



English Language



STUDY LEVEL

A level

CONTACT DETAILS

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English Language focuses more on 'non-literary' texts from journalism, advertising, conversations and documents. This course is highly-regarded by universities as it helps you form sound arguments and develop excellent analytical skills.

What will I study?

You will begin your studies with an introduction to the study of language, where you will analyse a wide variety of short written and spoken texts. We then move on to study language in detail covering topics such as how teenagers and parents speak to each other and how powerful leaders such as Barrack Obama use language. You will also have the chance to explore how the English Language has changed over the centuries (and is still changing) and how children acquire their language skills.

Assessment is by a mixture of coursework and written exams.

There is also the opportunity to take GCSE English if you wish to improve on your original grade.

Co-curricular activities?

We have strong links with Manchester Metropolitan University and take part in an annual story-writing competition, as well as supporting students in a range of writing competitions locally and nationally. Students also have the opportunity to join the Linguistics Club – a programme for gifted and talented students interested in further study of linguistics at university

Where might it lead?

English Language is useful for a wide range of educational courses and careers. It is a good preparation for any course with a linguistic element and for careers in which knowledge of, and a sensitivity to, language will be required. Students who have studied A level English have gone into careers such as journalism, teaching and social work, to name a few.

Course Breakdown

Course Summary

- Exam board is AQA

Paper	Content	Marks	Duration	Weighting
Paper 1	Language, the individual and Society	100	2 hours 30 minutes	40%
Paper 2	Language Diversity and Change	100	2 hours 30 minutes	40%
NEA (non-examined assessment)	Assessed by teachers. Two pieces: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigation • Original Writing 	40	N/A	20%

Summary of Content: A level

LANGUAGE, THE INDIVIDUAL AND SOCIETY

Section A – Textual variations and representations

Two texts (one contemporary and one older text) linked by topic or theme. These can be almost any genre or style.

- 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).

LANGUAGE DIVERSITY AND CHANGE

Section A: One question from a choice of two, either:

- An evaluative essay on language diversity.
- An evaluative essay on language change.

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.
- A directed writing task linked to the same topic and the ideas in the texts.

NON-EXAMINED ASSESSMENT

Students produce:

- A language investigation (2,000 words excluding data).
- A piece of original writing and commentary (1,500 words total).

Suggested Preparation for September

Read *Mother Tongue* by Bill Bryson for a great overview of the subject and an introduction to linguistics.