

English Language



AQA
A-Level

Overview

English Language offers an insight into the ways in which language varies in relation to usage, audience, purpose and situational context. It offers the opportunity for students to study language in a theoretical, systematic and academic way.

Aims

- ▶ To develop and apply understanding of concepts and methods appropriate for the analysis and the systematic study of written and spoken language, from the past to the present day
- ▶ To write for a variety of purposes and audiences

Grade Requirement

Students must achieve 5 A*-C grades at GCSE, including Mathematics, although a range of 'B' grades is preferable. You must also have a 'B' grade in English Language to be able to study this subject.

Complementary Subjects

English Language has a strong analytical element which complements English Literature and Media. History and Theology students will find that these subjects enhance the study of language at this level. It also sits well with creative subjects such as Art and Fashion.

AS-Level

Unit 1: Categorising Texts

Unit 2: Creating Texts

A2-Level

Unit 3: Developing Language

Unit 4: Investigating Language



AS /A2 English Language is popular amongst academic students and is best suited to those who enjoy analysing written texts at a very intense and academic level. Students need to employ a high level of linguistic knowledge and understanding to their reading and analysis of texts. In order to succeed, students must be able to write fluent and coherent essays which draw upon their knowledge of linguistic terminology and theory and be able to develop and reflect critically on their own writing.

You will study how language differs in written and spoken contexts, the role of purposes, audiences and contexts and the impact of these pressures on language production and reception. You will also produce a piece of personal writing for a specific purpose which is then evaluated in terms of stylistic and linguistic choices made. Students also find the module on language acquisition in young children incredibly fascinating and stimulating, in addition to the unit on language change, focusing on how English has evolved and changed over the last three hundred years.

A significant number of students have gone on to study English Language at university after their extremely positive experiences at A-Level. The subject is well-taught and led and results are consistently among the best in the subjects offered by the College. It has also helped those students who wish to apply for Arts-based degrees and as well as those studying Law, History, the Sciences and Medicine. The ability to read and write at a high level of competency is perhaps one of the most significant set of skills an individual can acquire; AS/A Level English Language is therefore a worthy and rewarding subject to study for many careers and professions. Those students interested in the power of language and how language defines, shapes and controls us would benefit hugely from studying this subject.

