

## POST 16 SUBJECT OVERVIEW

**Name of Subject** - English Language

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

AQA English Language 7702

**Why should I study this course?**

This course will allow you to further develop how to analyse texts, building on your skills from GCSE when considering why certain language features have been used by a writer. However, language analysis is just one small part of this course. There are other aspects which will be new to you, meaning that this qualification offers fresh and original learning to every student. In the first year, your new learning will focus on analysing speech. We will consider why we speak in a certain way and why. We will consider our accent and dialect as well as thinking about whether our age or gender makes a difference to how we communicate. We will also look into the language of occupations, thinking about how our job may influence the way we talk. Studying language in this way will really make you think about how you speak in different situations and how you change your language depending who you are talking to (even if you don't realise you're doing it!)

As we move into Year 13, we will develop our knowledge and understanding of dialects by studying world Englishes. We will look at how the English language is used globally and why it is one of the most spoken languages across the world. We will also study the history of our language over time, looking into how things such as invasions have influenced the words we use today. Finally, your new learning will be completed by the study of child language acquisition. In this part of the course, we will look at how children learn to speak and then to write. We will track the progress of children from their original cooing and babbling stages right up to speaking fluently. This topic gives us a fascinating insight into how children learn to communicate and will consider the Nature vs Nurture argument. In other words, are children born with a natural ability to speak or do they need people around them to make it possible? Have a think about that question - which one do you think is the best argument?

As well as the examined unit which covers all of the above, 20% of your final grade is awarded from your Non-examined Assessment (NEA). For this, you will produce a piece of Original Writing (of your choice) and carry out a language investigation into an area of language. So there is an opportunity to show your creative side too as well as being able to write academically.

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

If you enjoyed GCSE English Language then you are very suitable for this course as you will enhance and develop your skills by moving into A level. Remember though that most of the course is new and there are links in the content to both Psychology and Sociology as both of these subjects also deal with human behaviour. A level English Language will allow you to move on to a range of degree courses. The skills you will learn in evaluating key ideas and

opinions can be developed in other areas and subjects. Also the skills you will learn in writing a report of your own findings can be transferred to any degree subject. Some students choose this subject based on their career aspirations with many enjoying the focus on child language acquisition due to their wish to go into, for example, primary teaching.

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

Students should hold a minimum of 5 GCSE grades at 4+

**What are the Qualification Requirements for this Course?**

Students should hold a grade 5 at GCSE English Language.

**How is the Course Delivered?**

The course is delivered by two members of staff who will each deliver particular content for the exam. There will elements of the course in which you will need to work independently; this is a particularly important skill when working on your NEA. For this you will need to do your own reading on your chosen topic, find your own data to analyse and carry out your own research.

Subject Overview		
Half Term	Year 12	Year 13
Autumn 1	NEA: Creative Writing Responding to and analysing written texts	NEA: Language in Action; a language investigation Child Language Acquisition: Speech History of the English Language
Autumn 2	Language and Identity Responding to and analysing spoken texts	Child Language Acquisition: Speech and introduction to writing History of the English Language
Spring 1	Accent and Dialect Comparing written and spoken texts	Child Language Acquisition: Writing History of the English Language
Spring 2	Language and Occupation Language and Gender	Global Englishes Language Change
Summer 1	Language Change: language and technology	Revision of accent/dialect, gender, occupation, identity

<b>Summer 2</b>	NEA: Language in Action; a language investigation History of the English Language	Exam preparation
-----------------	--	------------------

### **How is the Course Assessed?**

There are two exams for English Language and two parts to the NEA which all assess a range of skills.

The exam questions and your NEA will assess you on the following assessment objectives:

AO1: Analyse language choices using subject specific vocabulary

AO2: Demonstrate an understanding of ideas from language study (e.g. research, concepts)

AO3: Analyse and evaluate how the way we speak or write is influenced by contextual factors (e.g. purpose, audience)

AO4: Explore connections across texts (i.e. the ability to compare and contrast texts based on language features)

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

### **Paper 1: Language, the Individual and Society:**

Section A - Textual Variations and Representations

There will be two texts (one contemporary and one older text) linked by topic or theme. You will have to answer a question requiring analysis of one text (25 marks), a question requiring analysis of a second text (25 marks) and a third question requiring comparison of the two texts (20 marks)

Assessment Objectives: AO1 and AO3 for questions 1 and 2; AO4 for question 3.

Section B - Children's Language Development

In this section you will write an evaluative 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)

Assessment Objectives: AO1, AO2

### **Paper 2: Language Diversity and Change**

Section A - Diversity and Change

You will need to answer 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)

Assessment Objectives: AO1, AO2

Section B - Language Discourses

You will need to read two texts about a topic linked to the study of diversity (e.g. gender) and change (e.g. technology). You will then analyse these texts and write an article about the key themes raised in the text. This latter task allows you to be creative in an exam situation.

Assessment Objectives: AO1, AO2, AO3, AO5

Throughout Year 12 and Year 13 you will complete a range of assessment tasks which will feed into our Praising Stars input.

### **NEA: Language in Action**

You will need to produce a language investigation (2,000 words excluding data) and a piece of original writing with a commentary (1,500 words total).

Assessment Objectives in your language investigation: AO1, AO2 and AO3

Assessment Objective in your original writing: AO5

Assessment Objective in your commentary: AO1, AO2, AO3, AO4 and AO5

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

There are some excellent blogs on English Language:

<http://englishlangsfx.blogspot.co.uk>

<http://dialectblog.com>

<http://david-crystal.blogspot.co.uk>

<http://linguistics-research-digest.blogspot.co.uk>

<http://geoffbarton.co.uk/student-resources.php>

<http://www.theguardian.com/media/mind-your-language>

**There is an A level text book for AQA which covers everything you need to know:**

*A/AS Level English Language for AQA Student Book* by M Giovanelli, G Ives, J Keen, R Rana and R Rudman

**There are also a good range of accessible books which cover specific areas:**

*English Accents and Dialects* by Peter Trudgill

*The Language of Conversation* by F Pridham

*Language and Gender* by Angela Goddard

*The Myth of Mars and Venus* by Deborah Cameron (gender)

*You Just Don't Understand* by Deborah Tannen (gender)

*Language and the Internet* by David Crystal

*Internet linguistics: a student guide* by David Crystal

*Language and Technology* by Angela Goddard

*Language and Power* by Gary Ives

*Language Change* by Ian Cushing

*Language Diversity and World Englishes* by Dan Clayton

*Attitudes to Language* by Dan Clayton

