

# English Language A-Level

To help you best prepare for the English Language A-Level course, consider the below sources.

## Reading List:

1. David Crystal 'How Language Works' – This gives you an overview of all the topics we cover across the two years. Available here: <https://www.amazon.co.uk/How-Language-Works-Meaning-Languages/dp/0141015527>
2. Bill Bryson 'Mother Tongue' – An anecdotal and entertaining informative book on the story of our language. Available here: [https://www.amazon.co.uk/Mother-Tongue-Story-English-Language/dp/0141040084/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?crid=NRZ6WBKLTNGI&dchild=1&keywords=mother+tongue+bill+bryson&qid=1587568481&s=books&sprefix=bryson+mother%2Cstripbooks%2C142&sr=1-1](https://www.amazon.co.uk/Mother-Tongue-Story-English-Language/dp/0141040084/ref=sr_1_1?crid=NRZ6WBKLTNGI&dchild=1&keywords=mother+tongue+bill+bryson&qid=1587568481&s=books&sprefix=bryson+mother%2Cstripbooks%2C142&sr=1-1)
3. John Seely's grammar guide – Our course is very grammatical and it is important that you are aware of the different word classes. This book is good for recapping word classes, such as nouns, verbs, adverbs and adjectives, but it also takes it to A-Level study by informing you of the different types of word classes, such as the different verbs like transitive, intransitive, copula, subjunctive, amongst many more. We advise that you dip into this book; learn a word a week to make it manageable. The guide is available here to buy: [https://www.amazon.co.uk/Oxford-Grammar-Punctuation-John-Seely/dp/019966918X/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?dchild=1&keywords=john+seely+grammar+guide&qid=1587568694&s=books&sr=1-1](https://www.amazon.co.uk/Oxford-Grammar-Punctuation-John-Seely/dp/019966918X/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=john+seely+grammar+guide&qid=1587568694&s=books&sr=1-1)

## Coursework preparation:

For your coursework, you will be writing either two short stories or two magazine/newspaper articles. To best prepare you for this, collect as many **published** short stories **and** articles as you can. You should annotate your copies with literary/language devices you have learnt at GCSE. Collect and folder as many stories and articles as possible; this will put you in a very good position at the start of the course. Please remember to also make note of *where* you get your stories and articles from as you will also need to eventually build a bibliography / reference list. For example, if you have got a short story online, make sure you record a **brief** website link (example – [www.costa.co.uk](http://www.costa.co.uk)), the author, and the date you accessed the site. If you have got a short story from a book, jot down the publisher's information, the title of the book, the title of the story, the page numbers of the stories, the author, editors and date of publication - all of this information is usually found on the first few pages of books.

To get you started, have a look at the short stories on the costa website: <https://www.costa.co.uk/behind-the-beans/costa-book-awards/short-story-award>

Articles will be easier to find as there are many online forms, such as the Telegraph and Guardian, amongst others.

You can also use any texts you have studied at GCSE to help with this task. For example, a newspaper article that you may have studied during one of your English Language classes would be a good idea to folder away ready for the start of the English Language course. Many of you will also have anthologies of poems that you examined for literature; lots of these anthologies also have short stories in them, so have a look here too!