English Language A-Level - Preparatory Work 2022

Activity 1:

English Language involves learning linguistic terminology, and there is a big focus on grammar. It is therefore important to address this before starting the course.

1) Make sure you know the meaning of the following words. Jot down the definition and an example of each word type. Don't copy from google – please use your own wording and own examples!

a) Verb
b) Noun
c) Adjective
d) Adverb
e) Preposition
f) Pronoun
g) Definite article
h) Indefinite article
i) Conjunction

2) Label the sentence below using the correct grammatical word class. The first word has been done for you.

He	slowly	looked	up	and
PRONOUN				
saw	the	sparkling	stars	twinkling
in	the	dark	sky	

Activity 2:

The coursework is the only opportunity on this course for you to be creative. It is worth 20% of the qualification; the other 80% is based on exams and written analysis. For your coursework, you will be writing two short stories that are differentiated via audience and/or purpose. To prepare for this, complete the following:

1. Read 'I used to live here once' by Jean Rhys, found here: https://www.caribbean-beat.com/issue-12/i-used-live-here-once#axzz7VRNY7M5n

2. On the next page, jot down 5 literary / language techniques the author uses **and explain the effect.** Avoid 'one word' annotations. Instead, you might find it useful to use the table on the next page. To help develop your annotations, consider: linking the language feature to the effect upon the reader; how the language feature links to the entertaining and emotional purpose/function of the story; how the text achieves typical narrative conventions (e.g. a metaphor is a typical genre convention associated with stories). Look overleaf to see an example of mystery code.

Language feature	Quotes	Analysis
Mystery code	'She was standing by the river looking at the stepping stones and remembering each one.' 'That was the first time she knew.'	Mystery code is achieved via the third person pronoun 'she'. The name of the protagonist is never revealed. The absence of this noun might be symbolic for it could be the author's way of inferring that the protagonist is a ghost and is revisiting a place she used to call home. The mystery code carries throughout the story and the author does not reveal the identity of the protagonist by the story's resolution. The last line requires the audience to infer, alongside the protagonist, that she is a ghost. Mystery code like this helps to entertain the reader as they work out what has happened; this, is a common genre convention associated with narrative based texts.

Now have a go at finding 5 of your own. To give you some help, you may find examples of the following features: *foreshadowing, imagery, past tense effect, cultural language, themes associated with loneliness and change, symbolism, metaphorical language, repetition, the omniscient narrator, pathetic fallacy, foreboding, connotations, etc.*

Language feature	Quotes	Analysis
1.		
2.		
3.		

4.		
5.		

3) If you want to get further ahead, read as many short stories as you can. As you are reading them, jot down a language feature for each story in the same way you have done above. Make sure you write down the author's details, the story's title, and where you found the story, as you will need this information when compiling your coursework bibliography.

We look forward to meeting you soon! If you have any questions about the preparatory work, please contact Emma Mansell elm@hereford.ac.uk