

# English Language

## ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

Head of Department: Mrs R. Burdett

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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

Year 2017/2019 Advanced Level Award  
Examination Board: WJEC/Eduqas

### Component 1: Language Concepts and Issues

Written examination: 2 hours  
(120 marks)  
30% of qualification

#### Section A: Analysis of spoken Language (60 marks)

The question will require candidates to compare two or more transcripts of spoken language.

#### Section B: Language issues (60 marks)

Four language topic areas will be studied:

- Standard and non-standard English
- Language and power
- Language and situation
- Child language acquisition.

There will be three questions (the selection will vary from year to year), of which the candidate chooses one.

### Component 2: Language Change Over Time

Written examination: 2¼ hours  
(120 marks)  
30% of qualification

#### Section A: Language change over time (80 marks)

Candidates must comment on and compare three texts from different periods ranging from 1500 to the present day.

#### Section B: English in the twenty-first century (40 marks)

Candidates are given a short focus text and asked to display their knowledge of contemporary language issues.

**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**

Year 2017/18 Advanced Subsidiary Award Examination Board: WJEC/Eduqas	Component 1: <b>Analysis of Texts in Context</b> Written examination: 2 hours (100 marks) 50% of qualification	<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.  <b>Section B: Written language (50 marks)</b> The question requires candidates to analyse texts selected from a wide range of genres.
	Component 2: <b>Using Language</b> Written examination: 2 hours (100 marks) 50% of qualification	<b>Section A: Investigating language (50 marks)</b> Candidates must identify and explore linguistic patterns whilst making connections across a set of mini-texts.  <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.

**STUDENT VIEW**

**English Language**



English Language is a modern and dynamic subject that studies how we communicate and how we change the way we use English for different purposes. A multi-faceted subject that complements history, modern languages, social sciences, media studies and English literature, it will help you to improve your analytical, creative and critical skills. Not only this but you will learn the International Phonetic Alphabet which will assist your pronunciation when using dictionaries. Both Mr Cussen and Mrs Sims are friendly and enthusiastic and always willing to give advice. On top of this, English Language is a subject that encourages group work as well as independent study.

Katharine Miles