



Getting Ahead – Pre-course Work

#ThinkBrock

English Language and Literature A Level

Welcome to **English Language and Literature**. In preparation for the start of the course, please complete these tasks and have them with you to hand in during your first week of college in September.

These tasks should take you approximately four and a half hours to complete and are designed to give you an introduction to the subject, and the expectations we have for you to complete at least four and a half hours of independent study, per subject, per week.

The exam board is OCR, and you can find more information about the course on the exam board website: www.ocr.org.uk

Researching Context

For the examined unit, **Reading as a Writer, Writing as a Reader**, you will write an essay about a prose fiction (*The Great Gatsby*) and you need to have a good understanding of the context in which the novel was produced.

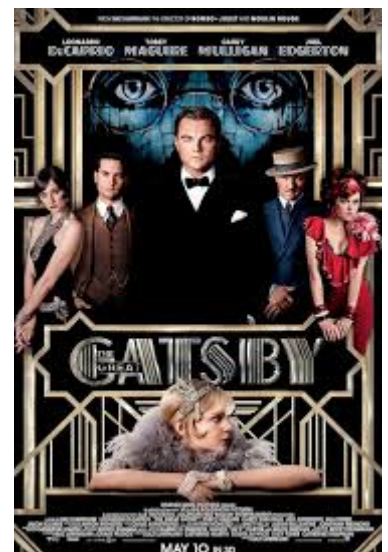
This is a research project. You can format it in any way you like. For example, a power point presentation, a word document, poster presentation etc. But it must be in your own words.

Don't just copy and paste from other sources. You can use short quotes, but always reference them identifying the author, title, publisher, and date of publication, or the URL. You can include these as a list at the end, or as footnotes, or on a separate sheet if you are making a poster presentation. Below is a list of contextual points relevant to the novel for you to research.

Activity 1: *The Great Gatsby* Research Project

- **Society** - Post World War 1 America; the prominence of the motor car, women and the vote, prohibition, attitudes towards race, class and money, the American Dream (at least the idea of it – the term wasn't coined until 1931)
- **Culture** - The film industry, Flappers, 1920s music, Modernism and the Modernist novel
- Scott F. Fitzgerald's biography

And if you are enjoying the research, and want to do more, you could investigate other novelists of the 1920s. Find out their names and the titles of their works.





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Activity 2: Narrative Opening Task

Read the following bullet points. Choose one to begin your opening to a story. Then write the **opening** (not the whole story). Identify one or two other bullet points so that the content of the original bullet points is identifiable in your piece. Aim for 500 words.

- 'Somewhere over the rainbow.'
- She sang a bit off key. But she put all the hope and hunger of her waking life into her singing.
- 'No, no, no,' said a judge on the panel. 'Next, please.'
- As she left the stage, a slick young man met her in the wings.
- 'They know nothing, these so-called experts. Come with me.'
- She looked him straight in the eye. He led, and she followed.

Then write two paragraphs about your language choices.

For example, what narrative voice did you use? First person (I/we)? Third person (He/she/it)? What tense did you use? Past tense? Present tense? From whose point of view does the reader see the action? Does this change? Did you use dialogue? Did you present the feelings of the character(s)? if so, how? How do you see your story developing?

Aim to write about 400 words.

Getting Equipped

For each lesson you will need:

- An A4 pad for writing notes
- At least one folder with dividers
- Pens
- Highlighters
- Texts (e.g. The Great Gatsby) but your lecturer will tell you more about this.