

Summary of course content and assessment scheme

The course covers a variety of aspects of linguistic study and offers the opportunity for analysis of the language that we use in many different areas of life. Every student will learn the linguistic terminology that should underpin your study of texts as you explore language, the individual and society. We examine the history of how our language developed right through to the present day and possible changes in the future, from Dr Samuel Johnson to Boris Johnson! You will also explore how children learn to speak, read and write and get the chance to conduct your own personal linguistic investigation. Students produce a piece of original writing that is either persuasive, informative or a piece of storytelling.

You will find key differences between English Language at GCSE and A-level and the progression can be quite challenging. A Level English Language is quite scientific and full of complex new terminology but is fascinating in its range of topics and its relevance to our modern world.

| Component | Weighting | Assessment |
|--|-----------|--|
| Component 1: Language, the Individual and Society Written Paper | 40% | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 hours 30 mins • 100 marks • Section A – 70 marks • Section B – 30 marks |
| Component 2: Language Diversity and Change Written Paper | 40% | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 hours 30 mins • 100 marks • Section A – 30 marks • Section B – 70 marks |
| Component 3: Non-exam assessment | 20% | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100 marks • <u>Investigation – 50%</u> <p>A language investigation (2,000 words excluding data)</p> <p>Students ask their own question about language, devise a method to collect the data and write a report on their findings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Original Writing and Commentary – 50%</u> <p>Students produce a piece of original writing on one of the following (750 words)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The power of persuasion ➤ The power of storytelling ➤ The power of information <p>A reflective commentary (750 words)</p> |

Why you should study English Language in the Sixth form:

As Aldous Huxley once said, “Thanks to words, we have been able to rise above the brutes; and thanks to words, we have often sunk to the level of the demons”. We all rely on the English Language to carry out our day to day lives, but most of us are not aware of how much we manipulate, invent, destroy and develop our mother tongue every time that we speak, read, write and listen. By trying to understand the nature of language we ask fundamental questions about our own species; how we judge people socially through the way they communicate, how we construct our own identity through the language we use and how every person has their own unique language patterns. The course is ideal for people who have a real interest in the way language works. as well as those who have enjoyed the original writing aspect of GCSE English.

Comments from students who have studied this subject in the past

- “I have learnt lots of new things and the course is a lot more challenging than GCSE so I am always kept interested!”
- “English language helps you understand why you do certain things when you write and the effect that it has.”
- “Join in now! – that’s an imperative verb. See how much I’ve learnt? – Rhetorical question. It will dramatically change your life forever! – Hyperbole and emotive language. I’ve learnt a lot and already improved my writing!”

Frequently asked Questions

- *What do I need to succeed at A Level English Language?*
 - ⇒ An analytical mind and a real curiosity about our language
 - ⇒ An interest in reading non-fiction texts as well as fiction
 - ⇒ Creativity and imagination
 - ⇒ A willingness to share your ideas in class discussion
 - ⇒ The ability to write coherently and logically and structure your arguments carefully
 - ⇒ Commitment and motivation
- *How much work does the course involve?*

You will have four lessons per week in the subject, two with each teacher. You will normally get one piece of homework from each teacher per week. For coursework this is often a creative writing task and for the exam it is often an essay based on textual analysis. However you may also be asked to carry out your own linguistic research, complete questions or prepare presentations for the rest of the class.
- *Are there any opportunities for trips?*

As this is a relatively new course we are still investigating the extra-curricular opportunities that exist. We hope to organise a trip to a Language conference to give students chance to hear from real linguistic researchers this year.
- *What can I do with A Level English Language?*

Students of English language are highly prized for their communications skills and analytical abilities. Because you are studying the thing that you will probably use the most whatever you do in life – your language – it easily complements any educational course that may follow and provides a new perspective on most professions. The most obvious career paths include working in the media (publishing, television, journalism), teaching and law, but the subject also enhances students’ job prospects in the leisure industries (travel, sports development, events management), sales and marketing, and many other areas of industry and education. Because of its scientific nature A level English Language can fit well with subjects such as sociology, psychology and also some of the more traditional science subjects.
- *I really liked both English’s at GCSE, should I do English Language or English Literature?*

Study our handy comparison chart to see the difference between the two A levels. Ask yourself whether you like reading and analysing characters or you prefer non-fiction texts. Talk to the English teachers to find out more. And if you can’t decide, you could always select both!

Clare Hutchins, Head of English