

**What will I learn?**

A-level English Language offers opportunities for students to develop their subject expertise by engaging creatively and critically with a wide range of texts and discourses. Students will create texts and reflect critically on their own processes of production, while analysing the texts produced by others. The specification explores the study of English Language both as a medium of communication and as a topic in its own right, with an emphasis on the ability of students to pursue lines of enquiry, debate different views, and work independently to research aspects of language in use. 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 the scope of this specification.

**What could this course lead on to?**

Universities and colleges in the UK are offering courses in the following subject areas: English, English Literature, English and creative writing, comparative literary studies and courses in Linguistics.

**Entry Requirements:**

GCSE grade 6 or higher in English Language and English Literature.

**Key content and assessment**

**Paper 1 – Language, the Individual and Society.**

written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes.  
100 marks  
40% of A-level

**Section A - Textual Variations and Representations** Two texts (one contemporary and one older text) linked by topic or theme. A question requiring analysis of one text (25 marks) A question requiring analysis of a second text (25 marks) A question requiring comparison of the two texts (20 marks)

**Section B - Children's Language Development** A discursive essay on children's language development, with a choice of two questions where the data provided will focus on spoken, written or multimodal language (30 marks)

**Paper 2 – Language Diversity and Change.**

Written exam: 2 hours and 30minutes  
100marks  
40% of A Level

**Section A - Diversity and Change.** One question from a choice of two: **Either:** an evaluative essay on language diversity (30 marks) **Or:** an evaluative essay on language change (30 marks)

**Section B - Language Discourses.** Two texts about a topic linked to the study of diversity and change. A question requiring analysis of how the texts use language to present ideas, attitudes and opinions (40 marks) A directed writing task linked to the same topic and the ideas in the texts. (30 marks)

**Section C - Non-exam assessment – Language in action.**

Word count: 3,500  
100 marks  
20% of A-level  
Assessed by teachers  
Moderated by AQA

**Tasks.** Students produce: A language investigation (2,000 words excluding data). A piece of original writing and commentary (1,500 words total).

**Course Details**

**Awarding Body:** AQA  
**Qualification Number:** 7701, 7702  
**Website:** [www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/as-and-a-level/english-language](http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/as-and-a-level/english-language).  
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