

A Level English Language and Literature: Pre-course work



Pre-course expectations

Success in Sixth Form is largely a function of the amount and quality of independent study you carry out; here's a chance to help you get the very best start to your course. We would like you to complete the work described below and hand it in to your teacher in your first lesson in September. If you have made a late change to your timetable, please complete this work within the first week of starting the course. The work should take you 2-3 hours.

Details of pre-course work

Complete the task set during the Taster Day (Task 1 - A piece of poetry analysis based on 'My Last Duchess' and Task 2 - A creative text based on 'The Handmaid's Tale'). Details of these tasks will also be provided on the website, in the Sixth Form section. You should hand your work in to your teacher during the first lesson in September.

Resources to help you with this work

You will find many online resources to help you analyse the poem and support you in your poetry task (alongside the work you did in the taster session). Research 'My Last Duchess' and other poetry by Robert Browning to explore his background, views and style.

Make sure that you read the poem and complete all sections of the task before you write the analysis, as this will give you time to consider the themes, narrative, persona and so on.

For the creative task, you must buy your own copy of 'The Handmaid's Tale' for the course (so it can be annotated and re-read at home).

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/as-and-a-level/english-language-and-literature-7707/specification-at-a-glance> - an overview of the course.

Stretch yourself

As well as reading your two set texts, 'The Handmaid's Tale' (Margaret Atwood) and 'The Kite Runner' (Khaled Hosseini), we would also recommend that you read one or two extra novels from the dystopian genre. (*Link to the task sheets for more info*) This will help prepare you for the first wider reading project you will be completing in Term 1.