. I have nothing against 10ft blue women with yellow eyes and flat noses — honest — but Neytiri is this really dull, earnest, eco-chick warrior, for ever banging on about the wonderful ways of her people.

Still, when all the hype and hullabaloo about Avatar calms down, we will be left with a film that’s no masterpiece, but still well worth seeing.

*Avatar, 12A, 162 mins*

Task 8: Language and Occupational group – Travel agents

Some genre conventions of writing in travel brochures...

* Positive semantic fields
* Pre-modified noun phrases
* Proper nouns (name-dropping)
* Direct address
* Collective pronouns
* Future tense
* Invitational imperatives
* Modal verbs

Your task…

1. Using the internet find out what the linguistic terms for each of the genre conventions on the previous slide mean.
2. Find an example of each from an online brochure
3. Write a typical brochure entry for the following holiday images….



**Social Media**

Suggestions of people to follow on Twitter:

* English A level

@English\_A\_Level

* MASSOLIT – short video lectures in the arts, humanities and social sciences for secondary schools

@themassolit

* The English & Media Centre, a not-for-profit trust, providing publications and CPD on English & Media for teacher and students.

@EngMediaCentre

* The British Library

@britishlibrary

* EngLangBlog – Keeping you up to date with stories in the news.

@EngLangBlog

* National Centre for Writing - The National Centre for Writing is a place of discovery, exchange, ideas and learning for writers, translators, readers and everyone who loves words.

@WritersCentre

**Keeping it Fresh……..**

It is important to keep the knowledge you have gained at GCSE fresh in your mind ready to start your A levels in September.

Why not spend some time looking over some past papers and using the mark schemes to assess how well you’ve done.

English Language GCSE – Past Papers and Marking Schemes:

<https://www.wjec.co.uk/en/qualifications/english-language-gcse#tab_pastpapers>

**Planning Ahead…….**

In order to prepare yourself for further study, have a look at the resources below:

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| --- | --- |
| WJEC Specification – GCE AS/A Level in English Language | https://www.wjec.co.uk/media/bxal1faf/gce-asa-english-language-accredited-specification-from-2015.pdf |
| WJEC Specimen Assessment Materials | https://www.wjec.co.uk/media/xksjkogd/wjec-gce-english-lang-sams-from-2015-e.pdf |
| WJEC Past Papers and Marking Schemes | https://www.wjec.co.uk/media/xksjkogd/wjec-gce-english-lang-sams-from-2015-e.pdf |
| AS English language: Units 1, 2, 3 and 4 (Student focused) | https://resources.wjec.co.uk/Pages/ResourceSingle.aspx?rIid=3047 |
| Essay writing Skills (student focused) | https://resources.wjec.co.uk/Pages/ResourceSingle.aspx?rIid=3049 |
| English in the 21st Century (Student focused) | https://resources.wjec.co.uk/Pages/ResourceSingle.aspx?rIid=3048 |