

A LEVEL ENGLISH LANGUAGE & LITERATURE PRE- COURSE SUMMER TASKS

What is a Language / Literature student?

- ❖ **Literature students** read literary texts using concepts (e.g., imagery, rhythm, rhyme) and methods of analysis (e.g., close reading, exploring alternative interpretations).
- ❖ **Language students** apply linguistic ideas (e.g., pragmatics, discourse, phonology) and approaches to texts (e.g., conversation analysis, discourse analysis).
- ❖ **Language and literature students** use **BOTH**, making **JUDGEMENTS** about which ideas and methods are most useful, given the text being studied and the nature of the question.

Spoken Language Task

Use the booklet 'Leaping into Language', read through the booklet and complete the tasks.

Literary Tasks

Task 1

Choose and read a book from the list below of: '52 Great Twenty-first Century Novels for Sixth Formers to Read'

1. The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay, Michael Chabon
2. The Corrections, Jonathan Franzen
3. Atonement, Ian McEwan
4. The Siege, Helen Dunmore
5. If Nobody Speaks of Remarkable Things, Jon McGregor
6. We Need to Talk About Kevin, Lionel Shriver
7. The Namesake, Jhumpa Lahiri
8. Brick Lane, Monica Ali
9. Cloud Atlas, David Mitchell
10. The Dew Breaker, Edwidge Danticat
11. The Man in My Basement, Walter Mosely
12. Kafka on the Shore, Haruki Murakami
13. Small Island, Andrea Levy
14. Out Stealing Horses, Per Peterson
15. Never Let Me Go, Kazuo Ishiguro
16. The Road, Cormac McCarthy
17. Half of a Yellow Sun, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
18. This Book Will Save Your Life, A.M. Homes
19. The Book Thief, Marcus Zusak
20. Suite Francaise, Irene Nemirovsky (date of publication in English)

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21. Old Filth, Jane Gardam
 22. Winter's Bone, Daniel Woodrell
 23. What is the What, Dave Eggers
 24. The Inheritance of Loss, Kiran Desai
 25. Persepolis, Marjane Satrapi (two volumes in full)
 26. The Song Before it is Sung, Justin Cartwright
 27. The Road Home, Rose Tremain
 28. The Reluctant Fundamentalist, Mohsin Hamid
 29. The Girls, Lori Lansens
 30. The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao, Junot Diaz
 31. The Rehearsal, Eleanor Catton
 32. Olive Kitteridge, Elizabeth Strout
 33. The White Tiger, Aravind Adiga
 34. The Vagrants, Yiyun Li
 35. Wolf Hall, Hilary Mantel
 36. A Gate at the Stairs, Lorrie Moore
 37. Let the Great World Spin, Colum McCann
 38. Brooklyn, Colm Toibin
 39. A Visit from the Goon Squad, Jennifer Egan
 40. Ours are the Streets, Sunjeev Sahota
 41. A Monster Calls, Patrick Ness
 42. Snowdrops, A.D. Miller
 43. The Tiger's Wife, Tea Obrecht
 44. NW, Zadie Smith
 45. Leaving the Atocha Station, Ben Lerner
 46. This is Life, Dan Rhodes
 47. Canada, Richard Ford
 48. The Sisters Brothers, Patrick deWitt
 49. The Panopticon, Jenni Fagan
 50. Life After Life, Kate Atkinson
 51. The Suspicions of Mr Whicher, Kate Summerscale
 52. Stuart, A Life Backwards, Alexander Masters

Task 2

You now need to take inspiration from the novel you've read in order to complete a piece of creative writing. Use the storyline below to develop as the opening of a narrative.

Write your narrative, making your own choices about the story's starting point and linguistic techniques.

You should write approximately **500 words**. You are writing the **opening** to a narrative, and can start at any point, using the bullet points below as the beginning of your story. You are not expected to write the full story and you are not required to use all six bullet points.

1. A sculptor carved a statue of a man out of ivory.
2. The sculptor fell in love with her statue.
3. The sculptor visited a temple to pray.
4. The sculptor made a wish to find a man like her statue to love.
5. When she returned home, she kissed the ivory statue and the statue came to life.
6. The sculptor and her statue married.

Tips:

- Use a range of different language techniques.
- Consider a thoughtful structure.
- Draw from your study of the novel you chose to read. Consider using the author's style of:
 - Dialogue
 - Description
 - Recreation of setting and imagery
 - A particular narrative voice
 - Point of view
 - Time
 - Prose style