

ENGLISH LANGUAGE - A LEVEL

Course Content

This course encourages students to create texts and reflect critically on their own processes of production, while analysing the texts produced by others.

The course will teach linguistic methods and sociolinguistics to analyse English language in a range of texts and contexts.

Language, the individual and society

Language is seen as a creative tool for expression and social connection, as well as for individual cognition. The study of language as a symbolic system used to assert power in society is also fundamental to this course with students studying representation of social and occupational groups, gender and ethnicity in written and spoken language.

Language diversity and change

The course will also cover the diversity of spoken language within the British Isles, as well as international varieties of English, encouraging students to consider how and why language has changed and developed over time to be the language that we speak today.

Children's language development

The study of child language acquisition is one of the most popular amongst students as they learn about the fascinating process through which child learn spoken language and develop literacy skills.

Language in action

The course is also popular as it allows for opportunities for students to develop their creative writing skills and become confident writers who can write for a range of target audiences, purposes and contexts.

The language in action module allows students to explore and analyse language data independently and develop and reflect upon their own writing expertise through producing a language investigation and a piece of original writing and commentary.

Assessment

Paper 1: Language, the individual and society (40% of the qualification)

Paper 2: Language diversity and change (40% of the qualification)

Non-exam assessment: Language in action (20% of the qualification)

Progression

Studying A Level English Language will open a wide range of career opportunities to you.

Many employers look for potential employees with an A Level in English, as it shows that you have good communication skills.

At degree level, you can choose to study English Language, Linguistics or a whole range of courses which combine English with other subjects.

There are aspects of psychology (psycholinguistics) and sociology (sociolinguistics) in your A-Level language studies which might inspire you to study those subjects at university.

English Language students sometimes branch into criminology and specialise in criminal linguistics. A-Level Language is also an ideal route into careers such as journalism, teaching and law.

Entry Requirements

Grade 5 GCSE English

Examination Board

AQA

Further Details

Miss C Pyne, Mrs J Hughes