

English Language

Course Details

Advanced English Language builds upon skills gained in GCSE English but you will explore a wealth of new material and ideas, including accents, dialects, language change and child language acquisition.

The course is a scientific study of how language works in many different contexts and a lively interest in reading all kinds of texts, and listening to different types of spoken material, would be a great advantage.



Coursework

This comprises a Language Investigation and a piece of original writing with a commentary. You will choose one of 3 topics: persuasion, storytelling or informing.

You will have the opportunity to choose an area of language study which interests you and explore and analyse your own data, writing up your findings in an appropriate way. This will be independent work supervised by your teacher.

The coursework is worth 20% of the total examination.

Course Breakdown and Assessment

A Level

2 Exams

Paper 1: Language, the individual and Society.

This paper will require you to explore and understand spoken and written texts in a variety of contexts. You will also study the historical and contemporary changes in the English Language from 1600 to the present day.

Child Language Development will be studied and you will answer a question on either children's spoken or written language.

Paper 2: Language Diversity and Change.

You will study the relationships between language and society by exploring a range of topics including: gender, occupational groups, social class, accents and dialects and ethnicity.

You will answer one essay question on one of the topics and compare 2 texts which illustrate an aspect of diversity or change as well as writing an opinion article about the issues raised in the texts.

Suitability

All the exams require you to identify and elaborate on aspects of language in given short texts.

You will need to be prepared to work independently and meet deadlines effectively in order to succeed in this subject.

If you can grasp quite complex concepts about such things as word formation and the rules governing the way we vary language in given situations, then you should be able to make a good start on the course.

Prospects

The skills developed in this course are text handling, writing for many purposes and in different styles, and being aware of the complex nature of language.

Former students have gone on to Language and Linguistics courses, Communications courses, Media Studies, Journalism, Advertising, Law and teacher training as well as Business courses and Management.

For More Information

Students interested in following the English Language course should contact the Head of Department or subject staff.

Subject Staff

Mrs F Roberts BA (Hons) PGCE

Mr M Parrin BA (Hons) PGCE

Head of Department

Mrs F Roberts BA (Hons) PGCE

Syllabus

A Level English Language

Exam Board

AQA

Website

Further details of this course can be found on the exam boards' website.

www.aqa.org.uk



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