

The Sixth Form at George Abbot

'Academic excellence within a vibrant community.'



Subject: English Language

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Pre Sixth Form Tasks

Task	Detail	Demonstrated		
		Yes	Partially	No
Tasks	Over the summer we would like you to start thinking about some of the texts that will be studied and some of the ideas about linguistic and literary analysis. Contextual understanding of the literature texts is key to your success, as is your ability to spot linguistic patterns and be able to apply these, commenting upon how they create meaning. See tasks and texts below.			
Further Reading	SLE/English/ Year 12/ Wider Reading			
Additional task(s)	Pick one essay on one text and write a short summary of why the argument the author uses opens a potentially different way of viewing the text.			

All tasks completed	Yes	No
Subject Teacher Signature		

- Remember, the ways in which we use language says a great deal about us and our values and beliefs: we use language to impress, to offend, to fit in, to exclude, to demean, to make ourselves feel superior, to 'construct' or 'reconstruct' the world around us. The philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche once famously said, "Every word is a prejudice." In short, this means that it is virtually impossible to be 'neutral' or objective in our language use. Do you agree or disagree with this point of view?
- Lots of the English Language and Literature course is linked to contextual factors, so the importance of understanding these influences on the texts studied is fundamental to demonstrate a purposeful grasp of the author's intent and the meaning conveyed. The historicist approach is therefore needed to unlock what may appear to be hidden; connotations of words and where they are placed in larger frameworks of sentence and paragraph structures can aid in revealing these sometimes implicitly embedded readings. Using a text that you have recently read or studied, create a mind-map or brainstorm of how the contexts have influenced the authorial choices made.
- Part of the course involves a creative writing element in both fiction and non-fiction related to the Gothic genre. Write a 500 word opinion article on why the Gothic is still relevant to today's society.

4. Look at the poem 'London', written in 1794 and published in the collection 'Songs of Innocence and Experience' by William Blake below. What themes and ideas are contained within the poem? How does the poem convey its ideas? What literary and linguistic features are used to convey this meaning? What could Blake's message be? Can you comment on the following features?

- Emotive verbs
- Pronouns likely to influence
- Adjectives likely to influence
- Rhetorical features (persuasive techniques)
- Figurative or metaphorical language

London

BY [WILLIAM BLAKE](#)

I wander thro' each charter'd street,
Near where the charter'd Thames does flow.
And mark in every face I meet
Marks of weakness, marks of woe.

In every cry of every Man,
In every Infants cry of fear,
In every voice: in every ban,
The mind-forg'd manacles I hear

How the Chimney-sweepers cry
Every blackning Church appalls,
And the hapless Soldiers sigh
Runs in blood down Palace walls

But most thro' midnight streets I hear
How the youthful Harlots curse
Blasts the new-born Infants tear
And blights with plagues the Marriage hearse