

5 hours in... English Language

Research shows that the most successful students (i.e. those that make the most progress and get the highest grades) are doing between 20 and 25 hours of independent study per week by the end of Year 13. That may seem a lot, but it's something that you would build up to over the course of your A-Levels. In Year 12, we're talking something more like 15 hours per week. This equates to roughly 5 hours of independent study per A-Level per subject.

Remember that your independent study is divided into three types – Consolidation, Reactive and Proactive.

Consolidation

The evening following an English Language lesson, you should spend 12-15 minutes (24-30 minutes for a double) rereading your notes, writing the summary section at the bottom of your Cornell notes and making relevant flashcards e.g. for language level, specific term, example of language use etc

Reactive

This is your 'homework'. Each of your English Language teachers should give you at least 1 hour of homework each week. If they don't – ask them for some! If you find this takes more than 1 hour, that's fine, you can take this from the proactive phase (not from the consolidation phase though). Equally, if you find you finish your reactive work quickly, spend more time on your proactive work.

Proactive

This is the section that will broaden and deepen your overall understanding of the subject you are studying. It will not necessarily involve work that has been set by your teacher, but instead it is about you doing the extra practice questions, reading widely and revising terminology so it's accurately applied. In English Language, this might involve some of the following:

- Complete a practice past paper question – available on the AQA website **(1 hour)**
- Use websites/study guides to complete and add to class notes **(30 minutes)**
- "Read, Cover, Write and Check" sections of Knowledge organisers **(30 mins)**
- Wider reading and annotation of non-fiction texts **(1 hour)**
- Reading about English in the media **(1 hour)**
- Creating revision materials: e.g. flashcards, mind maps etc. **(30 minutes)**
- Summaries of key concepts and terms **(20 minutes)**
- Essay plans for example questions **(15 minutes)**

Useful links

- **The Guardian is a high-quality newspaper and it's free to read:** <https://www.theguardian.com/uk>
- **The Daily Mail is Britain's most popular newspaper and its articles commonly appear in English Language exams and materials:** <https://dailymail.co.uk/>
- **The British Library website is an excellent resource. It's full of texts from a variety of periods on a range of topics, and it has a particularly useful section on accent and dialect:** <https://bl.uk>
- **EngLangBlog is an excellent resource that regularly posts interesting articles and debates about English Language study at A Level:** <http://englishlangsfx.blogspot.com/>



5 hours in... English Language – your weekly review

Week beginning: _____

What have I been learning with _____? _____

What have I been learning with _____? _____

Consolidation (tick when complete)		Reactive 1	Reactive 2	Proactive 1	Proactive 2	Proactive 3
Lesson 1						
Lesson 2						
Lesson 3						
Lesson 4						
Lesson 5						
Time spent						

Total time spent on Independent Learning in English Language this week: _____

Areas that require further review

Things I need to ask my teachers

Checked by: _____ (teacher)



5 hours in... English Language – your weekly review example

Week beginning: 14/09/2020

What have I been learning with Mr Parkinson?

Register and idiolect

What have I been learning with Miss Mitchell?

Representation

Consolidation (tick when complete)		Reactive 1	Reactive 2	Proactive 1	Proactive 2	Proactive 3
Lesson 1	✓	Complete the idiolect profile with specific examples – collected evidence from speaking to family members and recorded it	Read and annotate the Lurpak advert for significant features of language	Add key terms from this week to overall glossary	Read and annotated an article on the Mail Online website that represented teenagers negatively	Completed a past paper question on the representation of teenagers in the Mail Online article
Lesson 2	✓					
Lesson 3	✓					
Lesson 4	✓					
Lesson 5	✓					
Time spent	1 hour	1 hour	50 minutes	1 hour	1 hour	1 hour

Total time spent on Independent Learning in English Literature this week: 4 hours 50 mins

Areas that require further review

- Still unsure of what “register” means and how to spot when a register is used in a text
- Not finding it easy to remember terms from this week – need to revise them more

Things I need to ask Mr Parkinson/Miss Mitchell

- Does register always have to be defined in terms of formality?
- What other features of register could I look out for?

Checked by: _____ (teacher)