

# English Language AS and A Level

**Examination Board:** AQA

This is a course that enables students to engage critically and creatively with a wide range of texts both spoken and written. You will study the English language both as a medium of communication and as a subject in its own right. Students will be taught to pursue lines of enquiry, debate different views and to work independently to research aspects of language in use.

## AS Level

Content covered in this qualification includes: Textual variations and representations; Language diversity; Writing skills. Each component is underpinned by Methods of language analysis. Assessment takes the form of two examinations sat in the summer of Year 12:

**Paper 1: Language and the Individual.** This 1 hour 30 minute written examination is 50% of the qualification and examines Textual variations and representations via three questions: a question requiring analysis of one text, a question requiring analysis of a second text, and a question requiring comparison of the two texts.

**Paper 2: Language Varieties.** This written examination is also 1 hour and 30 minutes in duration and comprises 50% of the qualification. In Section A - Language Diversity - students will write a discursive essay from a choice of two questions. Section B - Language Discourses - is a directed writing task on attitudes to language.

## A Level

Students following this course will study a wide range of texts for different purposes and audiences and in a variety of genres including written, spoken and electronic texts. You will also learn about: children's language development including related theories; how language varies depending on such aspects as region (dialect), gender and occupation; texts from different periods from 1600 to the present day (Language Change).

Two written examinations, each of which are worth 40% of the A Level qualification and are 2 hours 30 minutes in duration will be taken in the summer of Year 13. These will test:

- The ability to apply appropriate methods of language analysis (including grammar), using associated terminology and coherent written expression;

- Students' critical understanding of a range of theories and concepts relevant to language use;

- The ability to evaluate how contextual factors affect the construction of meaning;

- The ability to make connections and comparisons between different texts;

- The ability to write effectively in a range of styles including discursive essays.

In addition there is a coursework element, worth 20% of the A Level. This has two parts:

- An investigation into an area of individual interest which requires students to collect and analyse original data.

- A piece of original writing accompanied by a reflective commentary.

### You will enjoy studying AS and A Level English Language if you:

- Are interested in reading a wide variety of examples of spoken and written language from the past and the present.

- Enjoy a critical approach to texts, analysing how and why language varies.

- Would like to study a subject that is relevant to your own life and experiences.

- Want to hone your own writing skills by producing a range of texts including discursive essays, creative texts and analytical answers.

- Want to keep your options open for further study; English Language is relevant to many degree courses and careers.

**Careers and Study Progression:** Past students have gone on to work in education, online journalism, and marketing, but the skills of communication, critical reasoning and analysis that English Language teaches are useful for any future careers.

