



ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Exam Board: AQA
Specification: [Click here for more information](#)



COURSE SUMMARY

A Level English Language encourages and deepens students' enjoyment and appreciation of the English language in all its varieties. Students will analyse a range of texts, spoken and written, fiction and nonfiction, drawn from a range of different historical periods and genres. Students of English Language gain expertise in detailed linguistic analysis of many different kinds of texts and create some of their own.

"When I leave school I hope to study International Communications and Media at university. I have studied English Language, Media Studies, Film Studies and Religious Studies." Rozelle

WHY STUDY ENGLISH LANGUAGE?

English Language is so much part of who we are, an integral part of our culture, intimately related to ideas and concepts around such key issues as gender, power, technology, accents and dialects which help us to make greater sense of other people's views in a range of contexts. The course is well respected by leading universities and one which works well alongside many other A Level subjects. It is rigorous in its approach to linguistic analysis and thus equips students with vital skills, easily transferable to other courses of study. Debate and discussion are important elements and students will gain confidence and build stamina in putting forward their own ideas in this way, as well as in presentations within small groups. This course develops a wide range of writing skills as well as the ability to tackle more challenging materials across a huge variety of texts.

WHAT HAPPENS IN LESSONS?

Strong emphasis is placed on discussing whole texts and extracts from texts, analysing them in detail and considering the different concepts and theories that underpin them. The contexts that a particular text inhabits are also addressed to see how these impact on our understanding. Students are encouraged to read around the key language topics and bring their ideas from this to classroom debate. Independent reading is vital for success in this subject and students will find that their critical judgements around language are constantly queried and developed as a result.

COURSE ASSESSMENT

This is a linear course. This means that students opting for an A Level in this subject will be

committing to a two year course with one non-exam assessment unit (coursework) and two examinations at the end of Year 13. AS Levels will still exist and can be taken as a stand-alone qualification at the end of Year 12, but students taking this option and then continuing to study the subject in Year 13 would have to sit all of the A Level units as linear exams to gain that qualification.

MIGHT LEAD TO...

English Language A Level opens up pathways to many careers or courses for further and higher level study, given the significant skills with which it equips students. Recent students pursuing this course at A Level have studied Linguistics, English Language, sometimes with a modern foreign language, social sciences, teaching, media and the law. English Language and English Literature can be taken as two separate subjects at A Level and work very effectively together both in the Sixth Form and at university. Communication skills and cultural knowledge gained in this subject effectively support many different disciplines.

ADVICE ON ENTRY

Grade 5 or higher in GCSE English Language is preferred.

READING AROUND THE SUBJECT

- [Andrew Moore's Teachit](#)
- [British Library – Learning](#)
- [EngLang Blog](#)
- [englishbiz](#)
- [Oxford English Dictionary](#)
- [David Crystal's blog](#)

