



English Language A-Level

Edexcel Specification: Full A-Level Course

Summer 2025 Preparatory Tasks

Welcome to the exciting first stage in your new advanced level course! We are delighted you have chosen to study English Language at Sharnbrook Academy.

These tasks are preparing you for studying at a higher level and to become an effective independent learner.

If you have any further questions about the A-Level course, please do contact me directly: nhorne@sharnbrook.academy

TASK 1: Invest in an A3 scrapbook, like the examples below. Light-coloured pages are preferable, as you'll be writing in it.



TASK 2: Find 8-10 examples of language use from different forms and modes (written, electronic or spoken). These might include:

- Articles (newspaper, magazine, blog, online or printed)
- Advertisements
- Recipes
- Text messages
- Emails
- Letters
- Diaries
- Extracts from books
- Television or radio transcripts.

The more variety, the better!

TASK 3: Glue these examples of language use on to separate pages of the scrapbook. Identify the following for each:

Mode (What is the text? Is it written, spoken, electronic or a combination?)

Field (What subject matter does it cover?)

Functions (What purposes does the text seem to have? Be precise!)

Audience (Who is it aimed at? How do you know? Consider gender, age, geographic location, socioeconomic background and their lifestyle)

TASK 4: Annotate each text with your observations of the language that has been used for the mode, field, functions and audience. Consider the following:

1. Discourse structure: How is the text laid out and organised? Why do you think this is?
2. Syntax: What do you notice about the sentence constructions?
3. Lexis and semantics: What do you notice about word choices and the meaning they communicate?
4. Orthography: Is there anything interesting about the spellings?
5. Phonology: Is there anything interesting about the sound patterning?
6. Pragmatics: How does the producer of the text create a relationship with their audience?

Below are examples as a guide. Aim to be detailed and creative.

The collage consists of three pages from a scrapbook, each illustrating different aspects of language analysis.

- Left Page:** A screenshot of a text message conversation. Handwritten notes identify the **Mode** as 'text message', the **Field** as 'personal communication', and the **Audience** as 'a friend'. The messages are annotated with phrases like 'casual', 'friendly', and 'informal'.
- Middle Page:** A newspaper clipping titled 'EDITORIAL ARTICLE' with the headline 'The Guardian view on English language and literature: more, please'. The text is heavily annotated with handwritten notes in red and black ink, discussing the importance of English language and literature.
- Right Page:** A hand-drawn diagram titled 'Tell the Prime Minister to stop clowning around'. The diagram features a central image of a clown and various labels for **Mode** (text, poster), **Register** (formal, serious), **Audience** (people interested in politics), and **Purpose** (to persuade, to inform, to entertain).