

A Level English Language

Why study English Language?

This is for you if you enjoy analysing language and its relationship to us - we can't survive without it! You will investigate how children learn to talk, how our daily lives shape the way we speak and how web pages have really developed from books.

English Language is a course that can be studied with almost anything else. Although it is an 'English' subject, application is more socioscientific, and so it compliments science based subjects, too. The course requires you to be able to analyse texts and then synthesize material, and also to produce your own creative writing pieces and to remould those of others.

Higher Education

You could go on to study English (just Language or Lit/Lang combined) or Linguistics, take a communications degree or go into teaching or law.

Careers

The possibilities are endless. This year's A2 students are going into Teaching, Law, Journalism and Theatre Studies.

Entry Requirements:

- Desire and enthusiasm to analyse language
- Ability to write discursive pieces
- Interest in developing own creative writing
- Ability to discuss; to share your own ideas, but also to build on and challenge those of others
- Minimum GCSE grade C in English, English Literature and at least 4 other subjects

AS outline

At AS, this specification will enable candidates to explore the fundamental structures and functions of writing, speech and conversation and how language functions in different social contexts.

The AS specification has 2 units:

Unit 1: Categorising Texts

Topic list

- Exploring and understanding spoken and written language in use
- The roles of purposes, audiences and contexts and the impact of these pressures upon language production and reception
- An analysis and investigation of a variety of extracts taken from everyday sources.

Assessment

External Exam: 1 hour 30 minutes

Weighting: 60% of total AS / 30% of total A Level marks

This unit covers the introductory aspects of the study of language, using a variety of texts for the basis of this study. In addition it focuses on three specific social contexts: Language and Power, Language and Gender and Language and Technology.

Unit 2: Creating Texts

Topic list

- Development of personal writing expertise through individual coursework
- Writing to entertain, to persuade, to inform and to instruct
- The use of register and style; characteristics of genres and sub-genres; the impact of language choices (lexis and grammar) and discourse strategies; the purposes and skills of planning, drafting and redrafting; the use of primary sources and of clear referencing of these materials; skills associated with analysing and reviewing the writing process and the reception of their own texts.

Assessment

Coursework

Weighting: 40% of total AS / 20% of total A Level marks

In this unit candidates are encouraged to develop their own writing skills, producing writing in different genres for different audiences and purposes.

A2 outline

At A2, the specification explores the nature and functions of language, how its key constituent parts have developed under the influence of a variety of contextual factors and how these changes may be analysed and evaluated creatively.

The A2 specification has 2 units:

Unit 3: Exploring Comparison and Production

Topic list

- Language acquisition - the nature and functions of language acquisition and social development of children from 0-11 years
- Language change - historical and contemporary changes in the English Language from Late Modern English (1700+) to the present day.

Assessment

External Exam: 2 hours
Weighting: 30% of total A Level marks

This unit has a detailed focus on two specific areas of language study: Child Language Acquisition and Language Change.

Unit 4: Investigating Language

Topic list

- Coursework exploring and analysing language data
- Data collection methodology
- Analysis and interpretation of data using appropriate linguistic methods and techniques
- Evaluation and investigative conclusions.

Assessment

Coursework

Weighting: 20% of total A Level marks

In this unit candidates apply their knowledge of linguistic methods and concepts to an investigation of their choice.