

POST 16 SUBJECT OVERVIEW

Name of Subject - A Level English Language

Which Examination Specification is Studied for this Course?

AQA English Language (7702)

Why should I study this course?

English Language is an interesting and widely applicable subject that most students can find rewarding, given that we are all immersed in the uses (and abuses!) of the English language in our everyday lives. Language is all around us, influencing us in all sorts of ways. English Language study will give you the skills to be able to explore how individuals, groups and organisations use and manipulate language to communicate with those around them.

During the course, we look at both written and spoken texts, exploring their construction by pulling them to pieces! You will acquire the skills to analyse all sorts of short, non-fiction texts from all sorts of angles, including improving and extending your knowledge of grammar, vocabulary and structural devices that writers and speakers use in their communications.

You will also take part in some independent guided research to uncover how different groups of people use language in particular ways, and how linguists' ideas have developed and evolved over time as the study of language has gained in popularity, branching into areas such as sociology, psychology and even biology!

The content areas we cover during the two year course are:

Language and Gender

Exploring whether men and women use language differently, and if they do, what are these differences? What kind of language is used to talk *about* men and women, and why might they be different? This area of language study is also beginning to branch into ideas about breaking away from the male/female gender binary, and where this may be taking us linguistically.

Language and Occupation

This topic focuses primarily on the language of power in any workplace, and how individuals may navigate the hierarchies they encounter at work, including work on theories of politeness and directness. We also look in more detail at the language of doctors, teachers and the legal profession.

Sociolect, Accent and Dialect

Here, we look at how a person's social background and the social groups they belong to can affect their uses of language, but also how other groups use language *about* them. We also consider stereotyping and opinions on regional accents.

Child Language Development

Studied in Year 2 of the course, this is a fascinating area that covers everything from a newborn's first murmurs and cries to how reading and writing are taught in primary schools, as well as everything in between!

Language Change

Another second year topic, we begin with a whistlestop tour of the history of English, and why we have such a rich, varied (and confusing!?) language. We then consider attitudes toward this change - is texting really killing the language? Are current teenagers the most inarticulate generation yet? Are we, like, literally, like, ruining the language?

World Englishes

Finally, leading on from this, we look at how English grew in popularity and influence to become the global language that it is today. How did Empire, trade, the internet, and British attitudes all have an impact on where, when and how English is spoken around the world?

Who is suitable to study this course? If you enjoyed English and History at GCSE this could be for you. Also, if you have an interest in current affairs, politics, any of the social sciences, or just the way the world of language works, then you're sure to find something here to fire your interest.

What GCSE Qualifications Support the Study of this Course? English, English Literature, History

What are the Qualification Requirements for this Course? Grade 6 in English or English Literature, or preferably both.

How is the Course Delivered?

You are taught for 5 hours per week, in one 2 hour and one 3 hour session. You will be expected to complete a further 5 hours per week of independent study: this can include set homework, research, consolidation and revision of classwork, and wider reading.

Subject Overview		
Half Term	Year 12	Year 13
Autumn 1	Grammar, meanings and representations	Further coursework prep

		CLA speaking
Autumn 2	Gender	Language Change
Spring 1	Occupation	CLA Reading and Writing
Spring 2	Sociolect	World Englishes
Summer 1	Revision and Y12 exams	Revision of all Y12 and Y13 content
Summer 2	Preparation for coursework	You're done!

How is the Course Assessed?

Paper 1 (40% of final grade)

- **Meanings and Representations (2 hrs 30 mins)**

- Two texts linked by a theme (could be anything at all - cars, cooking and clip n climb have all come up in recent years!) to analyse in detail and compare (1 hr 30 mins)

- **CLA**

- A choice of essay debate question on either CLA speaking or CLA Reading/Writing (1 hr)

Paper 2 (40% of final grade)

- **AS and A Level content (2 hrs 30 mins)**

- Any of the 6 content areas mentioned above can be tested through a choice of essay debate questions. These require you to choose one area and apply the theory you have learned and consider its strengths and weaknesses with reference to that particular area of language use.
- In addition to this, you will read a pair of texts on a language issue (such as gender, or change etc) and write a comparative analysis of them
- Finally, you will write an article based on these two texts.

NEA - Non Examined Assessment (coursework) (20%of final grade)

- You will conduct a language investigation on a topic of your choice based on your Y12 study of language
- You will write a short piece on a topic of your choice, in a style of your choosing, based on a style model. You will then write a short commentary comparing the two.

The Assessment Objectives for the course are as follows, and all 5 are tested across the two Papers:

- 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?

- Word of Mouth - BBC Radio 4 (available online or on BBC Sounds app)
- E Magazine online content available once you begin at P16
- <http://englishlangsfx.blogspot.com/>
- Any national or international newspapers that have articles on language issues - google 'language opinion'!