

A Level English Language

Examination board & syllabus: AQA

Minimum Entry Requirements: GCSE English Language Grade 5/6

Course Outline:

The course is split into three units which include language study across different social aspects, original writing, investigating language, the acquisition of language and language diversity and change. You will look in detail at the way that language is used and manipulated in different social contexts; study how language is acquired and developed during childhood; investigate areas of language that are of particular interest to you and continue to develop original writing skills across various genres and purposes. Coverage of language and gender; language and power; accent and dialect; language and technology, how meaning is created (for instance in humour) and language acquisition are all key parts of the specification. The Language curriculum also involves a considerable degree of flexibility in terms of student choice, particularly relating to your non-exam assessment. The course aims to enhance your understanding of English; your written and oral communication skills; your powers of argument and your analytical ability of language across various forms.

Assessment and Exams:

A Level

Unit 1 – Language, the individual and society: exploring how identity is constructed, how audiences are addressed, varieties and representations in texts, analysing and comparing language use. In addition students will study the development of language in children up to 11 years.

To be examined at the end of year 13 (40%)

Unit 2 – Language diversity and change: exploring the diversity of the English Language across different temporal, social and geographical contexts, writing about academic issues in language study and using original writing as a medium to express views on language diversity. In addition students will study social attitudes and debates about the constant development and diversity of the English Language.

To be examined at the end of year 13 (40%)

Unit 3 - Non-exam assessment-Language in Action: students will investigate an area of language that they have chosen and also submit a piece of original writing with supporting commentary. They have free choice over the areas that they choose to write about.

To be submitted at the end of year 13 (20%)

Independent Study Tips:

One hour of independent study for each hour taught (5 hours per week).

Higher Education Progression:

Essential for all English Language and Linguistic degrees.

Useful for Media, Journalism, Creative Writing degrees.

Accepted by top universities.

Career Opportunities:

English Language is valued highly in a variety of employment fields, including journalism, media, teaching, proof reading, freelance writing, clinical and forensic linguistics, advertising, marketing and publishing.

Useful Websites:

www.englishandmedia.co.uk/emag/