



**ENGLISH  
LANGUAGE**

# A-Level Course Information



**Qualification:** Advanced Level English Language

**Exam Board:** AQA

**Subject Leader:** Mr S. Cox

## Entry Requirements:

### Minimum Entry Requirements:

5 x 5s

4 in English and Maths

### Subject Specific Entry Requirements:

6 in GCSE English Language or English Literature

## Why study English Language?

The network of English speakers is the largest in the world, encompassing a huge variety of different people, countries, and cultures, who are continually talking, texting, typing, listening, reading, telling stories, and giving advice. Ultimately, these networks are formed by language; but how and why? The study of English Language at A Level offers students new perspectives on how we use language to define ourselves, our relationships to societal groups and ideas and, ultimately, to power. With a particular focus on sociolinguistic and psycholinguistic theory, students will consider how social class, gender, and power are realised through language; how we learned to speak and write in the first place; and how knowledge of lexis, grammar, and syntax can empower us to understand how language forms our understanding of the world.

## What can I do with English Language after A-Level?

A variety of occupations will be open to you, including publishing, journalism, media, law and teaching in the U.K. or overseas. In addition, the variety of skills acquired are highly regarded by employers, universities, and are also valuable in their own right. English Language A-Level offers an ideal preparation for a university degree across a variety of disciplines in the sciences, social sciences, as well as in English or a related subject.

## English Language Extras

You will have the opportunity to listen to a range of presentations from professionals in the field of linguistics, the sciences, and publishing. Students will also have the chance to visit local universities to gain an understanding of the field of study beyond A-Level. We will also make use of relevant exhibitions and opportunities as they arise.

## What will I study?

A Level English Language is divided into four topic areas across two exams:

### Paper 1: language, the individual and society (40% of A-Level. 2½ hour exam):

Section A: Meanings and Representations. This section explores how grammar, lexis, pragmatics, and semantics are deployed by writers to create meaning, and explores how these linguistic features are used to represent ideological, cultural, and societal ideas.

Section B: First Language Acquisition (psycholinguistics). Students will consider theories on how and why we learn to speak, and the functions of children's language, through significant research in language development.

### Paper 2: language diversity and change (40% of A-Level. 2½ hour exam):

Section A: Language Diversity and Change (sociolinguistics). We are all placed at indices based on gender, social class, and region, within which we see language change and evolve. However, who decides what 'correct English' is? How does language form and maintain societal structures? On what basis can these structures be challenged?

Section B: Language Discourses. Opinions on language use are hugely divisive and often reveal many of the underlying tensions in English speaking societies. How can we challenge or support these ideas? With a focus on writing to a newspaper style, students will learn how the media shapes people's perspectives on English and its users, and how to write persuasively to defend their point of view.

### Non-Examined Assessment: language investigation, and creative writing with commentary (20% of A-Level)

Students complete their own individual language investigation relating to one of the units covered, offering students the opportunity to pursue in depth an aspect of the course that they have enjoyed and wish to research further.

The creative writing module requires students to research a writing style, and produce a commentary demonstrating how the features of their work fits into the appropriate genre.