



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**. How this is divided may vary from week to week or between subjects but one approach could be:

Consolidation - 45mins

- As soon after the lesson as possible, reread your notes and write down any questions you have about the lesson content. Ask these questions in your next lesson.
- Create a quiz or flashcards on this content. This blog post has lots of good advice about formatting revision resources <https://www.supermemo.com/en/blog/twenty-rules-of-formulating-knowledge>. Put these in a safe place to review later.
- Explain what you learned to someone that DOESN'T do the subject (this will help with Paper 2 Q4). Don't always use the same person! You can also do this in written form too.

Reactive – 3hrs

This is your 'homework'. Expect each teacher to set about an hour's worth of tasks. This could be linked to upcoming exams, preparation work for coursework or coursework that is currently being completed.

For English Language A-Level, the coursework for Year 12 is a piece of original writing inspired by a style model. Having read novels, short stories, nonfiction current events and any other interesting texts will help you during the planning stages. Your teacher will be able to discuss your approach to the task when it is started in Term 3, but they cannot tell you what to do or how to improve your work. You will need to spend time out of lessons improving your work.

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 – 1hr 15mins

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 articles, watching videos, TED talks etc. In English Language, this might contain some of the following:

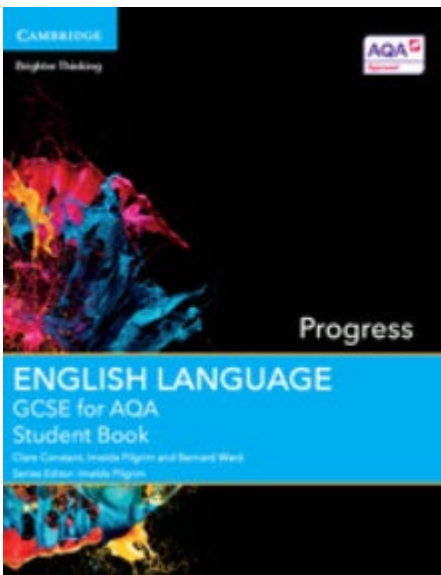
- Complete past paper questions – available from the exam board website
 - <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/as-and-a-level/english-language-7701-7702/assessment-resources> (1 hour)
- Review your revision materials from the consolidation phase (10 mins twice per week)
- Read and make notes on linguistic studies in the textbooks available in the library. See the further reading list. [See further reading list]
- Answer questions from your revision guide.
 - Previous students recommend this guide https://www.amazon.co.uk/Ultimate-Revision-Level-English-Language/dp/B088JK3HWL/ref=asc_df_B088JK3HWL/?tag=googshopuk-

[21&linkCode=df0&hvadid=696285193871&hvpos=&hvnetw=g&hvrnd=16179713649429507471&hvptwo=&hvqmt=&hvdev=c&hvdvcmld=&hvlocint=&hvlocphy=9189744&hvtargid=pla-2281435176858&psc=1&mcid=e66cb57ced4d3c6c8a067e29bad5905e&th=1&psc=1&hvocijid=16179713649429507471-B088JK3HWL-&hvexpln=74&gad_source=1](https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/commentisfree+education/languages) (30 mins)

- Create a knowledge organiser (1 hour)
- “Read, Cover, Write and Check” sections of Knowledge organisers (30 mins)
- Watch a TED talk on a relevant topic (20 mins) [See useful links]

Useful links

- <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/commentisfree+education/languages>
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006qtnz/episodes/player>
- The Cambridge textbook has a range of further reading for each topic



Further reading list

There are a range of textbooks in E7. Please, let your teacher know if you want to borrow one.