



# ENGLISH LANGUAGE

If you are fascinated by language and are keen to know how language works, changes and what influences it, then A-level English Language is the course for you. It offers a very different experience from your GCSE English, with linguistic terminology, including grammar, underpinning A-level. The course enables students to learn how children acquire language; how language use is affected by power, gender and technology; and how language changes over time, amongst other topics. Students can expect a wide range of learning activities, with discussion and presentation central to their experience. A-level is assessed by examination with an additional coursework component which is an independent investigation.

## COURSE DETAILS:

Methods of language analysis are integrated into all components.

### Component 1: Exploring Language (40%)

#### What's assessed?

- Language under the microscope
- Writing about a topical issue
- Comparing and contrasting texts

#### How is it assessed?

- Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes

### Paper 2: Dimensions of Linguistic Variation (40%)

#### What's assessed?

- Child language acquisition
- Language in the media
- Language change

#### How is it assessed?

- Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes

### A-level Non-exam assessment: Independent Language Research (20%)

#### What's assessed?

- Language investigation
- Academic poster

#### How is it assessed?

- Assessed by teachers
- Moderated by OCR

#### EXAM BOARD:

OCR ENGLISH LANGUAGE (H470)

#### ASSESSMENT:

For their first exam, students will develop their knowledge and understanding of the language levels and apply their critical analysis skills to a range of spoken, written and multi-modal texts. They will also study for an engaging writing production task where learners demonstrate their own language skills in response to a language issue.

Component 02 specifies interesting and varied contexts for further exploration of language in use: child language acquisition, language in the media and language change. For language in the media, students will develop their knowledge and understanding of the ways in which power is represented in a variety of texts; the ways gender is represented and reproduced in texts; and how developments in technology have had an influence on our language and its evolution.

Finally, students will conduct an independent investigation into an aspect of language use which interests them. As well as this research project, students will produce an academic poster to communicate their findings to others in a visually accessible way. This independent research project is excellent preparation for Higher Education.



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## OTHER LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES:

You can develop your leadership skills by supporting KS4 students with GCSE studies and teach A-level taster sessions with KS4 students. You will also develop your ability to conduct investigative research and your ability to deliver presentations to others. Students are given opportunities to participate in a range of extra-curricular opportunities including: lectures from the British Library and the English in Action programme. They are also encouraged to sign up to become Reading Mentors with students in younger years.

## WHERE NEXT WITH THIS COURSE?

Both English Literature and English Language A-level will equip with you with much-sought after literacy skills valued by employers and universities alike. We will teach you to communicate effectively, think independently, challenge assumptions and ideas, critically assess information and evaluate the importance of historical, social and political context. Students could go on to take a specialist degree in English language, language and communications or linguistics, or other courses such as law, drama, education, history or any of the social sciences. Students considering careers in law, accountancy, engineering, economics – in fact anything that requires strong written and verbal communication, should not under-estimate the desirability of an English A-level!



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# HIGHAM LANE SIXTH FORM