



ENGLISH LANGUAGE A-LEVEL

Exam Board - AQA

What can I expect from this subject?

English Language changes the way you think, speak and write – the A-Level will help you become a more global citizen and prepare you for the realities of the word. The course includes the study of the origin of language and how it has changed through time – from cave drawings to tweeting; how gender, race and class shape language use; how we learn to speak and develop our language from infancy to adulthood and how biology, evolution, psychology and history have all shaped communication and the way we think. It teaches you to consider the meanings, origins and purpose of language in all its forms and helps you create new ways to communicate for every context. The A-Level also includes opportunities for creating a diverse portfolio, such as articles, short stories, reviews and even children books. The course has 2 exams and 2 pieces of coursework across the 2 years

What can I do to prepare for this course?

Wider reading is highly recommended – honing the skill of close reading and understanding a variety of texts is key to success in Language. We recommend students purchase a copy of David Crystal's 'The Story of English in 100 Words' and 'A Little Book of Language' for summer reading to develop their GCSE foundation knowledge of terminology and the history of language.

Furthermore, reading non-fiction and fiction texts are equally beneficial and some students really enjoy, and make excellent progress, due to subscriptions such as the New Yorker, the White Review and the Paris Review.

What will my next steps be?

English Language at A-Level is a prestigious award that can build intellect, communication and literacy skills and language manipulation required for nearly all career paths. As such it is highly valuable across the board. However, some students follow a specific path into degrees and careers such as law, psychology, history, linguistics, language therapy, journalism in all its forms, teaching, writing, editing, marketing, advertising, publishing, scriptwriting and media production.

FAQs for English Language:

Grades at GCSE - what will I need? Grade 6 and above in English Language are required for this A level. Grade 5 in English Literature is also required.

What is the A level workload - what are the prep expectations and revision hours required? You will receive 2 pieces of prep a week - one will be extensive, such as research or an essay, and the other will be briefer, such as annotating or short wider reading.

What skills are necessary for this A level? A passion for discussion and an open mind are both vital in developing your critical thinking skills.