

English Language

Overview:

Exam Board; AQA

English Language A Level is an interesting, stimulating and thought-provoking course that gives you a chance to analyse and understand everyday language and explore how it works. You will study a wide range of texts including spoken transcripts, adverts, articles and literary extracts. Part of the course involves analytical skills, looking at technical aspects of language such as grammar and how texts are written. You will also have the opportunity to explore the meaning, context, purpose and intended audience of a range of texts. Other parts of the course allow you to study how language works in everyday life such as learning how children speak, gender differences in language use, regional varieties or how language has changed over time. You will also have the opportunity to develop your own writing skills and develop journalistic, creative and academic styles of writing.

Content:

Key Units/ Content

- Language Levels (text analysis)
- Language Varieties (gender, accent and dialect, sexuality, occupation, age, social groups, ethnicity)
- Child Language development
- History of English
- World English

Key Skills

- Enjoyment of debate and discussion
- An ability to analyse texts
- Good written expression
- Enthusiasm for creative writing
- Willingness to improve and listen to feedback

Entry Requirements: 5 in either English Language or English Literature GCSE

How Assessed:

How many exams: Two exams. Each exam is 2h30 minutes and is worth 40% of the A Level.

Breakdown of marks:

Paper 1: Language, the Individual and Society

This is a written exam (2 hours 30 minutes) which is worth 40% of your A level.

Section A: Textual Variations and Representations

You will be given two texts (one contemporary and one older text) linked by topic or theme. You will be given 3 tasks:

A question requiring analysis of one text (25 marks)

A question requiring analysis of a second text (25 marks)

A question requiring comparison of the two texts (20 marks)

Section B: Children's Language Development

A discursive essay on children's language development, with a choice of two questions where the data provided will focus on spoken, written or multimodal language (30 marks)

Paper 2: Language Diversity and Change

This is a written exam (2 hours 30 minutes) which is worth 40% of your A level.

Section A: Diversity and Change

One question from a choice of two: either an evaluative essay on language diversity OR language change (30 marks).

Section B: Language Discourses

You will be given two texts about a topic linked to the study of diversity and change. You will then be asked to:

Answer a question which requires analysis of how the texts use language to present ideas, attitudes and opinions (40 marks)

Complete a writing task linked to the same topic and the idea in the texts (30 marks)

Coursework:

This unit is worth 20% of your A level and is assessed by your teachers. You will produce:

A language investigation (2000 words, excluding data)

A piece of original writing and accompanying commentary (1500 words)

Progression:

Careers: Journalism, Law, Childcare and Education, Marketing and Advertising

University Courses: English, Journalism, Marketing, Speech and Language Therapy, Education, Childhood Studies

Links with other subjects: English Literature, Sociology, Psychology, History and Health and Social Care

Key Words:

Linguistics