



Cotswold Edge Sixth Form



Subject:	English Language @ YA	Assessment Point 1
Title of the project:	English Language – Linguistic Fingerprint	
Due date:	First lesson back September 2019	
Learning skills and their place in the specification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research skills. • Understanding of the concept of idiolect. • Gathering information into an appropriate format. <p>These skills provide an introduction to the A Level course and some of the ways the English Language can be analysed and investigated.</p>	
Specification link	<p>AQA English Language</p> <p>http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/as-and-a-level/english-language-7701-7702</p>	
Tasks set	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Investigate factors that make up your linguistic fingerprint. 2. Prepare a presentation about your findings. 3. Do wider reading about language issues, making notes to present to the class. 	
How this links to the exam specification	<p>These tasks provide an introduction to how students will be expected to analyse and research aspects of the English Language during the A Level course.</p>	
How to complete the task:	<p><u>Language Fingerprint Research</u></p> <p>Your language fingerprint is unique. There will be lots of factors that make up your language fingerprint. Use the guidance below to help you to investigate your language fingerprint.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the origins of your name? Why were you given that name? Are you called different names by different people? What nicknames do you have? What are their origins? • Where were you born? Where have you lived? What type of accent do you have? What are the features of this accent? Do any of your family come from other regions or countries? If so, how has this influenced the way you speak? • What can you find out about your first words and the way you spoke when you were a young child? Were there any words you mis-pronounced? • What is characteristic about the way you speak? Are there words/phrases you over-use? Are there any words you avoid using because you have difficulty pronouncing them? 	

- How does your use of language vary in a typical day (think about the different people you interact with and what is distinctive about each context)?
- What is distinctive about the vocabulary you use? Think about regional dialect words you use, words you use within your social group or even words you use at home with your family.
- How does your use of technology affect your language use? For example, what email/usernames do you have? What type of texter are you – do you use Standard English, or do you use slang or abbreviate words? Why? Do you use emoticons? Which ones? Why?
- What opinions do you have about language? For example, are there any words (e.g. swear words) that you find offensive? Do you have an opinion on how particular words (e.g. “scone”) should be pronounced? Are there accents you like or dislike? Why?
- Do you have any hobbies or interests where you use specialist words?
- How has your vocabulary changed over time? Are there words you used to use that you no longer use?
- What are your favourite words? What do you like about them?
- What sort of writing do you do in your leisure time? Is there anything distinctive about your written style? How would you describe your handwriting?

Language Fingerprint – Presentation

You now need to prepare a presentation about your language fingerprint. You can choose the form for your presentation (e.g. PowerPoint slides, poster, film).

Resources or links

Wider reading

Before you start the A level course it will be useful for you to do some wider reading. You will need to make notes on at least one wider reading text (this could be an article about an issue to do with the English Language) to feed back to the class.

There are a number of fascinating books about the English Language that you could dip into. These include:

- Txtng: the Gr8 Db8 by David Crystal
- Mother Tongue by Bill Bryson
- The Cambridge Encyclopaedia of the English Language ed by David Crystal
- The Adventure of English by Melvyn Bragg
- Rediscover Grammar by David Crystal
- The English Language by David Crystal
- <http://www.universalteacher.org.uk/>

The BBC News website often has interesting articles about language issues. Broadsheet newspapers are also a useful source of information. Radio 4 has a programme called Word of Mouth that you might find interesting. See below for links to this and other interesting links.

Staff contact and email address:	Alyse Strachan alysestrachan@yateacademy.co.uk
Number of learning hours it will take to complete	5 hours for the presentation, reading time as required. Minimum 10 hours total
Additional work for you to be doing in preparation for A Level English Language:	<p>Word of Mouth Listen to this radio series from Michael Rosen called Word of Mouth about language: https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006qtzn</p> <p>Listen to this radio programme which discusses whether slang is ‘bad language’ https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p03fyj21</p> <p>Watch this TED talk about how language shapes meaning: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RKK7wGAYP6k</p> <p>Watch David Crystal talking about child language acquisition: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gs_Mjl08-Eo</p> <p>Watch this video about the concept of colour in different languages: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2TtnD4jmCDQ&list=PLEIG5N9RpwEY42r3JOI5dyYCtOPWrLfA-</p> <p>Watch this video about the history of the English Language: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H3r9bOkYW9s&list=PLEIG5N9RpwEY42r3JOI5dyYCtOPWrLfA-&index=4</p> <p>And this one, which asks—does language shape the way we think? https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Df25r8pcuI8&list=PLEIG5N9RpwEY42r3JOI5dyYCtOPWrLfA-&index=16</p> <p>Watch this amazing experiment conducted by Deb Roy: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RE4ce4mexrU</p> <p>Watch this TED talk which discusses what makes a word real: https://www.ted.com/talks/anne_curzan_what_makes_a_word_real</p> <p>Research language use and ideas about language in these articles from the Guardian newspaper: https://www.theguardian.com/media/mind-your-language</p> <p>Also browse through these articles on language: https://theconversation.com/uk/topics/language-197</p> <p>Research ideas about language using this blog: http://englishlangsfx.blogspot.com/</p> <p>Take a look at this language magazine: https://babelzine.co.uk/</p> <p>Read this article on ‘Sexist Language’ https://amp.theguardian.com/books/2020/mar/06/no-more-nagging-wives-how-oxford-dictionaries-is-cleaning-up-sexist-language?</p> <p>Listen to this lecture about the ‘decline’ of the English Language: https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p00gx2dt</p> <p>Whatever you choose to do from the list above, make sure you make some notes summarising the main points/ things you have learnt.</p>