

# A Level English Language and Literature: Information for Prospective Students

## Year One Course Elements

- The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald
- An anthology of short texts drawn from ten different genres including: newspaper articles, podcast transcripts, screenplays, published memoirs and diaries
- A Raisin in the Sun by Lorraine Hansberry

The Great Gatsby is the first text we will study. **Reading this before September would be excellent preparation.**

You will be given a copy of the Voices Anthology (published by the exam board – not available to buy) in September. You can very usefully prepare for this aspect of the course by reading/listening/watching widely over the summer and considering the voice crafted by each text producer. I would strongly encourage you to begin regularly reading a newspaper/magazine columnist you enjoy and to start listening to a podcast series you find interesting (some suggestions below).

Newspaper columnists (free to read):

<https://www.theguardian.com/profile/georgemonbiot> passionate journalism with a focus on protecting the natural environment

<https://www.theguardian.com/profile/marinahyde> funny, often acerbic writing on widely varying topics – politics, sport, celeb culture

Podcasts/radio shows:

S-Town (fantastic storytelling that just happens to be about a real person)

Start the Week (BBC Radio 4 – lively, thoughtful discussion)

TV/films also count but only if they're good – nothing predictable, nothing that seems like another show you've already seen:

Fleabag, Atlanta, The White Lotus (which contains a subtle nod to The Great Gatsby),

The Wire, Breaking Bad

I hope you find some things to enjoy here and I look forward to meeting you in September.