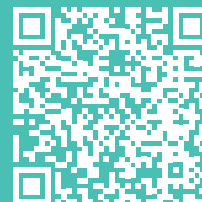


# A Level English Language AQA

Find out more



LINEAR

## Why study English Language?

English Language is a rich and varied course that provides a superb springboard for employment in commerce, public relations, speech and language therapy, law, psychology, and elements of the media. You will learn to read and write for purpose and develop an understanding of how culture and attitudes are represented, maintained, and challenged through speech and writing. In the final year students complete a Non-Examined Assessment (NEA) that enables them to write for purpose and investigate an aspect of language that fascinates them, such as child language acquisition or opinionated texts. The subject is relevant and engaging, allowing students to explore how language shapes culture and identity, and how our evolution as language animals has shaped our social organisation and identity.

## About the course

English Language A Level develops a student's knowledge and critical understanding of how language has developed across time. It also explores dialect and accent, and attitudes to speakers of different dialects. In the final year the development of language in human babies facilitates and understanding of what grammar is and how a language is developed in the brain. We offer a two-year linear A Level. Students complete a 3500-word personal investigation in Year 13 and two written examinations.

## Year 12

In Year 12 we study the evolution of the English language, and how it has been shaped and adapted. Much of this involves an exploration of how society impacts on and shapes language, how words develop and how the study of language can facilitate an understanding of history and society. Students also study the representation of attitudes and social expectations in a variety of written texts. Students explore the way meaning is contained in writing and develop an ability to critically analyse and explore language choices and relationships between writers and their audiences.

## Year 13

In Year 13 students study how children acquire language and the different theoretical interpretations of this process. Students also study the influence of class, gender, race and culture on language choice and the shape and identity of Global English in the 21st century. Understanding the place of modern English in the wider world offers a fascinating insight into human history and evolution, and students can envisage the ongoing development of English in the future.

## Assessment

The main assessment is through two external examinations in Year 13. 20% of the assessment is through a personal coursework investigation and language production (own choice writing).

## Entry criteria

A grade 6 at GCSE English Language, and 4 other passes at grade 5 in other subjects (including English Lit).

## Outside the classroom

An exploration of how language works in the wider world. Various trips outside the classroom to observe and explore language in action in the real world. The investigation coursework can take students anywhere they choose!

