



Yn paratoi at...
Getting Ready for...

CA4 (Safon Uwch)

KS5 (A Level)

Cymraeg ail iaith

Welsh 2nd Language

Commissioned by GCSEPod.

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April 2020



Activities

1. Cymru – Gwlad, gwlad pleidiol wyf i'm gwlad.

What does it mean to be Welsh? We sing these words as part of the Welsh national anthem, but do we really know what we are saying? Surely there's more to Wales than daffodils and dragons! Being Welsh is belonging to a country, and that country has a history, culture, and traditions and of course its own unique language.

During the A Level course, you will get the opportunity to learn more about Wales' history, its campaigns, triumphs, and difficulties.

- Look at the timeline in the link and learn about the people who fought for the privileges that we enjoy today. [Llinell amser \(cliciwch\)](#) [From the Welsh Government]
- Write a note of thanks to one of the many heroes in Welsh history to thank him / her for their commitment and sacrifice.

2. Gramadeg 1 : Treigladau (Grammar 1 : Mutations)

As with all languages, there are numerous grammar rules in Welsh. Perhaps those which cause the biggest issue are those connected to mutations.

- Take some time to recap on these rules, and make your own poster or booklet as a personal reference for the TREIGLADAU. This will be of great help to you as you plan to study Welsh at A level.

Look at some of these YouTube clips [Created by Ysgol Y Strade Swyddogol] to remind yourself of the mutation rules.

[Treiglad Meddal](#)

[Treiglad Trwynol](#)

- Why not create your own video tutorial explaining the rules?

3. Gramadeg 2 : Amserau'r ferf (Grammar 2 : Verb Tenses)

Whatever you plan to say or write, you will need to decide on a verb tense. Past, present, conditional, and future – all these tenses have their own verb endings and their own set of rules. Most of these will have already been covered, but now at A Level you will need to be more confident in their use.

- It's a good time to look back at these tenses, and make sure you're secure in understanding and using varied tenses both in speaking and writing.
- Part of the AS course concentrates on changing verbs from the first person to the third person. This is another challenge for you to master.



4. Siarad, siarad, siarad (Talk, talk, talk)

The most important skill when learning Cymraeg is speaking. This is your main form of communication and this is what you want more than anything – to be fluent in the language, and to play an active part in a bilingual community.

So, start now.

- Does anyone in your family speak Welsh? What about school friends? Make a conscious effort to connect with them at certain times yn Gymraeg.

Your language doesn't need to be perfect; it just needs to be Welsh or even Wenglish. Make the effort – you'll be surprised how much your confidence will grow and how much you will learn.

- Hold a conversation with a family member or friend or prepare a short speech in Welsh and get someone to listen to you. Whatever the task, your emphasis is on siarad, siarad, siarad.

5. Defnyddio'r cyfryngau (Use of the media)

As with any language, the media is an integral part of a community's life. So, with Welsh we need to consider the influence of S4C, BBC Cymru, and Radio Cymru, of course.

- Look at S4C or S4C Clic and decide to watch a variety of programmes during the next two weeks. Watch a cartoon, a chat show, a drama, the news ... It doesn't matter - hearing and responding to the language is what's important. Suggested programmes include FfitCymru, Iaithe ar Daith, Hansh and Heno.
- Why not decide to follow one of the programmes for a longer period of time? It will help extend vocabulary and improve your oral confidence.

6. Cymraeg tu allan i Gymru (Welsh outside Wales)

There are areas that speak Welsh outside of Wales. There are schools that teach Welsh outside of Wales. There are societies that meet through the medium of Welsh outside of Wales. Don't underestimate the language.

- Read on the internet how students in Tokyo are learning Welsh, read about the Welsh medium school in London, and read about people learning Welsh in Australia.
- Think about all those Welsh people around the world and also those who represent Wales, whether in sport, the world of entertainment or business. Choose 5 people who you admire and create fact files on their lives.
- Send a Twitter message to the person you admire most, explaining how they contribute in a positive way to their country and / or the Welsh language.



7. Patagonia: gwlad yr addewid (Patagonia: the country of promise)

In the middle of the 19th century, there was much inequality in Wales, and many suffered from poverty. There was limited freedom of religion as well and many were worried about protecting and maintaining the Welsh language.

Opportunity arose for people to make a new life and a new future, but this meant a long voyage by sea, across the world to South America and the land of Patagonia. In July 1865, the *Mimosa* set sail with 153 passengers (each had paid £12) for the two-month voyage to Argentina.

- Learn more about this by doing some research online.
- Find out about the voyage and the difficulties which met the Welsh on arrival, and find out about the 150-year celebration of unity between Wales and Patagonia in 2015.

It's important to know these things as the text for your oral exam will be the film 'Patagonia'.

8. Patagonia, y ffilm (Patagonia, the film)

Marc Evans decided to produce the film *Patagonia* after spending time in South America. He wanted to make people aware of the strong connection between Wales and the Welsh settlements there.

He decided to write about two women making two journeys. Gwen is at the start of her life and is making the journey towards her future. Cerys on the other hand is reaching the end of her life and is concentrating on her past. Gwen travels from Wales to Patagonia whereas Cerys returns to Wales from Patagonia in search of her roots.

- Watch the trailer of the film on Youtube, or find and watch the whole film if you like.
- Think about the two women. Create a timeline of events and show how the characters in both countries play a part in the two journeys.

9. Barddoniaeth (Poetry)

As part of your AS Level you will need to study 5 poems in Welsh. Each poem has a message and a relevance to us today. The poems talk of cities and of change, of inequality and of love.

- Do you have any knowledge of Welsh poetry? Why not start by looking at the work of some Welsh poets whose work is available in Welsh and English e.g. Menna Elfyn. She has even written a series of poems for those who are learning Welsh.
- Choose a poem and record yourself reading the poem aloud. Share it with others and ask friends to share a poem with you. Remember, a poem can be



interpreted in a different way by different people. No-one is wrong and we must respect each person's interpretation.

- Think about the vocabulary you will need to discuss poetry (e.g. verse, poet, rhyme, alliteration, poem)
- Make a list in Welsh of the 20 words you think you will need to use on a regular basis. You have been given 5 to start you off!

10. Targed Llywodraeth Cymru (Welsh Government Target)

We've looked at Wales and the Welsh language in the past and the present, but what about the future? The Welsh Government has set a target of a million Welsh speakers by 2050. It describes the Welsh language as "un o drysorau Cymru," one of the treasures of Wales.

The challenge is that people – native Welsh speakers, Welsh learners, and those who have moved to Wales – recognise their part in this journey so that Welsh may become an integral element in all elements of life in Wales.

- Do some research online about the Welsh Government's target, and consider your role in it.
- Think about the ways in which this can be achieved. What part do young people like yourself have to play here?
- Why not write a blog or a vlog explaining the government's target and suggesting strategies for success?