

# ENGLISH LANGUAGE A LEVEL



ST HILDA'S  
COLLEGE

## Course Content

This course encourages students to analyse how language is used in the world around them, considering how, for example, gender, power and social class can impact this. 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 children 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, choosing their own genre and examining professional writers' styles.

The language in action module allows students investigate their own branch of language use. For example, how language differs between boys and girls when problem solving, or how the language of TV Chefs has changed over time.

## 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.

The 6<sup>th</sup> Form  
@ St Hilda's

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**

GCSE Grade 5 or above, GCSE English Grade 5 or above

**Examination Board**

AQA

**Further Details**

Miss C Bird, Miss Carney and Mrs Hughes