Welcome to Flying Start with Exeter College.

Below, you’ll find questions to consider, tasks to complete and some background research you might want to undertake before enrolment.

This is the first of two batches of Flying Start activity sheets we’ll be sending you. The second will be launched around the May half term. Please read the instructions below and have a go at the activities.

If you get stuck at any point, please see the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) section at the bottom for help.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>To get you started...</th>
<th>An introduction to the study of personal and social identity.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Part of your first exam paper will look at individual language variation linked to differing personal and social identities. There are many ways in which individuals may choose to categorise themselves (personal identities such as funny, kind, creative, cat-lover, etc.), there are also many ways in which society may try to categorise individuals (social identities such as gender, age, occupation, ethnicity, etc.). We will discuss some of the reasons behind this and some of the associated concepts and issues during the first few weeks of the course.</td>
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**Task 1: Who am I?**

Below is a Lego figure outline. Use this as a template to draw yourself and create your own Lego ‘mini me’. You can be as creative as you like but it must reflect you. Please don’t worry if art isn’t your favourite thing – it isn’t meant to be perfect!
Task 2: Describe yourself.

An important aspect of the study of A Level English Language is an understanding of key linguistic terminology. This helps us to learn how and why certain types of language are used in different contexts but also enables us to explain why these particular language choices have been made.

Describe yourself using the following key word classes. Think carefully about why you have chosen these specific words.

1. Pronoun (x1):
   - 

2. Noun (x3):
   - 
   - 
   - 

3. Adjective (x5):
   - 
   - 
   - 
   - 
   - 

4. In no more than 150 words, explain why you chose this language to describe yourself. You could consider some of the following questions: How important are these things to your own sense of identity? How would you like others to perceive you? How do you think that society might perceive you? If you would rather not write about yourself, then consider the reasons why other individuals might choose specific language to describe themselves.
Task 3: Spot the difference.
While personal and social identities are closely connected, they are not the same thing. A personal identity trait reflects elements of an individual’s character that are specific to them – things that make them unique and different from those around them. A social identity trait reflects elements of an individual that can be categorised within a society – things that make them similar to those around them (a way of placing the individual into a group).

Place your chosen words from Task 2 into the personal and social identity categories below. Fill in the gaps with further words to describe your personal and social identity.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Personal</th>
<th>Social</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Appearance</td>
<td>Age</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beliefs/morals/ethics</td>
<td>Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feelings</td>
<td>Ethnicity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hobbies/interests</td>
<td>Gender</td>
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<tr>
<td>Personality</td>
<td>Occupation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Talents</td>
<td>Power</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>Region (accent, etc.)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Religion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Social class</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Task 4: Who is Ciretta?
One of the main skills that you will be required to learn for A Level English Language is how to extract relevant information from a text and then use it to discuss a point. Your ideas must always be accompanied by a quotation and relevant linguistic terminology – this shows that you are knowledgeable and that your thoughts are well researched.

The text on the following page is an ‘About Me’ personal blog page for an individual named Ciretta.

- Read the extract.
- Highlight any language which has been used by Ciretta to reflect her personal identity.
- In a different colour, highlight any language which has been used by Ciretta to reflect her social identity.
- Write a response to the following question: How does Ciretta use language to convey her personal and social identity? You must include quotations as evidence and try to include any terminology that you know (word classes, etc.). This should be between ½ and 1 side of A4 in length.
SECTION A: Individual Variation

Text A

This text is from a personal blog by a woman in her twenties. She references the children's book The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle.

The Very Hungry Cirettapillar

The stories of a 20-something calamity with a blog-worth of ideas.

Home  Dear Cirettapillar  ABOUT ME

THE VERY HUNGRY CIRETTA-PILLAR

About: The very hungry Cirettapillar.

My name is Ciretta and I am usually eating something. Having Italian in my blood means I have an emotional connection with food that cannot be easily replaced; I attempt to channel this unhealthy energy into writing.

If someone asks me to tell them something interesting about myself I usually just blurt out that moose have very poor vision. Despite seeming like I have a lot to say for myself I usually find talking about me rather tasking and awkward. Sure, you'll almost definitely hear all about my opinion on something else, but let's leave Ciretta as a whimsical mystery who may or may not have been concocted inside your own head. A big aspiration of mine is to be able to make a decision without a packet of salami and my poncho for comfort and reassurance.

My favourite things are my Xbox, notebooks and surprisingly: food. My blog is purely for pleasure and all constructive criticism is welcome. I feel like I've just finished one of those worksheets at primary school that ask you all about your favourite things and what you want to do when you grow up, (writer, psychologist or archaeologist) so I'm going to do some grown up things now like Photoshop my face onto The Arbiter.*

Also please don't refer to this About Me section as some kind of indication of my quality of writing. Ever.

*The Arbiter is a character in the computer game Halo.
### Extension Task: About Me

Design your own ‘About Me’ personal blog page. It should reflect all of the aspects of your own personal and social identity that you feel are the most important to you. Remember that the internet is designed to be accessed globally, so you may not want to share everything!

### FAQs

**Q: Will this work be marked and when is it due?**

*Answer:* This work won’t be formally graded but will be discussed and taken in during your first classes with us in September. You should aim to bring along what you have completed with Flying Start along with you to your first timetabled sessions with us in September.

**Q: I am not sure if I have got the answers right, what should I do?**

*Answer:* Don’t worry. Just have a go at getting something down and bring it along to the lesson where we can talk it through. There is no need to get anxious about the tasks. We are not expecting you to know everything before you arrive but are interested in your ideas and what you have found easy or difficult as it helps us support you right from the beginning.

**Q: How long should I spend on the tasks?**

*Answer:* You should spend a maximum of 2 hours on the tasks. However, if you do choose to have a go at the extension task then it may take you slightly longer. Please be aware that the extension task is an optional extra – if you do choose to complete the extension then your lecturer will collect it in and provide some initial feedback, so it’s definitely worth having a go!

**Q: Can I produce the work by hand or does it need to be completed on a word processor?**

*Answer:* It’s absolutely fine for you to complete the work by hand, on a word processor, or a combination of both. The most important thing is that you remember to bring a hard copy with you to your first A Level English Language lesson as we will be using it during the lesson.

**Q: Is there any recommended reading for A Level English Language?**

*Answer:* While there are no ‘set texts’ for A Level English Language, there are some excellent books that can help you to read around the subject and make sense of key terminology, concepts, ideas and contexts. You can find information and links here: [www.execollenglang.edublogs.org/suggested-reading/](http://www.execollenglang.edublogs.org/suggested-reading/)

**Q: Where can I find out more information related to the A Level English Language course?**

*Answer:* You can access further information on this course electronically here:

- [www.execollenglang.edublogs.org](http://www.execollenglang.edublogs.org)
- [www.twitter.com/execollenglang](http://www.twitter.com/execollenglang)
- [www.facebook.com/execollenglang](http://www.facebook.com/execollenglang)