

## POST 16 SUBJECT OVERVIEW

**Name of Subject** - English Language

**Which Examination Specification is Studied for this Course?**

**AQA**

**Why should I study this course? -**

English is the language we speak every day. It is used all the time, yet often we don't consider how language has an impact on everything we do. Have you ever wondered why we have different accents and dialects? Have you ever wondered why Shakespeare's language is so different to our own? Have you ever wondered how we go from small babies who can't speak to fully-fledged adults who can have an intellectual conversation? These are some of the issues we explore in the English language course.

This course is very useful for many different career paths as you can consider how your use of language can impact your career decisions and how people may perceive you and your ideas based on the language you use to express them. If you wish to explore any of these career options: advertising and marketing; writing, publishing, editing and journalism; linguistics and translating; speech therapy; librarianship and archives; teaching; media and design then this course is for you.

**Who is suitable to study this course? -**

Individuals with a curiosity for language and a firm knowledge of grammar and terminology from GCSE will most benefit from this course. Students must be dedicated and willing to spend time outside of class preparing for lessons through independent reading or research. There is an expectation that pupils will spend an equal amount of time outside of lessons studying or reading. This course links well with students studying English Literature, Psychology, History and Sociology.

**What GCSE Qualifications Support the Study of this Course?**

English Language, English Literature, History, Sociology.

## What are the Qualification Requirements for this Course?

Grade 6/7 English Language (GCSE)

## How is the Course Delivered? -

You will have 2 teachers who will both teach you for 2 hours per week, therefore you will have 4 hours of teaching per week. There is an expectation that the number of taught lessons will be matched by independent study/reading. We will use Google classroom for submission of assignments and to give you regular feedback on your essays.

Subject Overview		
Half Term	Year 12	Year 13
Autumn 1	Introduction to grammar and introduction to sociolects.	Coursework and child language acquisition
Autumn 2	Accent and dialect and gender	Language change and child language acquisition
Spring 1	Spoken Language and textual analysis	Textual analysis and language discourses.
Spring 2	Global English and textual analysis	Revision
Summer 1	Language change and textual analysis	Revision
Summer 2	Coursework preparation and Language change.	Revision

## How is the Course Assessed?

The course has 2 exams and 2 pieces of coursework.

Paper 1: Language, the Individual and Society (2 ½ hours).

In this paper you will do one question on child language acquisition and then 3 questions where you will analyse texts and then compare the two texts.

Paper 2: Language Diversity and Change (2 ½ hours).

In this paper you will answer 3 questions. In the first question you will answer an essay question about an issue to do with English Language, for example accent and dialect, world English's or language change. You will then do a question where you compare 2 articles about an issue to do with language. You will then do a final question where you will write an opinion article about an issue within English language (for example: attitudes towards accents and dialects or political correctness).

Coursework piece 1: Original writing and commentary (750 words each).

You will write an original piece of writing based on an area of English you are interested in (for example a speech or a magazine article) and then you will write a commentary about the linguistic choices you made and why you made them.

Coursework piece 2: Language Investigation (2000 words).

You will write a study into how a concept is conveyed through language and how this can manipulate how this concept is perceived. This can be on anything of your choice e.g. social media, newspaper headlines, language used in television.

You will have regular assessments during the year, around once every 2 weeks. This will be to ensure we are giving you regular feedback on how to improve. These assessments will vary in length and time but are at regular intervals to ensure you understand a topic before we move on.

### **What is our Recommended Subject Reading list to Support your Study? -**

- My Grammar and I (Or Should That Be Me?): Caroline Taggart.
- The Stories of English: David Crystal
- Language Myths: Laurie Bauer and Peter Trudgill.
- A Little Book of Language: David Crystal
- The Language Instinct: Stephen Pinker

Twitter:

@susie\_dent- etymology of the word of the day

@EngLangBlog- sharing articles and stories of modern examples of language use

Podcasts:

Lingthusiasm: <https://soundcloud.com/lingthusiasm>

A podcast that's enthusiastic about linguistics by Gretchen McCulloch (All Things Linguistic) and Lauren Gawne (Superlinguo). A weird and deep conversation about language delivered right to your ears the third Thursday of every month.

Lexis: <https://anchor.fm/lexispodcast>

Fun and interesting insights into linguistics by linguistics enthusiasts

