

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

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Study Score = 50

The thing I liked best about English Language was... the way it concerns language use in the modern world. You'll find the language features being analysed in class appearing in the dialogue of people around you! You develop something of a descriptivist attitude to language use through learning about the varieties of English used by different social and cultural groups, as well as how language has changed over time. I think I've become more appreciative of the presence of both standard and non-standard English in society.

The best advice I can give students about English Language is... write heaps of essays! If you haven't written many essays yet and are unsure of what to write about, it's beneficial to first read other people's essays and take note of ideas you could use. As for the actual essay writing, I found that it was easier to start by breaking the process down into smaller components. For example, just listing what you could potentially talk about and thinking about what sort of quotes you might like to use. I would advise looking for quotes at the same time as writing an essay – it's always easier to look for quotes when you know what sort of quotes you're looking for. Remember that it's okay if you take a long time to write your first few essays; these ones are always the hardest because many of the ideas will be new. In later essays, you'll find that certain

themes will start to reappear, allowing you to reuse ideas you've already developed in your previous essays.

The best advice I got from my English Language teacher was... get help if you need it. Don't be afraid to ask questions. This applies to all your subjects. If you're struggling with a concept; feel completely stuck on an essay topic; or want to know what you can do better, ask your teacher to give you a few pointers. This year is not the year to be suffering in silence. Falling behind because you didn't quite catch what happened in class is something you definitely don't want to do!

One month before the final English Language exam, I... started to complete entire practice exams, but not under timed conditions. For the short answer section, I worked on answering questions to an extent that I was satisfied with, regardless of how long it took. If I found that I was writing too much, I would then work on making my answers more concise and removing anything that wasn't necessary in addressing the question.

One week before the final English Language exam, I... tried to keep calm. For English Language revision, I planned a bunch of essay topics and read over some of the essays and analytical commentaries I'd written earlier in the year. For my other subjects, I looked through practice exams I'd done previously, paying attention to the mistakes I had made and taking note to not do the same thing in the actual exams.

On English Language exam day, I prepared myself by... not doing much. Luckily for me, my English Language exam was in the afternoon, so I was able to sleep in and be fully awake for the exam. I think I occupied myself by reading my list of quotes.

After the English Language exam, I... felt a mixture of relief and disappointment. I wasn't particularly happy with what I had written during the exam, but at the same time I knew there was nothing else I could do at that point. That said, I spent a few hours after the exam thinking about what else I could have written, partly to give myself a sense of having satisfactorily completed the exam questions even if not during the actual exam, and partly because I'd managed to convince myself that the subject was interesting enough to keep me thinking about the exam essay topics even after the exam.

The best exam advice I received was... be reasonable with yourself. Don't overwork yourself and make sure you get enough sleep. Don't stress too much about what has already happened (such as a bad SAC mark) and focus instead on what you can realistically still do. However, remember that it's okay to spend time getting over minor setbacks or disappointments if that's what you need to do.

I did not work a part-time job during Year 12 because... I thought having to deal with VCE would be hard enough without having to think about a part-time job as well.

Don't overwork yourself, and make sure you get enough sleep.