



ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Language: we use it all of the time. It is the most commonly used tool which forges relationships between us and the people we know and that most fundamental relationship between us and our unconscious selves. The study of English Language will take you right back to the beginning. Where do our words come from? How does language change through time? How does the individual child learn a system of grammar so complex that it still has A-level students frowning? You will find the answer to all of these questions during the two years of this A-level.

What will I learn at A-Level?

Textual variations and representations

You will explore how language is:

- shaped according to audience, purpose, genre and mode
- shaped according to context
- used to construct meanings and representations
- used to enact relationships between writers, speakers and audiences or between participants
- within a text.

This exploration will include

- methods of language analysis
- how identity is constructed
- how audiences are addressed and positioned
- the functions of the texts
- the structure and organisation of the texts
- how representations are produced.

Qualification

A-Level

Start Date

September 2020

Finish Date

June 2022

Methods of language analysis

- You will also explore some of the key features of language through the study of:
- phonetics, phonology and prosodics: how speech sounds and effects are articulated and analysed
- graphology: the visual aspects of textual design and appearance
- lexis and semantics: the vocabulary of English, including social and historical variation
- grammar, including morphology: the structural patterns and shapes of English at sentence, clause, phrase and word level
- pragmatics: the contextual aspects of language use
- discourse: extended stretches of communication occurring in different genres, modes and contexts.

Children's language development

Finally, you will explore how children develop their spoken and written skills through the study of:

- the functions of children's language
- phonological, pragmatic, lexical, semantic and grammatical development
- different genres of speech and writing
- different modes of communication (spoken, written, multimodal)
- theories and research about language development.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE continued

How will I be assessed?

Paper 1: Language, the Individual and Society:

Textual variations and representations

Children's language development (0-11 years)

Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes // 100 marks // 40% of A-level

Questions:

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)

Paper 2: Language Diversity and Change:

Language diversity and change

Language discourses

Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes // 100 marks // 40% of A-level

Questions

Section A - Diversity and Change

One question from a choice of two:

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 - 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)

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)

Non-exam assessment: Language in Action

Language Investigation

Original Writing

Word count: 3,500 // 100 marks // 20% of A-level

Assessed by teachers

Moderated by AQA

Students produce:

a language investigation (2,000 words excluding data)

a piece of original writing and commentary (1,500 words total)

Why English Language?

What can I do with this A-level?

If you're interested in Primary teaching or Secondary English teaching; if you want to do Media Studies or Sociology, Law or advertising; in fact any degree or career that involves communication and an understanding of how language affects people on the deepest level, this is the A-level for You.

 @SMASixthForm

Qualification

A-Level

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Entry Requirements

BOTH a Grade 5 AND a Grade 6
in the two English GCSEs