



English Language A Level (AQA)

Why study this subject?

English Language A level encourages students to develop their understanding of the use of language in the world around them, through learning about its structures, functions, development and variations at local and global levels. Students have the opportunity to express themselves in speech and writing, producing texts for different audiences and purposes, in different genres. The linguistic skills and knowledge acquired through this course enable students to explore the uses and dynamics of language in a range of social, geographical and political contexts; it prepares them for further academic study and the working world beyond.

Entry Requirements

Please see the entry requirements page on the school website.

Content

- Language, the Individual and Society
- Language Diversity and Change
- Language in Action

Methods of Language Analysis are integrated into all three components.

Assessment

The variety of assessment styles used, such as data analysis, discursive essays, directed writing, original writing and research-based investigative writing at A Level, 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.

Language, the Individual and Society: 2.5 hours (40% of A level)

- Text Variations and Representations:

Three texts – One question on each (25 marks each)

Plus one comparison of texts (20 marks).

- Child language development:

One question from a choice of two; from spoken, written or multi-modal language (30 marks)

Language Diversity and Change: 2.5 hours (40% of A level)

- Language Diversity: One question from a choice of two, on text/data from Gender, Occupation, Accent, Dialect etc. OR Language Change (30 marks)
- Language Discourses: One analytical essay on language attitudes in two texts (40 marks) plus one opinion article about both texts (30 marks)

Language in Action: Non-exam Assessment (20% of A Level)

- Language Investigation (independent coursework)
- Original Writing and Commentary

NB. Coursework is assessed internally and AQA moderated.



Future courses and possible careers

English can lead directly to BA Honours university courses in English Language, Journalism, Linguistics, History, Sociology, Psychology, etc. It is an excellent choice for any career where sophisticated written and oral communication is important: Banking, Publishing, Personal Management, Teaching, Law (Barrister/Solicitor), Politics and Advertising. The creative element of the course is conducive to a career as a professional writer, such as journalist, novelist, playwright and screenwriter – and many more.