



English Language

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Course Aims

The course provides a natural progression from your studies of GCSE English Language. It enables a development of an interest in English through learning about its structures, functions, historical development and variations, as well as developing your professional writing skills. The course is especially suitable for anyone interested in studying English Language, Linguistics or Creative Writing at a higher level, and anyone thinking about a journalistic, business or teaching career.



Qualifications and Qualities Needed

The course expects you to have a genuine interest and enthusiasm for learning about the English language, as well as an ability to independently manage your workload and meet deadlines. You are expected to attend all lessons and tutorials, as well as read widely around the subject and act upon the advice given by teachers. You need a minimum of a Level 6 in GCSE English Language.

Course Structure

Exam Board: we follow the AQA Examination Board's Specification

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/as-and-a-level/english-language-7701-7702/specification-at-a-glance>

Students study the following topics in Year 12 as part of the **two year** A-level course:

- Textual variation and analysis: we develop your linguistic knowledge to explore how representations and meanings are created in a wide range of texts.
- Attitudes to language diversity: we explore how language forms an integral part of our individual identities through accents, dialectal, gender, age and occupational features.
- Directed writing: you will develop your creative, opinion and investigative writing skills.

Final Assessment in Year 12: completion of Original Writing NEA and internal Threshold examinations (you will not sit the external AS exam).

In Year 13 students widen their understanding of the issues introduced in Year 12 and extend learning by studying the following additional topics in Year 13.

- Children's language development and acquisition: how we learn to speak, read and write.
- Language change and attitudes to language change: both the historical and global influences.
- You complete your Language Investigation NEA.

Final Assessment by the end of Year 13:

- A full NEA - two coursework pieces – Original Writing (with Commentary) and your extended Language Investigation of an area of English you are most interested in – 20%.
- Two examinations, including content from both the Year 12 and Year 13 topics – 80%.

Textbooks

Students will purchase two course textbooks so that they can annotate ideas fully and use them independently to revise for exams. Details of the specific textbooks will be given on Induction Day.

Other Points to Note

If you love English, then you will love learning about the many varied aspects of its uniqueness on this course. It will provide you with methods for exploring how audience and context impact upon language production and reception, as well as how spoken and written texts reproduce ideas about cultural values and assumptions. Also, throughout the course, you will develop and reflect upon yourself as a writer. As a subject highly respected by universities and employers, it is a valuable A Level qualification.