



English Language A Level (AQA)

Why study this subject?

English Language, at A Level, encourages students to develop their interest and appreciation of the many manifestations of English, through learning about its structures, functions, development and variations, at local and global levels. It allows students to develop their ability to express themselves in speech and writing; producing texts for different audiences and purposes, in different genres. The skills acquired enable students to explore the acquisition, uses and dynamics of language and the significance of social, political and economic contexts. The study of English is crucial to our understanding of the spoken and written language that is fundamental to our operation in the global community.

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.