

A LEVEL ENGLISH LANGUAGE





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If you are fascinated by language in everyday life, this popular and exciting course could be for you.

We study how we speak and how we write. How do children learn to speak? What makes us change the way we speak or write? Why are there so many different accents in this country? Why are some ways of speaking considered better than others? Does your job influence your language? How and why do new words come about?

We will explore spoken and written language in everyday contexts: conversations, newspapers and magazines, the internet and social media, advertising and the world of work. To analyse how language works, you will learn how to use grammatical and technical terms and we will explore debates and theories about language in our personal and social lives.

There are no set texts but you will read books and articles about language theory as well as everyday texts.

English Language has helped me in many different ways; it has taught me to evaluate, to form valid arguments and has developed my overall linguistic skill set.

TEACHING AND LEARNING

Staff in our department are highly qualified and experienced at A Level teaching. In lessons you will enjoy a lively range of activities to develop your skills:

- Small groups and class discussion
- Presentations and lectures
- Individual and group research
- Using on-line video resources
- Improving your note-making
- Independent research
- Devising experiments to test ideas
- Planning and writing essays
- Writing for specific purposes and audiences
- Quizzes and learning games
- Effective revision

Students prepare lessons by reading and research; we have excellent resources in the LRC and on-line. We then share and discuss ideas in the classroom. Our student feedback is outstanding: students especially love the fun we have in discussions, the quizzes and learning fascinating new things!



A LEVEL ASSESSMENT

Paper One (40%)

- Analysis and comparison of two unseen texts testing your knowledge of technical terms for written and spoken language and your ability to interpret he ways in which meaning is created.
- An essay analysing examples of children's language and evaluating theories about how children learn language

Paper Two (40%)

- An essay evaluating theories and debates around varieties of English and language change
- An analysis of opinions about a language issue
- A piece of journalistic writing exploring attitudes to language

Coursework (20%)

- An investigation into an aspect of language variation (e.g. are female and male politicians represented differently in news reports?).
- A piece of original writing (e.g. a short story or magazine article) plus a commentary.

ENTRY AND SKILL REQUIREMENTS

We require at least Level 4 at GCSE English or English Language though we strongly recommend you have level 5 or above as the course involves well developed skills of reading and writing.

We organise optional trips and visits during the year – the average cost for one of our trips is about £25. (Students can of course apply for financial support.)

WHAT NEXT?

English Language goes well with a very wide range of other subjects. It can be taken with A Level English Literature (an excellent combination if English is your passion) but not with the Combined Language & Literature course.

The skills you learn are highly valued by employers in all areas of work: the ability to read challenging material, understand complex ideas, select evidence, research, analyse, construct an argument and write with confidence. English A Level can lead to employment in business, marketing, journalism, teaching, health, the media, the law, creative industries in the arts and many other areas of work. This course is highly regarded by competitive universities.



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