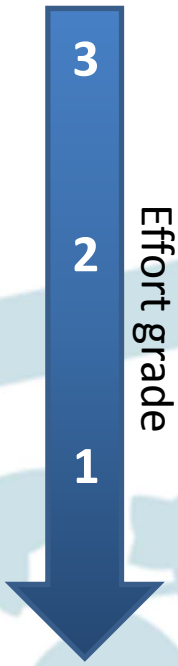
Independent Learning in A Level English Language and Literature

After each lesson, in addition to completing any set work, a pro-active, independent learner would…

- Ensure that notes are completed and filed/stored suitably in a folder/in book.
- Read the relevant class notes and annotate with additional, relevant content; go back over difficult terminology; re-read the texts if required; complete online revision to check understanding and knowledge.
- Make a list of things not fully understood to discuss with a peer or a teacher *before* the next lesson AND carry out the discussion (or pose the questions to your teacher via e-mail).
- Try to summarise the content of each lesson in note or diagrammatic format to diagnose what you have and haven't understood.
- Try to commit factual information to memory immediately, rather than leaving it until revision – try flashcards, make a terminology poster, online quiz, test your friend, etc.
- Match the content of the specification (do you know what the AOs are?) against lesson notes/content to ensure that all points are covered. How do the AOs link to each section of the exam and the content of the lesson?
- Maintain a list of learning points (www/ebi targets) from reviewed/marked work and regularly review this list. Make SMART targets to work on these. Have you made progress?
- Seek out additional sources of questions on areas of weakness of where mistakes were made in classwork, homework or a test. For important pieces of work, diagnose mistakes as active mistakes, slip-ups and blackouts.
- Read the AQA Cambridge Student Book chapter on the next topic before the next lesson and make a note of questions that arise.
- Plan essays from exemplar question list.



Resources to help you study

Most key resources, such as the specification for your course, student book from Cambridge, AP data sheet, past papers, etc. can be found in Handouts\English\A Level Lang Lit. Some additional resources are as follows:

Resource	Description
Resources for individuals topics and parts of the exam in *Handouts*	Looking for something and it is not there? Let us know. Please email your query to your teacher or the KS5 DTL: rfawbertmills@Ivybridge.devon.sch.uk
AQA Cambridge English Language and Literature Textbook	You can find a copy of this textbook with your teacher or with FBM in R0.07.
AQA website http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/as-and-a-level/english-language-and-literature-7706-7707	Contains links to questions, answer exemplars and support. The answers are brilliant, since they contain a commentary from a chief examiner. Also see http://www.aqa.org.uk/student-support/for-students.
The Student Room https://www.thestudentroom.co.uk/showthread.php?t=1874783	A forum where past students post questions and comments. A useful resource to use for support, but with caution.
English Language and Literature podcasts	Explore the wealth of podcasts available about English Language and Literature – Language and Linguistics: 'The Allusionist'; 'A Way with Words' Literary Themes/Idea: 'The Guilty Feminist'; 'Unbuttoned History: 177 – Feminism 101); any podcast on The Handmaid's Tale; 'Benjamin Walker's Theory of Everything' (Paris episode); Radio 4 Book Club; 'Big Idea' – The Kite Runner episode by Robert Adams; 'The History of English' podcast.

Stretch yourself

Create your own revision guide for each area of the exam. Want to meet up with other A level English Lang Lit students to discuss the exams and share ideas? Why not set up a weekly English LL sharing session?