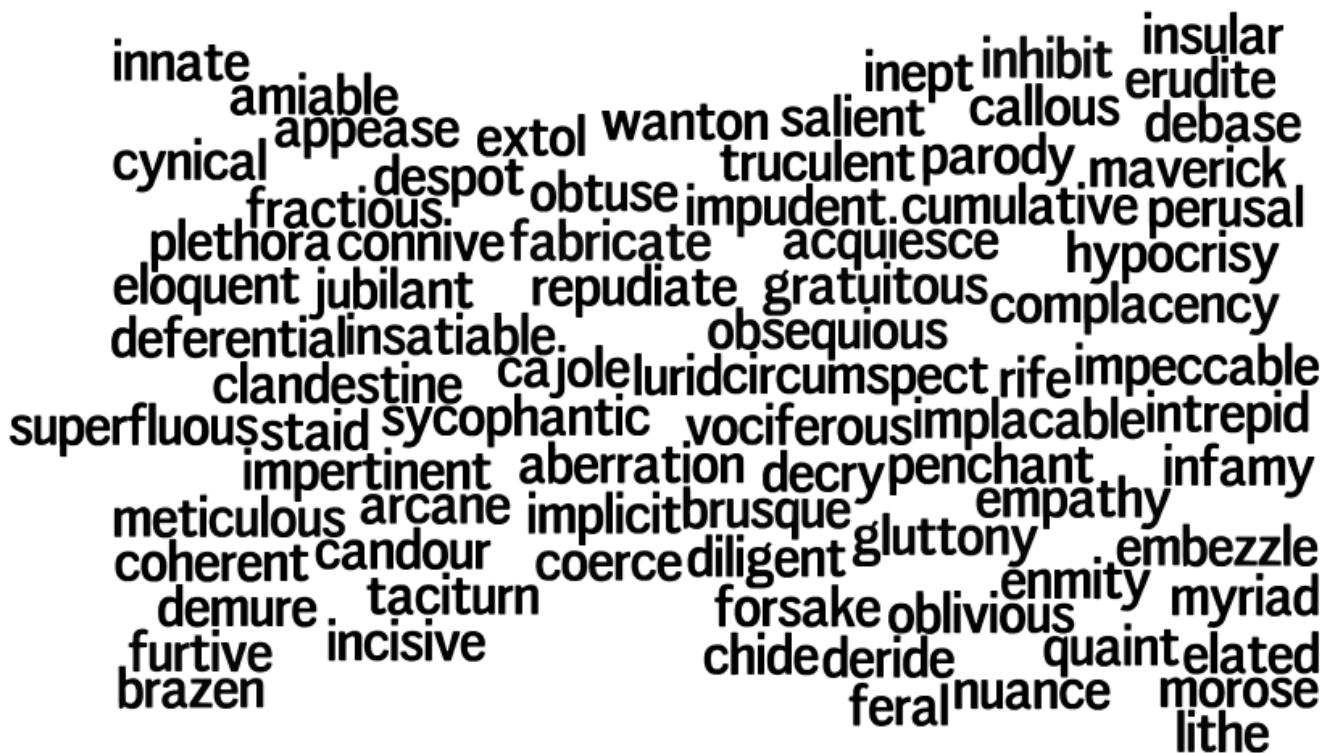


5 Steps to an A* Vocabulary

1. Use analytical verbs:	<i>suggest, imply, describe, demonstrate, convey, seem</i>
2. Use modal verbs and adverbs to show tentativeness:	<i>V: might, could, may, should A: probably, perhaps</i>
3. Use pronouns and determiners that add authority rather than personalise ideas:	<i>we/us/our (Avoid 'I' and 'me')</i>
4. Use occasional passive constructions to add detachment:	<i>it can be seen that, it might be thought, it could be argued</i>
5. Build a vocabulary that adds precision and subtlety to your expressions:	<i>See the word cloud below: 80 words you ought to know</i>



The secret of how to be a confident A* student ...

(Roll of drums)

Read a lot. That's it.

(Preferably read books, quality newspapers and magazines, which ideally contain fictional or non-fictional writing built around ideas and which demonstrate complexity, elegance and clarity). I can suggest starting-points if you like.