

ENGLISH

Language

Examination Board: AQA

Subject Leader: Mr J Fox



Course Structure

Unit	Topics/Unit Title	Assessment	A Level(%)
1	Meanings and Representations + Child Language Acquisition.	Three analytical essays based on two texts (one contemporary and one older text) which are linked by topic or theme. Choice of two questions on children's spoken/written language acquisition.	40
2	Language Diversity and Change	An evaluative essay on either language change or diversity, a comparative essay exploring two source texts on an issue related to language and a piece of creative, journalistic opinion writing.	40
Coursework	Original Writing	A piece of original creative writing such as narrative, speech, article written against a style model and a commentary explaining your linguistic choices,	20
Coursework	Language Investigation	An investigation into an area of language study that you are particularly interested in, using your own research.	

What does the course involve?

The course is very different from the English you have done so far. You will explore the ever changing nature of the English Language and delve into how and why language is used in various different ways.

In Paper 1, you will firstly cover the foundations of linguistics and how a range of texts from different genres, registers, purposes and contexts use language to fulfil a dynamic range or meanings and representations. You'll then move on to covering Child Language Acquisition, firstly exploring how children learn to speak and later covering how they learn to read and write.

In Paper 2, you will study how features such as age, gender, social class, occupation, sexuality and technology have influences on language.

In Year 12, you will begin your coursework by writing your own piece of creative, original writing against a style model you have chosen. You will also write a short commentary on this, explaining the decisions behind your writing. Your second piece of coursework will involve you deciding an area of language that most interests you and producing an accomplished language investigation to complete your coursework folder.

There is always opportunity for debate, discussion and collaborative work in each element of the course.

Further Study/Employment Prospects

- Further study of English language or linguistics at university. Also has strong academic ties with Psychology, Sociology, Geography and History.
- English graduates enjoy high employability as they hone a range of practical skills supporting a very wide range of other courses and careers.
- Job prospects include: journalism, proofreading, editing, marketing, advertising, broadcasting, teaching, digital copywriter, web content manager, lexicographer, public relations, speech and language therapy, consultancy and many more

Entry Requirements

- Passion for Language and learning about how and why language is used in various ways.
- Ability to engage in discussion/debate around issues in language,
- Critical thinking and creativity.
- Determination and resilience.