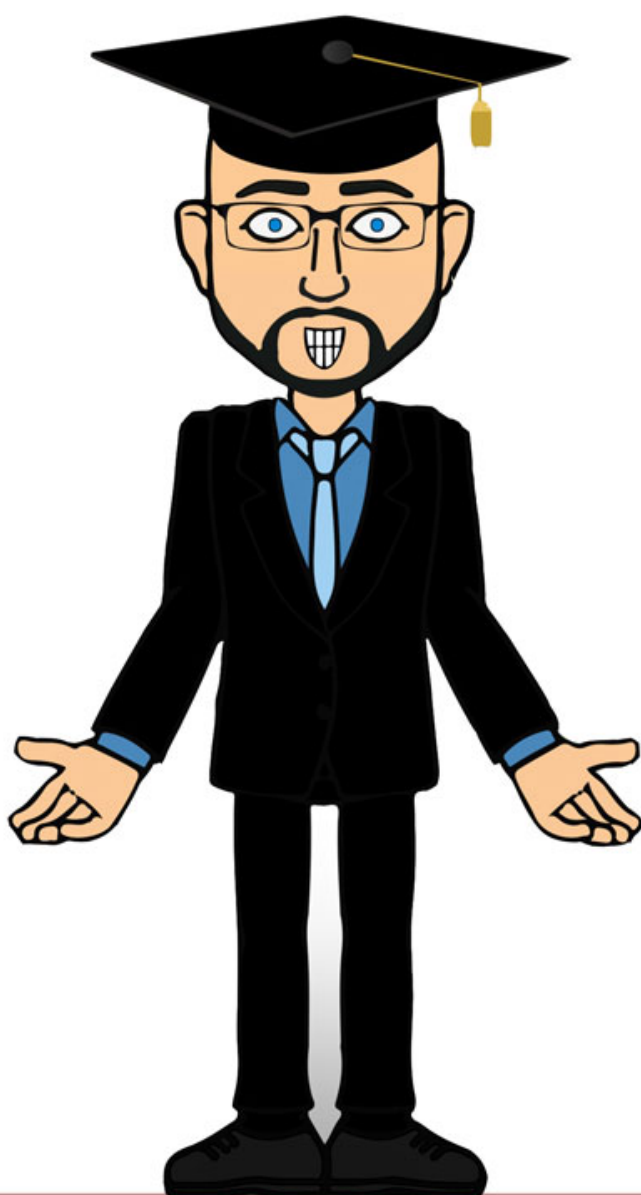


Mr Bruff

ONLINE REVISION

MR Bruff's Guide To

A' Level English Language



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SAMPLE

Chapter 2

AO1: Linguistic Methods, Terminology, and Coherent Written Expression

Many students view the assessment objectives as being specifically designed for their teachers to use to mark their work. They are not. Assessment objectives tell YOU what you have to do.

Knowing the assessment objectives will be the difference between you feeling confident about the requirements of the course and what you need to do, and you finding yourself 'stuck'. So let's examine them one at a time and unpick what it is you have to do:

Assessment Objective 1 (AO1) requires you to:

**Apply appropriate methods of
language analysis, using associated
terminology and coherent
written expression.**

So what does this mean?

Methods: the way in which you analyse and understand a text will determine which terminology you believe is most relevant to the text, the question, and the response. You are not expected to use *all* the terminology you learn in your answer, but you are expected to understand it all in order to make informed linguistic choices.

Terminology: the exam boards provide guidance on the terminology that they expect you to learn (we will explore this later in detail). The guidance is only scratching the surface of what the examiners and your teachers will want you to use in your analysis. The guidance includes the following:

Lexis	The vocabulary of English, including the changes over time both socially and historically.
Semantics	The analysis of word meanings and the relationships between words.
Grammar	The set of rules that govern the structure and creation of language. At this point in your learning, you will apply these rules almost unconsciously e.g. A apple or An apple?
Pragmatics	The way in which language is used socially, informed by the context. It is the meaning that cannot be found at surface level.
Phonetics, and phonology	The study of the sounds of speech.
Prosodic Features	The features that appear when we put speech together (pitch, tone, intonation, volume, pace).
Graphology	The visual aspects of a text. The design and choices of style.
Discourse	Whether a text is written or spoken communication.
Register	The way you speak depending on the audience, purpose, or social situation.
Idiolect	An individual's way of speaking that is unique to them (their vocabulary, grammar, and pronunciation).
Dialect	A form of language that people speak depending on social or geographical influence.
Sociolect	The way in which a particular social group speaks (ethnic groups, teenagers etc).

*these brief definitions will be explored fully later in the chapter.

Coherent Written Expression: There is an expectation that you spell words accurately, particularly the key terminology; that you punctuate appropriately; that you can also understand the rules of language in order to write clearly (likely to have been referred to as SPAG at GCSE level).

How do I know I am using the correct method?

Pay close attention to the context of the text, and ensure you have fully analysed the genre, audience, and purpose. A good starting point for any linguist is to have a basic generic list of 'ingredients' for the most commonly appearing GAPs and contexts.

An easy example for you to remember is that you would not usually expect to explore and analyse the graphological features of a chapter of a novel because there is not likely to be anything interesting or relevant to comment on.

How do I use the terminology in a sentence or paragraph?

Do you remember PEE?

Point - Evidence - Explain.

Well, this method is still very useful as you will need to structure your answer in a clear and logical way. The examiners like you to 'signpost'. This would be the 'P' in PEE.

There are two recommended ways of 'signposting'. Let's use the term LEXIS as our example:

Example 1: Lexically, the writer has chosen to use (quote) to (explain)

Example 2: In terms of Lexis (quote) is used to (explain)

How do I get the grade?

It is not enough to just learn the main terminology in the guidance grid above. You have to demonstrate an accurate and perceptive knowledge of the key terms within the main terminology. This will take your answer from the broad to the specific; the expected to the impressive; the plain and boring to the 'wow' factor. Let's unpick each term:

Lexis & Semantics

No, not (apparently) the acronym used to name a luxury car (though there will always be that one class mate who asks if that's what it means!), the term Lexis translated from its ancient Greek origin means the vocabulary of a language. A 'posh' word for *word*! Lexicon is the collection of lexemes (several words) that forms a person's vocabulary.

Semantics is the study of meaning. The best students will analyse the subtlety of meaning in words, phrases, sentences, and whole texts and how writers influence and manipulate a reader's thought and action. Writers will carefully consider semantics in order to suit a specific audience, purpose, genre, or context for maximum effect. Consider the effect of techniques.

What to write in the exam?

Elevated lexis, such as 'irrevocably' and 'endeavours', connote sophistication and elegance, which gratifies the reader. Furthermore, colloquialisms and taboo language, ('scumbags') create a sarcastic tone, linking to the primary purpose to entertain and humour.

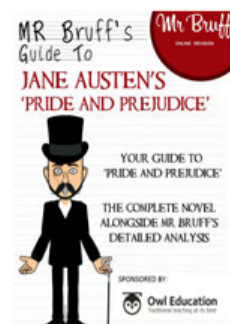
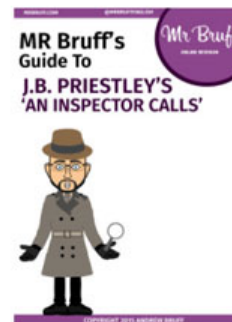
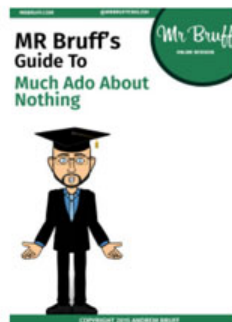
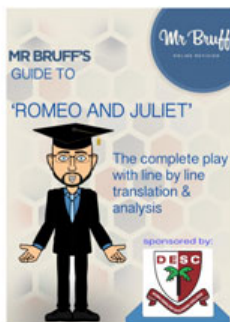
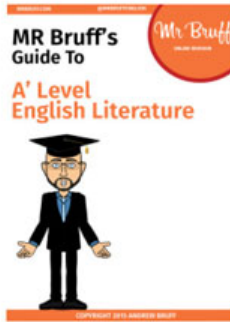
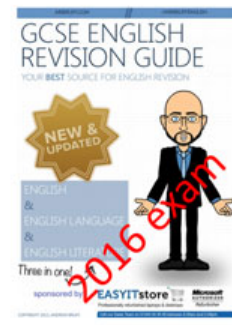
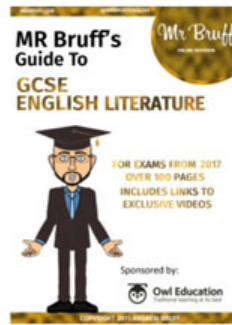
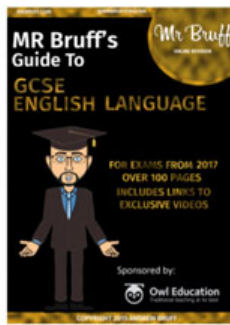
Semantic Field

Do you ever read a text and the words seem to have been borrowed from somewhere else, or the words hint at another meaning? That is because the text will have a semantic field, which is the relationship that exists between some of the words or phrases used in a text. Let's use colours as an example: red, blue, yellow, black are all colours but can also be a semantic field of emotions (angry, upset, happy, and depressed). A writer will deliberately use words to create a semantic field often to subtly hint at something.

Key Terms: irony, simile, semantic field, semantic change, metaphor, personification, oxymoron, hyperbole, idiomatic language, sociolect, dialect, occupational register, denotation, connotation, ambiguity, implication, synonyms, antonyms, hypernyms, hyponyms, euphemism, dysphemism, collocation, metonymy, and repetition, figurative language, levels of formality, neology, narrowing, broadening, amelioration, pejoration, reclamation.

What to write in the exam?

The text contains a semantic field of love with lexical choices such as "flowers", "heart" and "passion" used throughout but there is also a semantic field of war and conflict running through the piece with choices such as "fight", "hate" and "conquer" to reflect the instability of the relationship between the two characters.



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