

English Language AS/A2 (AQA Spec B)

The study of English Language will encourage you to develop your interest in both written and spoken forms of language. This course is designed to encourage you to:

- Develop an interest in and appreciation of English through learning about its structures and its functions, its developments and its variations
- Engage creatively, expressing yourself in speech and writing, producing texts for different audiences, purposes and in different genres
- Independently explore a wide range of spoken, written, fiction and non-fiction texts and explore the relationships between texts
- Undertake independent and sustained studies to develop your skills as producers and interpreters of language

Main features of the course:

At AS Level, you will study two units: Unit 1—'Categorising Texts' and Unit 2—'Creating Texts'.

- Unit 1 is an introduction to the study of language; exploring and understanding spoken and written language in use. You will focus on three specific social contexts: 'Language and Power', 'Language and Gender' and 'Language and Technology'
- Unit 2 is where you can put theory into practice, creating written texts of your own. Types of writing which candidates might choose could be: a script for a soap opera or a piece of travel journalism. You will be required to produce a folder comprising two pieces of original writing and two commentaries which explore the writing process

At A2 you will study two further units: Unit 3 - 'Developing Language' and Unit 4 - 'Text Transformation'.

- Unit 3 is the study of how language develops. The unit focusses on the acquisition of language by children and the development of and changes in English over time
- Unit 4 is an independent study of an aspect of English language. You will also be required to produce a media text that highlights the ideas and issues surrounding your chosen topic for your independent study e.g. "Men vs women: who talks the most?" or "How do children learn to read? A parents' guide."

How is the course assessed?

Unit 1: Written examination - 2 hours

Weighting: 60% of AS mark/30% of total A level mark

Unit 2: Coursework (2500-3500 words)

Weighting: 40% of AS mark/20% of total A level mark

Progression

English is well-respected as a qualification by all universities. The skills allow students to progress on to a multitude of careers including: journalism, PR, media and communications industry jobs, advertising, teaching and law.