

English Language

Examination Board: AQA

Entry Requirements: English Literature and Language GCSE 6/6

Why study English Language?

The course is designed to offer opportunities to explore varying branches of linguistics (sociolinguistics, psycholinguistics, historical linguistics and so on). The course includes both the study and exploration of these disciplines and application of ideas to mostly small, non-fiction texts. As students progress through the A-Level they will become highly proficient in unpicking a variety of texts. The course is designed to encourage students to have an evaluative perspective and constantly analyse and question the language around them. In addition, students will be able to use this knowledge to create their own texts, effective for specific audiences and purposes. The key question which underpins this entire course is why does language vary on such a broad scale and, as learners delve into this; they discover just how broad that scale is.

This course complements many other A Levels such as English Literature (students who study both English courses at A Level are more likely to achieve higher grades), Sociology, Media, History, Psychology, MFL etc.

This course is right for you if you enjoy being analytical, exploring how language develops, writing creatively and dealing with short, manageable texts in isolation.

Course Content:

The course begins with an introduction to the foundational tools of analysis we use in English language. Skills acquired here will become invaluable for the rest of the course. This will include an overview of how to analyse a text at a highly sophisticated level: from its overall context, audience and purpose right down to the individual units of sound used.

Students will then use these skills to explore a range of texts in light of their contexts and will discover the complex construction and implications of language. An example of some areas of study are:

- ❖ Power: how do speakers use language to influence people or even enforce rules; what makes a text and speaker influential?
- ❖ Gender: why do men and women use different language and how has that changed over time; how have social changes regarding gender and sexuality influenced the language we use?
- ❖ Identity: what makes a speaker's language unique; how do we view different accents and dialects; what can the broader implications of language and identity be?
- ❖ Change: how have we come to speak English today; what influence has technology had on our language; what is the future for the English language?
- ❖ Child development: how do children learn to speak, read and write; what can we learn from unique cases of children's speech development; how do language and psychological theories link?
- ❖ Creative writing: how do I engage my target audience; how do I transform existing genres in order to create a truly unique text?

English Language (continued)

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Entry Requirements: 66 (English Literature and Language GCSE)

Assessment:

A Level

Examined units

Paper 1 2h30- Section A Textual variations and representations / Section B Children's language development (40%)

Paper 2 2h30- Section A Language diversity and change / Section B Language Discourses (analysis and creating a text) (40%)

Non-examined units

Writing to persuade/inform/entertain + commentary (10%)

Data investigation (10%)

Further Course Information:

Please come and speak to Miss Symonds in Room 22 about this course or ask her for a full prospectus and specification. Or you can visit <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/as-and-a-level/english-language-7701-7702> to download your own copy.

Email: msymonds@stm.beds.sch.uk

Future Uses:

This is an A-Level subject that opens many doors to you as it shows any future employer / university that you can think independently, critically analyse and evaluate – skills that will be useful in many future professions, with this subject you can also:

- ❖ Go on to study it at a higher level at university
- ❖ Use it as a widely recognised entry qualification for a wide range of degree courses
- ❖ Use it as a helpful qualification in careers such as Teaching, Journalism, Publishing, Media, HR, PR, Advertising and many others.