

A LEVEL ENGLISH LANGUAGE
(AQA specification)



Students wishing to follow this course should have achieved at least a grade 5 at GCSE. To succeed, it is crucial to have an interest in the use and development of our language and to enjoy writing for various purposes. Some aspects are similar to those of GCSE English, including original writing and textual analysis.

English Language at A Level is an appropriate choice for students wishing to go on to a degree course in linguistics, the humanities or arts subjects.

YEAR ONE

Students will study elements of the A level paper 1 and paper 2

Paper 1: Language and the Individual

On the exam, there will be two questions requiring analysis of the two separate texts provided and a third question requiring students to compare those two texts. The texts will be from a variety of modes (written, spoken, electronic). One of the texts will be from a previous era.

Paper 2: Language Varieties

Students will study language diversity and attitudes to language discourses such as gender, accent and dialect, youth dialects, political correctness and language change. They will be asked to write an essay from a theoretical perspective, and a creative piece (probably journalistic in nature) exploring attitudes to these language issues.

YEAR TWO

Paper 1: Language, the Individual and Society – 40% of the A Level – 2 hour 30 minutes examination

Section A: There will be two questions requiring analysis of the two separate texts provided and a third question requiring students to compare those two texts. The texts will be from a variety of modes (written, spoken, electronic).

Section B: Students will write a discursive essay on children’s language development.

Paper 2: Language, Diversity and Change – 40% of the A Level – 2 hour 30 minutes examination

Section A: An evaluative essay on language diversity **OR** on language change.

Section B: Two texts about a topic linked to the study of diversity and change leading to an analysis question and a directed writing question on the same topic.

Coursework – 20% - Language in Action (see over for further details)

This will include a language investigation (2000 words) and a piece of original writing with explanatory commentary (1500 words).

GCSE requirements:-

English Language – grade 5
English Literature – grade 5



Coursework – further details

Language Investigation

Students may choose to pursue an area of individual interest. For example, this might include studies of:

- representations of different individuals, social groups or nationalities
- regional dialect
- gendered talk
- the language of new communication technologies
- children's language use
- the language of the media
- code switching and mixing between English and other languages
- the language of different occupations or pastimes
- historical changes in English over time.

Investigations need a specific focus, for example:

- the writing of two children aged 8
- features of the Devon dialect, based on a survey
- the language of wedding ceremonies from two different cultures
- the language of teachers' reports
- the language used in three different advertisements for a particular product
- how stories are told in a particular comic
- how travel guides represent a particular community
- the language of sports commentary
- how turn taking works in real-time writing online

Original Writing

Students will produce one piece of original writing based on one of the following three areas:

- The Power of Persuasion
- The Power of Storytelling
- The Power of Information

and one accompanying commentary.

The folder submitted should contain:

- a piece of original writing
- an annotated style model
- a reflective commentary