

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

KS5 (AQA A-level English Language)

Curriculum Overview

Students will develop a broad knowledge and understanding of textual variations and representations which will enable them to analyse text and data-based sources of language critically and systematically. Synthesising these skills will enable students to create a variety of distinct texts and styles in their own writing.

YR12 & 13



Course Content and Skill Development

This course will develop students' skills in close analysis of language, how meaning is created and communicated and they will extend their own skills as a writer and communicator. They also look at children's language development, and language diversity and change, and complete a piece of non-examination assessment based on a topic of their choice.

AO1 - Select and apply a range of linguistic methods to communicate relevant knowledge using appropriate terminology and coherent, accurate written expression.

AO2 - Demonstrate critical understanding of a range of concepts and issues related to the construction and analysis of meanings in spoken and written language, using knowledge of linguistic approaches.

AO3 - Analyse and evaluate the influence of contextual factors on the production and reception of spoken and written language, showing knowledge of the key constituents of language.

AO4 - Explore connections across texts, informed by linguistic concepts and methods.

AO5 - Demonstrate expertise and creativity in the use of English in a range of different contexts, informed by linguistic study.

Specification Links

AS-Level: <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/as-level/english-7701/specification>

A-Level: <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/a-level/english-7702/specification>

When and how assessment of learning will happen

The final exams/ assessment:

Two terminal exams in Year 13, both of 2 hours 30 minutes duration, each counting for 40% of the A Level. These papers will focus on Language and the Individual and Language Varieties. This will include a directed writing task on a topical Language issue. There is also a Non-Examination Assessment unit - a piece of Independent Language research and a piece of creative writing.

There are a variety of assessment styles used, such as data analysis, discursive essays, directed writing, original writing and research-based investigative writing, allowing 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 which are invaluable for both further study and future employment.

Home Learning Expectations

The A-level non-exam assessment component provides opportunities for students to pursue their own areas of interest and develop personal and independent learning skills.

Students need to demonstrate high standards of work and meet course requirements, including completion of all work to set deadlines.

Useful Information

English Language is a useful qualification for a variety of career paths such as teaching, psychology, speech therapy, media and business – in fact any career where communication is valuable or valued. It is helpful for university degree courses in English/Linguistics, English Literature, Psychology, Business Studies, Journalism, Media, History, Sociology, Health and Social Care... the list goes on.

Further Course Information:

- <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/as-and-a-level/english-language-7701-7702>
- <https://www.superprof.co.uk/blog/learn-english-language-a-level/>

Why study English Language?

- <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/feb/10/study-english-a-level-universitygovernment-taught>
- <https://www.englishandmedia.co.uk/blog/why-study-english-language-or-linguistics-at-a-level-andbeyond>

Interesting Links:

- <http://www.universalteacher.org.uk/> - Lots of information on all the different aspects of the course
- www.englishlangsfx.blogspot.com/ - Provides lots of materials and interesting discussions as well as links to other relevant sites
- <http://www.ling.lancs.ac.uk/> - This is Lancaster Uni's language and linguistics site. They have a specific A level area with lots of resources.
- <http://www.geoffbarton.co.uk/> - Contains lots of information about many of the topics you will cover at A Level
- <http://dialectblog.com> - Discusses ideas about dialect, which is one of the topics you will be covering
- www.davidcrystal.com - This is a name you will become very familiar with. His website has links to articles and youtube talks
- <http://linguistics-research-digest.blogspot.co.uk> - Lots of articles relating to research on language and its use
- <http://www.theguardian.com/media/mind-your-language> - Editorials on a range of topics related to language use from The Guardian