

English Language

Examination Board: Eduqas

Qualification: A level

Teacher Contact: Mr Trowell

Entry Requirements: Grade 6 or above in English.

What will I study?

The A level course is comprised of two component units to be studied over the course of two years:

Component 1: Language Concepts and Issues

(2-hour written examination – 30% of qualification)

Section A: Analysis of Spoken Language

This section is based on the study of spoken language and covers a range of situations and genres. You will learn how to analyse transcripts and comment on the effects created by different language features. In the examination you will answer one question requiring the analysis of two or more transcriptions.

Section B: Language Issues

Four language topic areas are the focus of this section: Standard and Non-Standard English; language and power; language and situation; and language acquisition. In the examination you will choose one essay question from a choice of three based on these topic areas.

Component 2: Language Change Over Time

(2 1/4-hour written examination – 30% of qualification)

Section A: Language Change Over Time

This section is based on the study of unseen written texts from different periods, linked by genre. For the examination there will be one multi-part question and one essay question analysing language change over time.

Section B: English in the 21st century

Section B is based on the study of the ways in which language is used distinctively in the 21st century. You will learn how language is evolving to reflect technological and cultural change. In the examination you will answer one question based on the ways language is used in the 21st century.

Component 3: Creative and Critical Use of Language

(1 3/4-hour written examination – 20% of qualification)

You will read a range of literary and non-literary stimulus texts and then practise your original writing in different genres. The examination is based on one question from a choice of two which will require two original writing responses and one commentary.

Component 4: Language and Identity

(2,500-3,500 word language investigation coursework – 20% of qualification)

You will conduct a language investigation that fits broadly into one of the following areas: language and self-representation; language and gender; language and culture; or language diversity.

Am I suited to this course?

You would be well-suited to studying English Language at A level if you:

- would like to develop your research and analytical skills
- enjoy investigating the way language and society are linked
- have the commitment to take on a challenging subject
- would like to develop your own writing skills in both fiction and non-fiction writing.

What other subjects does it complement?

English Language goes well with many subjects. Obvious links are with History, Drama, Media Studies, Sociology and Psychology but it can also be studied with Sciences, Art and Geography.

Where can it lead?

Studying English Language can lead to degree courses in English and Linguistics as well as English combined with a wide range of subjects. It is also a useful foundation for those looking at careers in journalism, media and teaching.