

A Level English Language

Why study English Language at A Level?

English Language A level explores the study of English language both as a medium of communication and as a topic in its own right, with an emphasis on the ability of students to pursue lines of enquiry, debate different views, and work independently to research aspects of language in use.

Through the detailed study of a variety of texts and data you will analyse how and why language is used in different contexts and develop a knowledge of linguistic terminology to support your theories. There are also many opportunities for you to develop your personal writing skills.

What will I study?

You will study a range of written and spoken texts and be given an insight into how the English Language has changed from its Anglo Saxon roots to the present day. You will study the key concepts of audience, purpose, genre and mode and will explore language in its wider social and geographical context as well as study varieties of English within the British Isles and consider social attitudes to, and debates about, language diversity. The course gives you an insight into the research linked to how children acquire language, providing you with an understanding of both linguistic and cognitive development in children. You will learn how to think critically, how to use research to conduct an investigation and how to record and analyse your own language data with technical precision. You will also be given the opportunity to create texts and reflect critically on your own processes of production.

Assessment

Paper 1: Language, the Individual and Society, 2 hours and 30 minutes (40%)

There are two sections in this exam. In section A you will answer three questions in response to unseen text extracts. In section B you will respond to a critical statement and set of data on child language acquisition.

Paper 2: Language Diversity and Change, 2 hours and 30 minutes (40%)

There are two sections in this exam. In section A you will answer one essay question on a topic connected to language diversity and change. In section B you will compare how language is used to present viewpoints in unseen texts and write a non-fiction response on the topic of language discourse.

NEA: Two assignments (20%)

You will complete a language investigation and piece of original writing with commentary.

Study trips, visits and events

You will get to meet and engage with visiting speakers, attend university lectures, take part in coaching and mentoring opportunities with younger students and writing competitions such as BBC Young Writers' Award.

Subject entry requirements

5 in English Language.