

English Language / Linguistics A Level

What qualifications do I need to begin the course?

Five GCSEs Grade 9-4. You will also need a grade 5 or higher in English Language GCSE.

What does the course involve?

With exciting text- and data-based sources of language, the specification introduces the study of English in its various forms and contexts, with the concepts and methods appropriate for the analysis of language underpinning all elements of the course. Offering clear skills progression from GCSE, this course allows students to build on the skills already gained and prepare for their next steps.

The variety of assessment styles used, such as data analysis, discursive essays, directed writing, original writing and research-based investigative writing, allows students to develop a wide range of skills. These include critical reading, data analysis, evaluation, the ability to develop and sustain arguments and a number of different writing skills which are invaluable for both further study and future employment.

How is the course assessed?

Paper 1: Language, the Individual and Society

- Textual variations and representations
- Children's language development (0-11 years)
- Methods of language analysis are integrated into the activities

Assessed

- 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)

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)

Paper 2: Language Diversity and Change

What's assessed

- Language diversity and change
- Language discourses
- Writing skills
- Methods of language analysis are integrated into the activities

Assessed

- 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:

Either: an evaluative essay on language diversity (30 marks)

Or: an evaluative essay on language change (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**What's assessed**

- Language Investigation
- Original Writing
- Methods of language analysis are integrated into the activities

Assessed

- Word count: 3,500
- 100 marks
- 20% of A-level
- Assessed by teachers
- Moderated by AQA

Tasks

Students produce:

- a language investigation (2,000 words excluding data)

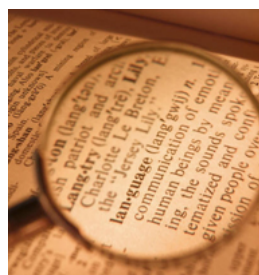
- a piece of original writing and commentary (1,500 words total)

The future?

This course is particularly suitable for those students who wish to study English Language, Linguistics or English Studies in Higher Education

Exam Board: AQA

Staff Contact: Mr N Foad



English Literature A Level

What qualifications do I need to begin the course?

Five GCSEs Grade 9-4. You will also need a grade 5 or higher in English Language or English Literature GCSE.

What does the course involve?

The subject encompasses a relevant, engaging and up-to-date specification that approaches the reading and study of literature through the lens of genre and theory, encouraging the independent study of a range of texts within a shared context, giving logic and meaning to the way that texts are grouped for study.

The variety of assessment styles used, such as passage-based questions, unseen material, single text questions, multiple text questions, open- and closed-book approaches, allows students to develop a wide range of skills, such as the ability to read critically, analyse, evaluate and undertake independent research which are valuable for both further study and future employment.

How is the course assessed?

Paper 1: Literary genres

Choice of two options
Option 1A: Aspects of tragedy
Option 1B: Aspects of comedy
Study of three texts: one Shakespeare text; a second drama text and one further text, of which one must be written pre-1900

Assessed

- written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes
- closed book
- 75 marks
- 40% of A-level

Questions

Section A: One passage-based question on set Shakespeare text (25 marks)

Section B: One essay question on set Shakespeare text (25 marks)

Section C: One essay question linking two texts (25 marks)

Paper 2: Texts and genres

Choice of two options

Option 2A: Elements of crime writing

Option 2B: Elements of political and social protest writing

Study of three texts: one post-2000 prose text; one poetry and one further text, one of which must be written pre-1900
exam will include an unseen passage.

Assessed

- written exam: 3 hours
- open book
- 75 marks
- 40% of A-level

Questions

Section A: One compulsory question on an unseen passage (25 marks)

Section B: One essay question on set text (25 marks)

Section C: One essay question which connects two texts (25 marks)

Non-exam assessment: Theory and independence

Study of two texts: one poetry and one prose text, informed by study of the Critical Anthology

Two essays of 1250 -1500 words, each responding to a different text and linking to a different aspect of the Critical Anthology

One essay can be re-creative. The re-creative piece will be accompanied by a commentary.

Assessed

- 50 marks
- 20% of A-level
- assessed by teachers
- moderated by AQA

The Future?

The analytical nature of this course means that it is an excellent choice for a wide range of careers. It is particularly suited to students who are interested in careers in media, public relations, publishing, law, politics and education, as well as learners who may wish to pursue careers as writers.

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