

ENGLISH LANGUAGE A LEVEL

It's argued that the limitations of our language limit our access to the world, but does language also create our world? We use language to influence others, to communicate, to entertain, to create communities, but language also changes over time, changes as we get older and is sometimes used differently depending on our gender.

In this course we will look at how we acquire language as babies, where does it come from? We will look at how the media uses language to persuade and to inform. We will look at how language changes historically, why does it need to change, and where do new words come from? You will also do a piece of original writing on a topical issue concerning language.

If you love words and language, if you wonder why we use different words in different regions of the country, if you wonder why some words seem to have such power to offend others, if you are interested in people and how they communicate, A Level Language is for you.

Some students will go on from this course to study English or related subjects; some will begin vocational training in the media or journalism; others take up a wide variety of course - anything from nursing to Law or Biology. All A-Level or AS subjects combine excellently with English - from Physics and Chemistry to Art and Design.

Areas of study. Things students will look at in this A Level:

- A linguistic analysis of authentic texts.
- Original writing for a real-world purpose on a topical language issue.
- Analysis of how children acquire language.
- The use of language in the media.
- How language changes over time.
- An investigation into an area of each learner's particular individual interest.

Overview of the Course

Component 1 - Exploring language. 80 marks 2 hours 30 minutes written exam

40% of total A level

Component 2 - Dimensions of linguistic variation. 80 marks 2 hours 30 minutes written exam

40% of total A level

Component 3 - Independent language research. 40 marks non-examined assessment.

20% of total A level

For more information go to the exam board website: www.OCR.org.uk/alevelenglishlanguage

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Students achieving at least a Grade 5 GCSE in English Language or English Literature will be considered on an individual basis should they be interested in studying English Language A level. A good English Language grade at GCSE is preferable.

For more information please contact Matt Male
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ENGLISH LITERATURE A LEVEL

A Level English Literature is a two year course that covers prose, poetry, drama and a coursework component.

Why study English Literature?

- for the opportunity to read widely and in depth and to study some texts of your own choice;
- to gain the skills of analysing texts and understanding their place in society;
- to develop your powers of spoken and written communication;
- to develop your reasoning and critical thinking skills;
- to undertake independent study and research.

For Higher Education

Some students will go on from this course to study English Literature or related subjects; some will begin vocational training in the media or journalism; others take up a wide variety of courses from nursing to Law or Biology. English Literature is a highly regarded course by leading universities and colleges and proves to be an excellent companion subject for all of those across the arts and sciences.

Teaching

Learning how to study independently, how to make the most of a tutorial, how to work in a 'syndicate' with other students, how to prepare for and deliver presentations, how to critically analyse a range of texts: all of these skills seem daunting at first. Don't worry, we want you to develop and succeed and are here to guide and assist you. Your teachers are available for additional tutorial support outside of lessons.

Examination Board: Edexcel

A Level English Literature:

On this course you learn the skills of how to read other peoples' writing - whether that be from a play, novel or poem - and how to explore your ideas and reactions to that writing through discussion and essay writing.

Those skills are at the heart of the whole course; you will prepare for written examination papers and have the opportunity to be assessed by coursework too.

Assessment

There are 4 components assessed; 3 through examination and 1 through coursework. The examinations are held in June.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Students will need to achieve a grade 6 or above at GCSE.

Students achieving a Grade 5 GCSE will be considered sympathetically and considered on an individual basis should they be interested in studying English Literature, English Lang/Lit, Media studies.

For more information, help or advice about English Literature contact:

Miss Fran Nolan or Mrs Amanda Bellamy

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