

A level English Literature

Why do I need to complete a bridging activity?

The purpose of this activity is to aid your preparation for advanced level study and make the transition from GCSE study as smooth as possible. Some activities are written pieces of work, some are research-based and some are practical. They should be completed to the best of your ability and they will give you the opportunity to start to showcase your talent for your chosen subjects. As these are compulsory activities, it is vital that you put in the time and effort to ensure they are completed to the highest standard.

When should I hand this in?

You should complete this activity for the start of your first lesson in September.

How will I be given feedback?

Feedback appropriate to the task will be given to you by your teacher.

Summary of the activity

There are 3 tasks for you to complete. **The tasks link to your first term study of *The Songs of Innocence and of Experience* by William Blake.** The tasks involve research into some of the social and historical factors which were important during Blake's lifetime. You may use any sources for your research (including the internet), but please make sure that you write the answers in your own words.

Complete the following research tasks:

Task 1

The following are some important events which happened in England, France and America during Blake's lifetime. Find out the date of the events and put the list into the right order, from earliest to latest

Date	Event
	Thomas Paine published <i>The Rights of Man</i>
	Luddite rioters start breaking machines
	The War of American Independence
	The Peterloo Massacre
	The Gordon Riots
	The Execution of Louis XVI & the French declaration of war on England
	The French Revolution

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Task 2

Choose **one** of the events and find out a little more about it.

- Write brief summary notes (bullet points are fine, ½ to 1 side of A4)

Task 3

Read Blake's poem 'The Chimney Sweeper'. There are two versions of this poem, the one below was published in the 'Songs of Experience' collection.

The Chimney Sweeper

A little black thing among the snow,
Crying "weep! 'weep!' in notes of woe!
'Where are thy mother & father, say?'
'They are both gone up to the church to pray.

'Because I was happy upon the heath
And smil'd among the winter's snow,
They clothed me in the clothes of death,
And taught me to sing the notes of woe.

And because I am happy & dance & sing,
They think they have done me no injury;
And are gone to praise God & his Priest & King,
Who make up a heaven of our misery.'

Find out information about the practice of using children as chimney sweepers during the late 18th century when Blake was writing. Blake lived from 1750 to 1827. The Songs of Innocence were published in 1789 and the Songs of Experience in 1794.

- Write brief summary notes (bullet points are fine, 1 side of A4)

Bridging Activity for September 2017



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Student Name (to be completed by the student)