

English Language A Level

Who is the course for?

This course is perfect for those students who are curious about the construction of the English language. With exciting text and data-based sources of language, the specification introduces the study of English in its various forms and contexts. Concepts and methods appropriate for the analysis of language underpin all elements of the course.

This course allows students to build on the skills already gained at GCSE.

However, it is nothing like your GCSE course. It is essentially an introduction to linguistics and is a fascinating insight into language and how it works within our society.

The variety of assessment styles used, such as data analysis, discursive essays, directed writing, original writing and research-based investigative writing, allows students to develop a wide range of skills. These include critical reading, data analysis, evaluation, the ability to develop and sustain arguments, and a number of different writing skills which are invaluable for both further study and future employment.

'Languages should be thought of as national treasures, and treated accordingly' (Professor David Crystal- Language academic).

'The field of linguistics includes both science and the humanities, and offers a breadth of coverage that, for many aspiring students of the subject, is the primary source of its appeal' (Professor David Crystal- Language academic).

What does the course involve?

You must be prepared to work hard, engage with the subject both inside and outside the classroom, and keep up to date with real life examples of language and its usage in the wider world.

Topics in year 12 and 13 include:

- The Language Levels (grammar, lexis etc.)
- Language from 1600-today
- Diversity looking at certain groups e.g. gender, ethnicity and social groups
- Child Language Acquisition

Assessment Methods

A Level - Paper 1: Language, the Individual and Society (40% 2hrs 30)

Topics: textual variation, representation and children's language development (0-11 years).

A Level - Paper 2: Language, Diversity and Change (40% 2hrs 30)

Topics: language diversity, language change, attitudes to language and directed writing.

Coursework: Non-Exam Assessment (20% of A-level)

1. A language investigation (2,000 words excluding data). Students ask their own question about language, devise a method to collect the data and write a report on their findings.

2. A piece of original writing on one of the following: the power of persuasion; the power of storytelling; or the power of information (750 words). Additionally, a reflective commentary on this original writing (750 words).

Progression Options

Speech and language therapy, journalism/media, advertising, law, publishing or education. English Language is a subject suitable for a wide range of courses in higher education, employment in a range of sectors, and offers opportunities for further study at post-graduate level.

Awarding Body

AQA