

Choosing A Level English Language



Why study English Language?



Develop valuable life skills:

- Effective communication
- Assess information critically
- Challenge assumptions

Develop an awareness of the wider context of language:

- Language and social control
- Language and manipulation
- Propaganda
- How language is acquired



What does the course look like?

Yr 12 Teacher/ hours:	Aut 1	Aut 2	Spr 1	Spr 2	Sum 1
Teacher A <input type="checkbox"/>	Intro to meanings and representations and language frameworks (lexis, semantics, pragmatics, graphology)	Language and gender	Language and occupation	Language change	
Teacher B <input type="checkbox"/>	Intro to meanings and representations and language frameworks (grammar, syntax, discourse)	Original Writing Coursework	Language and social groups (inc. ethnicity)	Accent and Dialect	Child Language Acquisition
Yr 13 Teacher/ hours:	Sum 2	Aut 1	Aut 2	Spr 1	Spr 2
Teacher A	World English and Technology	Language Investigation Coursework	Social Groups revision	Language change	Paper 1 Exam prep
Teacher B	Child Language Acquisition	Comparison P1 Q3 Revise meanings and representations Different media (spoken, internet, historical)	Paper 2 Q3+4 (comparison of two texts and creative writing)	Revise diversity Q3 +Q4 paper 2 (comparison and creative writing)	Paper 2 Exam prep

Child Language Acquisition



According to Bee (1997) a word is:

‘any sound or set of sounds that is used consistently to refer to some thing, action or quality.’

Which of the following, in your opinion, would count as a word?

- 1) A baby says ‘da’ every time he hits his toy duck against the side of the bath.
- 2) A baby says ‘dada’ one day when her father enters the room.
- 3) On looking into a mirror, child says ‘baba!’.
- 4) On looking into a mirror, looking at a photograph album and various books, he says ‘baba!’.
- 5) You show a baby a picture of a gorilla in a book. She shouts ‘Agh!’

Language Change



How much of the following Old English script do you recognise?

Eft he axode, hu ðære ðeode nama wære þe hi of comon. Him wæs geandwyrð, þæt hi Angle genemnode wæron. Þa cwæð he, "Rihtlice hi sind Angle gehatene, for ðan ðe hi engla wlite habbað, and swilcum gedafenað þæt hi on heofonum engla geferan beon."



Meanings and Representations

How has the text used language to create meanings and representations?

Housekeeping Monthly 13 May 1955

The good wife's guide

Have dinner ready. Plan ahead, even the night before, to have a delicious meal ready, on time for his return. This is a way of letting him know that you have been thinking about him and are concerned about his needs. Most men are hungry when they come home and the prospect of a good meal (especially his favourite dish) is part of the warm welcome needed.

Prepare yourself. Take 15 minutes to rest so you'll be refreshed when he arrives. Touch up your make-up, put a ribbon in your hair and be fresh-looking. He has just been with a lot of work-weary people.

Language Diversity



Gender

Robin Lakoff in 1975, published an influential account of women's language. This was the book *Language and Woman's Place*. In a related article, *Woman's language*, she published a set of basic assumptions about what marks out the language of women. Among these are **claims that women:**

- **Hedge:** using phrases like “sort of”, “kind of”, “it seems like”, and so on.
- **Use (super)polite forms:** “Would you mind...”, “I'd appreciate it if...”, “...if you don't mind”.
- **Use tag questions:** “You're going to dinner, aren't you?”
- **Use empty adjectives:** divine, lovely, adorable, and so on
- **Use direct quotation:** men paraphrase more often.
- **Have a special lexicon:** women use more words for things like colours, men for sports.

What arguments can you think of that would help to disprove Lakoff's theory?

What is assessed?



Non-exam assessment: Language in Action

What's assessed

- Language Investigation
- Original Writing
- Methods of language analysis are integrated into the activities

Assessed

- Word count: 3,500
- 100 marks
- 20% of A-level
- Assessed by teachers
- Moderated by AQA



What is assessed?

Paper 1: Language, the Individual and Society

What's assessed

- Textual variations and representations
- Children's language development (0-11 years)
- Methods of language analysis are integrated into the activities

Assessed

- written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes
- 100 marks
- 40% of A-level

Paper 2: Language Diversity and Change

What's assessed

- Language diversity and change
- Language discourses
- Writing skills
- Methods of language analysis are integrated into the activities

Assessed

- written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes
- 100 marks
- 40% of A-level

Which subjects complement English Language?

Psychology and Sociology- sociolinguistics, the influence of language on human behaviour and research skills.

English Literature- analytical skills, essay writing, arguments

History and Politics- essay writing, arguments, analytical skills

Film Studies- analytical skills, creative skills

Languages- understanding the structure of language

All other subjects!



Which careers will English Language support you with?

ANYTHING!

- Journalism
- Media
- Marketing and digital marketing
- Law
- Web development
- Communications
- Charities
- Human Resources
- Project management
- Publishing
- Administration
- Writing
- Broadcasting
- Advertising
- Public Relations
- Events
- Social Media

