

ENGLISH B SL/HL COURSE PRE – READING AND LANGUAGE STUDY

INSTRUCTIONS:

Complete these tasks DURING THE NEXT TWO WEEKS and holidays, then hand in your responses to your new English B teacher during the first period of the new school year.

Answers must be **either** word processed and submitted in a simple, soft covered folder, **or** if you wish to be more creative, you can use one of the following online presentation tools and add music, photographs and videos to your written responses.: <http://prezi.com/> or <http://edu.glogster.com/>.

Teachers will organize a sharing opportunity early next year so that students can admire and learn from each other's work. Some teachers may also ask students to add their work to the class wiki or website.

During the first few periods of your new English B course you will be asked to complete both a short piece of writing in letter format and an Oral Presentation based on your readings.

Before you start it is suggested you explore the following teacher created web site which gives you a lot of information about English B: <http://moonspaces.weebly.com>

THE TASK

A. READING AND RESPONDING

EITHER:

SHORT TEXTS

Locate, and download or photocopy at least **THREE TEXTS** (chosen from articles/stories/news items/letters to the editor/song lyrics/poems) for **ONE** of the topics below. You will locate a total of **three** texts. These topics are the compulsory topics you must study in English B

Topics

1. Social Relationships

OR

2. Communication and the Media

OR

3. Global Issues

ENGLISH B HOLIDAY READING ASSIGNMENT

For each **TEXT**, **WORD PROCESS** and complete the following **responses**, using either a word processing programme, or the presentation tools mentioned above.

NAME: _____

a. Title and Author

State the title and author of the text

b. Aspect

In a well written sentence, describe the **ASPECT** of the topic the article is about. See Aspects listed on the Moonspaces website

e.g. “The article is about social relationships and the aspect discussed is marriage between people from different cultures”

c. Authority

In 1-2 sentences say whether you **TRUST** what the writer of the article says and **JUSTIFY** your judgement.

e.g. I trust/mainly trust/partly trust/do not trust what the writer says because ----

d. Main Idea/Thought/Feeling

Write a sentence describing a main idea/thought or feeling communicated by the writer of the text.

e.g The writer wants us to think/feel that ----

e. Response

Write two or three sentences communicating your **main thoughts or feelings** about what the writer says in the text.

f. Reference

Write the correct **MLA reference** at the end of each analysis. Use <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/>. To check the accuracy of your referencing.

OR:

LONGER TEXTS: NOVELS, BIOGRAPHIES AND AUTO- BIOGRAPHIES

Higher level English B students may choose to replace the reading tasks above with a longer text. **WORD PROCESS** and complete the following responses:

ENGLISH B HOLIDAY READING ASSIGNMENT

NAME: _____

a. Title and Author

State the title and author of the text

b. Readability

In a well constructed paragraph (150 words) **explain** how the author makes the book enjoyable to read. **Justify** your explanation.

d. Main Idea/Thought/Feeling

Write a well constructed paragraph (150 words) **describing** a main idea/thought or feeling communicated by the writer .

e.g The writer wants us to think/feel that ----

e. Response

Write a well organized and convincing letter (250 words) addressed to the author, communicating your **main thoughts or feelings about a specific character, incident or idea in the book.**

f. Reference

Write the correct **MLA reference for the book.** Use <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/>. To check the accuracy of your referencing.

B. LANGUAGE

During the first few weeks of the English B course you will be given a number of **TESTS** to find out about your language **KNOWLEDGE** and your ability to write and speak English **ACCURATELY**. The size of your **VOCABULARY** will also be tested.

a. Grammar

To prepare for these tests you should review your knowledge of :

- **parts of speech**: nouns, adjectives, verbs, adverbs, prepositions, pronouns, conjunctions
- **types of sentences**: simple, compound, complex
- **the use of words to join parts of sentences**: coordinating and subordinating conjunctions
- **identifying two kinds of incorrect sentence**: sentence fragments and run-on sentences
- **the accurate use of verbs** to communicate the time when an action happens: simple present and past, present and past perfect, present and past continuous
- **the correct use of the articles** “a” and “the”
- **the use of pronouns** to link sentences together

There are many good sites on the **INTERNET** you can use to complete this review. For example:

1. Virtual Online Grammar: Set up and track your own grammar learning record

<http://www.spunkyenglish.com/VGL/index.php/home/index.html>

2. Other Good Sites:

- <http://www.bbc.co.uk/skillswise/words/grammar/sentencebasics/whatisasentence>
- <http://www.squidoo.com/sentence-patterns>
- http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/quiz_list.htm
- <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/677/01/>
- <http://web2.uvcs.uvic.ca/elc/studyzone/grammar.htm>
- <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/internet-grammar/home.htm> (Very comprehensive but challenging)

b. Vocabulary

You should spend lots of time time reading and listening to English. Buy a small pocket note book and make **your own organized list of important words**. You should definitely know **80%** of the **FIRST TEN THOUSAND MOST COMMONLY USED ENGLISH WORDS**.

Before you start **TEST** your vocabulary level online here: <http://www.er.uqam.ca/nobel/r21270/levels/>

If your vocabulary is :

- **small**, learn words in the first **2000** to begin with
- if your vocabulary is **medium**, learn words in the first **5000** to begin with
- if your vocabulary is quite **large**, learn words in the first **10,000**

Use the following sites for vocabulary learning:

<http://www.englishvocabularyexercises.com/>

<http://www.uefap.com/vocab/exercise/exercise.htm>