

English Language

General Information

This is an interesting and stimulating course that involves both a practical, skill-based and an academic approach to the study of language.

You are encouraged to develop your interest and enjoyment in the use of English, through learning more about its structures and its functions, its development and its variations. You will learn to express yourself with increasing confidence and sophistication, encounter a varied range of reading and develop close analytical skills.

The course will enable you to analyse a range of linguistic features from both spoken and written texts and to explore the contexts that affect the language choices made. There will also be the opportunity to create your own original writing aimed at different audiences and purposes.

You should be aware that A Level English Language is totally different from GCSE.

Entry requirements

You should have a grade 4 in GCSE English. You should also meet the general college entry requirements for advanced level study. Please see the current Prospectus- Advanced Programmes, Entry Requirements.

In this subject, particular skills and aptitudes will be required, many of which will be demonstrated by students' GCSE profiles.

Entry requirements might be changed in light of curriculum reform.

Advanced Level

(Exam board – AQA)
(Specification code: 7702)



English Language

Advanced Level

Course content

■ Paper 1 - Language, the Individual and Society

This area of study explores textual variety and how to analyse texts via concepts such as audience, purpose, genre, representation and mode. It also explores how children learn language - both understanding and self expression.

HOW IT IS ASSESSED:
2½ hour exam worth 40% of A Level

■ Paper 2 - English Language Diversity and Change

This area of study looks at language diversity and change over time. Language is explored in social, geographical and time related contexts (from 1600 to the present day).

HOW IT IS ASSESSED:
2½ hour exam worth 40% of A Level

■ Non-exam assessment: Language in Action

This part of the course allows you to explore and analyse personally chosen language data and to carry out two pieces of individual research - a language investigation and a piece of original writing with a commentary.

HOW IT IS ASSESSED:
2 pieces of coursework worth 20% of A Level

How it is taught

The varied nature of the course lends itself to a range of teaching approaches, including whole class and small group work; also learning activities and skills development from creative writing to linguistic analysis and research.

Assessment details

Unit 1 2½ hours	Language, the Individual & Society
Unit 2 2½ hours	Language Diversity & Change
Unit 2 coursework	Language in Action

Useful / common subject combinations

English Language combines effectively with most other subjects, including English Literature, Media based subjects, Humanities and Foreign Languages. It can also complement a Science / Maths based programme.

Careers / HE information

Some students go on to take Language-oriented degree courses or degrees for which Language is a useful preparation, such as Law, Business etc. It is highly relevant for students considering a teaching career, and is well regarded by employers for those students going directly into employment.