

POST 16 SUBJECT OVERVIEW

Name of Subject - English Language

Which Examination Specification is Studied for this Course? AQA

Why should I study this course? - The English Language course offers the opportunity to develop skills in linguistic analysis and appreciation of how meanings are constructed. This course allows you to look at how language has evolved over time and study language in a range of different settings. Students will explore how texts are produced to convey views and opinions about language issues. You will explore how texts:

- represent language
- construct an identity for the producer
- position the reader and seek to influence them
- are connected to discourses about language

Who is suitable to study this course? - This course is ideal for students who have a love of the subject and want the opportunity to analyse how language is used by a variety of different groups. This course also provides the opportunity for students to move on to further study in English at degree level and beyond.

What GCSE Qualifications Support the Study of this Course? English Language GCSE.

What are the Qualification Requirements for this Course? Students are required to have achieved at least a grade 6 in English Language.

How is the Course Delivered? - The English Language and Literature course is taught in 5 hours a week by two members of the English department. Students are expected to undertake 5 hours per week of independent study, and submit additional work for teachers to assess and give feedback. 20% of this course is made up of coursework, including a language investigation and a creative writing piece.

Subject Overview		
Half Term	Year 12	Year 13
Autumn 1	Introduction to linguistic frameworks, including spoken and written discourse.	Language Change
Autumn 2	Social groups	Global Englishes
Spring 1	Accents and Dialects	Coursework 2
Spring 2	Language and Gender	Exam plan
Summer 1	Language and Ethnicity	Exam plan
Summer 2	Coursework 1	Exam plan

How is the Course Assessed?

The English Language and Literature course is a linear course, meaning that students are formally assessed at the end of Year 13. Students are assessed in school in half termly assessments and complete 2 mock exams in preparation for their final A Level exams.

Paper 1

Section A - Textual Variations and Representations

Two texts (one contemporary and one older text) linked by topic or theme.

- A question requiring analysis of one text (25 marks)
- A question requiring analysis of a second text (25 marks)
- A question requiring comparison of the two texts (20 marks)

Section B - Children's Language Development

A discursive essay on children's language development, with a choice of two questions where the data provided will focus on spoken, written or multimodal language (30 marks)

Paper 2

Section A - Diversity and Change

One question from a choice of two:

Either: an evaluative essay on language diversity (30 marks)

Or: an evaluative essay on language change (30 marks)

Section B - Language Discourses

Two texts about a topic linked to the study of diversity and change.

- A question requiring analysis of how the texts use language to present ideas, attitudes and opinions (40 marks)
- A directed writing task linked to the same topic and the ideas in the texts (30 marks)

Non-exam assessment

Students produce:

- a language investigation (2,000 words excluding data)
- a piece of original writing and commentary (1,500 words total)

Students are assessed in 5 assessment objectives, broken down as below:

AO1: Apply appropriate methods of language analysis, using associated terminology and coherent written expression.

AO2: Demonstrate critical understanding of concepts and issues relevant to language use. AO3: Analyse and evaluate how contextual factors and language features are associated with the construction of meaning.

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

AO5: Demonstrate expertise and creativity in the use of English to communicate in different ways.

What is our Recommended Subject Reading list to Support your Study? Students are advised to read a diverse range of non-fiction texts. For other wider reading ideas:

- Look at Off The Shelf festival - Online talks on now
- See the Lexis Podcast- great for current language debates and covers all topics at A-level
- See the English Language Blog- covers all exam questions, blogs from examiners and students - <http://englishlangsfx.blogspot.com/>
- See the York English Language Toolkit for a great range of case studies and resources - <https://englishlanguagetoolkit.york.ac.uk/>