



ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Students will take the full A-level at the end of their Upper Sixth Year. They will not be entered for the AS examination.

English Language A-level is much more specialist than the English studied at GCSE level, requiring clear understanding of grammatical and structural features to analyse the subtle language choices made in every written or spoken text. This descriptive linguistic approach celebrates the diversity of the English language and how it changes according to identity and cultural contexts.

Students will cover a broad selection of topics ranging from: language and social groups, language and occupation, language and power, language and gender, to the rise of global English, together with broader areas of study such as: child language acquisition and a history of the English Language.

The course allows maximum opportunity to develop personal and independent language interests. For example, the students are able to investigate an area of language in which they have a particular interest as part of their coursework; in addition, the course allows students to pursue an interest in creative or transactional writing, and encourages an exploration of texts of many genres.

English Language combines well with Languages, Drama, History, Politics, Psychology and Business Studies, while offering breadth to students with science-based options. It also complements English Literature very effectively, particularly for those students considering reading English at university.

THE COURSE

Examination Board: AQA

Students will take the A-level at the end of the two year course. There is no AS level offered for English Language.

A-Level

Component 1: Language, the Individual and Society

This component assesses textual variations and representations, the development of children's speech, reading and writing from 0 – 11 years. Advanced methods of language

analysis are integrated into the activities. The component is assessed in a written exam of 2 hours 30 minutes and makes up 40% of the A-level.

The component is split into two sections: Section A will consist of three questions on two unseen texts (one contemporary and one older text) linked by topic or theme. There will be one question on each of the texts and one question comparing the texts. Section B will focus on children's language development; this is assessed through one discursive essay from a choice of two questions. Again the data provided will focus on spoken, written or multimodal language.

Component 2: Language, Diversity and Change

This component assesses language diversity and change, language discourses, and writing skills. Advanced methods of language analysis are integrated into the activities. The component is assessed in a written exam of 2 hours 30 minutes and makes up 40% of the A-level.

The component is split into two sections: Section A will consist of one evaluative question on language diversity or change, from a choice of two options. Section B assess language discourses through analysis of two texts about a topic linked to the study of diversity and change. There are two questions in this section, one question requiring analysis of how the texts use language to present ideas, attitudes and opinions and second directed writing task linked to the same topic and the ideas in the texts, which may be in the format of an option article or persuasive writing task.

Component 3: NEA (Non-Examined Assessment)

Investigating Language and Original Writing

Students are expected to research an area of English Language of their choice to present an informed investigation of 2000 words (excluding data). They also have the opportunity to develop their own original writing by producing one piece of writing and a commentary totalling 1500 words. The original writing can be creative, persuasive or informative and encourages students to read a range of texts and genres. Both the investigation and original writing must be completed for this component. This counts for 20% of the A Level.

CAREERS

English Language A-level would be a useful qualification to those who envisage any career that deals with written or spoken English. In particular, students contemplating careers in the fields of journalism, education, advertising, publishing, management at all levels, work in the media or public relations would be empowered by this qualification.

Education	Civil Service
Advertising	Speech Therapy
Writing	Politics
Publishing	Broadcasting
Journalism	Management Consultancy
Law	Librarianship
Personnel Management	Public Relations