

# English Language

## ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

Head of Department: Mrs R. Burdett

Deputy Head of Department: Mrs S. Driscoll

Why choose the subject?

This course appeals to anyone who enjoys using words, thinking about the way language works, and about the way it varies and changes. It will develop your own language skills, and help you to understand and to investigate why people talk and write the way they do.

Although the course requires some of the skills learnt during your Key Stage 3 and GCSE years, most of it is completely new. It is an excellent preparation for students wishing to study a broad range of subjects at university, and can be studied together with an English Literature A-level, where the analytical techniques taught in Language can be put to good use.

This subject allows students to discover how language is used by individuals, groups, and within society as a whole. We look at the foundations of English: its sounds, structure and meaning. We study the language of the media; how language can be used to control and persuade; how different types of English are used within this country and in other parts of the world; how language changes over time - and many other aspects of something we normally take for granted. We study the ways people talk and the ways they write - and the areas where talk and writing cross over, such as texting and instant messaging. Students learn to use their knowledge of language to write both fiction and non-fiction for various audiences and purposes, such as short stories, opinion pieces and travel writing.

The Year 12 English Language course lays the foundation for all these fields of study, which will then be developed and deepened during Year 13. At this level, students will also be producing an independent investigation into one of a broad range of topics, and more creative writing.

Who is eligible?

Anyone who is interested in the way language works. You need to have achieved at least a grade 6 in English GCSE. You should remember that if you wish to study English Literature at university, you will need to select English Literature A level as well.

## A LEVEL EXAMINATION

Examination Board: WJEC/Eduqas	<p><b>Component 1: Language Concepts and Issues</b> Written examination: 2 hours (120 marks) 30% of qualification</p>	<p><b>Section A: Analysis of spoken Language</b> (60 marks) The question will require candidates to compare two or more transcripts of spoken language.</p> <p><b>Section B: Language issues</b> (60 marks) Four language topic areas will be studied:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Standard and non-standard English</li> <li>• Language and power</li> <li>• Language and situation</li> <li>• Child language acquisition.</li> </ul> <p>There will be three questions (the selection will vary from year to year), of which the candidate chooses one.</p>
	<p><b>Component 2: Language Change Over Time</b> Written examination: 2¼ hours (120 marks) 30% of qualification</p>	<p><b>Section A: Language change over time</b> (80 marks) Candidates must comment on and compare three texts from different periods ranging from 1500 to the present day.</p> <p><b>Section B: English in the twenty-first century</b> (40 marks) Candidates are given a short focus text and asked to display their knowledge of contemporary language issues.</p>

**Component 3: Creative and Critical Use of Language**

Written examination: 1¾ hours (80 marks)  
20% of qualification

- Candidates are given two 'stimulus texts' (which may be literary or non-literary).
- They choose one of these texts, and produce two short pieces of original writing in different genres.
- They also write a short commentary on one piece.

**Component 4: Language and Identity**

Non-exam assessment: 2500-3500 word folder (80 marks)  
20% of qualification

Candidates conduct an independent investigation, selecting material of interest to them personally and academically, collecting and analysing their data, and drawing conclusions from their analysis.

The four areas from which the candidate must select are:

- Language and self-representation
- Language and gender
- Language and culture
- Language diversity.

**AS LEVEL QUALIFICATION**

Examination Board: WJEC/Eduqas	<p>Component 1: <b>Analysis of Texts in Context</b> Written examination: 2 hours (100 marks) 50% of qualification</p>	<p><b>Section A: Spoken language of the media (50 marks)</b> The question will require candidates to explore the effects created by spoken language on radio or television.</p> <p><b>Section B: Written language (50 marks)</b> The question requires candidates to analyse texts selected from a wide range of genres.</p>
	<p>Component 2: <b>Using Language</b> Written examination: 2 hours (100 marks) 50% of qualification</p>	<p><b>Section A: Investigating language (50 marks)</b> Candidates must identify and explore linguistic patterns whilst making connections across a set of mini-texts.</p> <p><b>Section B: Critical and creative writing (50 marks)</b> Candidates are asked to produce a short original piece of writing in a specific genre, and to write a short commentary on the language choices they have made.</p>

**STUDENT VIEW**

**English Language**



How has our language changed over time? In what ways is language use influenced by social class, gender, ethnicity and occupation? How is language used by the media? By studying English Language A-level, you will discover the answers to all of these questions and more. If you enjoy reading between the lines, picking language apart, and if you wish to hone your analytical and creative skills, this is the subject for you. Whether you want to study Language at university, or just make your writing more concise and fluent, English Language can help. Lessons are diverse and engaging, often including quizzes, games, group presentations and independent research, making English Language an enriching and thoroughly enjoyable addition to your A-level timetable.

HW