



Lincoln College  
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

## PRELIMS PAPER 1A: INTRODUCTION TO ENGLISH LANGUAGE

### PRELIMINARY INFORMATION

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Summer 2024 for Hilary Term 2025

Having studied Paper 1B (Literature) in Michaelmas Term, you will turn to Paper 1A (Language) in Hilary.

This half of Paper 1 introduces you to some of the key concepts and theoretical approaches in the study of the English Language. The aim of this course is to learn how to engage in close linguistic reading of texts, to develop and apply a vocabulary of linguistic terms and concepts, and to understand the history of English (including its major developments and their causes, its rise to global status, and its current and future status).

Over the course of Hilary Term, you will learn how to analyse language using the methods of discourse analysis and stylistics, and we will cover individual topics such as the history of the English language, language and power, language and gender, and regional and social variation. We will critically read 'everyday' and non-literary texts, as found in the media, in politics, in advertising, and so on. We will develop writing skills, including creating bibliographies and appendices, and formatting in citation styles.

Teaching will be through a combination of classes and tutorials in college. You will find the English Faculty lectures essential. I will circulate week-by-week information and further details in Michaelmas Term.

You will be expected to produce a final portfolio for both halves of this course in Trinity Term, including a comparative commentary words which analyses passages of your own choosing.

The Bodleian Library Guides are fantastic – I recommend taking a look at their guides for all of your papers. Relevant here is their Guide to Prelims Paper 1. Some resources here you will only be able to access once you are set up at Oxford, but the exercises are available to all:

<https://libguides.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/english-prelims-paper-1/training>

### CORE READING

Carter, Ronald and Walter Nash, *Seeing through Language: A Guide to Styles of English Writing* (1990)

Crystal, David, *The Stories of English* (2005)

Mugglestone, Lynda, ed., *The Oxford History of English* (2006)

Simpson, Paul and Andrea Mayr, *Language and Power: A Resource Book for Students* [2nd edition] (2018)

Having a solid grasp of English grammar is crucial for linguistic close reading and stylistic analysis, and it will be worth brushing up on this. The following workbook is highly recommended:

Biber, Douglas et al., *Longman Student Grammar of Spoken and Written English* (2003)

### USEFUL PREPATORY READING

Baron, Dennis E., *A Better Pencil: Readers, Writers and the Digital Revolution* (2009)

Cameron, Deborah, *The Myth of Mars and Venus: Do Men and Women Really Speak Different Languages?* (2007)

Culpeper, Jonathan, *History of English* [3rd edition] (2015)

Fowler, Roger, 'Literature as Discourse', in *Literature as Social Discourse: The Practice of Linguistic Criticism* (1981), pp. 80–95

Hebron, Malcolm, *Mastering the Language of Literature* (2004)

Horobin, Simon, *Does Spelling Matter?* (2013)

Mooney, Annabelle et al., *Language, Society, and Power: An Introduction* [4th edition] (2015)

Mugglestone, Lynda, *'Talking Proper': The Rise of Accent as a Social Symbol* [2nd edition] (2007)

Simpson, *Stylistics: A Resource Book for Students* [2nd edition] (2014)

Watts, Richard J., *Alternative Histories of English* (2002)

Open University series, *Worlds of English*:

Companion website, with videos and further resources:

<http://www.routledge.com/cw/worldsofenglish/>

Allington, Daniel and Barbara M. Mayor, *Communicating in English: Talk, Text, Technology* (2012)

Hewings, Ann and Caroline Tagg, eds., *The Politics of English: Conflict, Competition, Co-existence* (2012)

Sergeant, Philip and Joan Swann, eds. *English in the World: History, Diversity, Change* (2012)

### KEY RESOURCES

<https://www.oed.com/>

- [Essential, especially for detailed etymologies. Good for understanding development of Old and Middle English](#)

<https://www.oed.com/information/using-the-oed/>

- Guide to using the *OED*

<https://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/middle-english-dictionary/dictionary>

- [The digitised Middle English Dictionary \(MED\). Essential for all things Middle English](https://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/middle-english-dictionary/dictionary)

<https://libguides.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/english-prelims-paper-1>

- Short exercises and further resources

<https://mcl.as.uky.edu/glossary-rhetorical-terms>

[Glossary of rhetorical techniques](https://mcl.as.uky.edu/glossary-rhetorical-terms)

<http://www.ruf.rice.edu/~kemmer/Words04/>

- Short & readable guide to key terms of language analysis and the history of English

<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/internet-grammar/home.htm>

- [The Internet Grammar of English. As well as the glossary and index, the exercises are very helpful](https://www.ucl.ac.uk/internet-grammar/home.htm)

<https://glossary.sil.org/term/s>

- [Formal definitions of linguistic terms](https://glossary.sil.org/term/s)

<http://rhetoric.byu.edu/>

- [A searchable glossary of rhetorical terms](http://rhetoric.byu.edu/)

<http://visual-memory.co.uk/daniel/Documents/S4B/sem-gloss.html>

- Semiotics for beginners: a glossary of terms