

English Language



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Exam Board

AQA A Level English
Language

Why study English Language?

English Language at A Level is totally different to GCSE; at university, the equivalent subject would be linguistics. English Language is a lively, relevant and engaging course with up-to-date content which reflects contemporary language study. You will explore how children learn to communicate, analyse how language has evolved over time (and continues to do so) as well as develop an understanding of how language is used differently by various groups in society. You will also create your own original writing, emulating a writer whose work you admire in a genre you enjoy. Perhaps the most exciting aspect of the course is the language investigation which allows you to create a scientific study of how language is used in the real world. By the end of the course, you will have developed skills in data analysis, creative writing, evaluation, writing logical and coherent arguments and engaged effectively with critical reading.

Course Outline

You will study and we will guide you through four key areas, exploring some of the questions below:

Language Diversity: How has the English language changed and why? Is it still evolving? Why is it important we know about language change? What influences does gender, ethnicity, occupation, status and region have on our own language? Which factors in history have been pivotal in changing the English language? What might the future of the English language be? Should we be prejudiced against certain types of English?

Children's Language Development: How do children learn to speak? Why do all children make similar mistakes when learning grammar? What are the significant factors which affect a child's ability to communicate with others? Do children today face bigger issues with learning to speak than children have in the past?

Textual Variations and Representations: How can you manipulate a reader of an advert into buying your product? How do politicians use language to spin their view of the world? How do you use written language to appeal to a particular demographic? Why is it that articles aimed at men are totally different to those aimed at women?

NEA (coursework): Original Writing and Investigation

- How would you like to create your own piece of fiction writing? Which writer would you want to emulate? Who would you like to give a voice to? Which issue facing the 21st century would you want to write about?
- Which area of how language is used interests you? Perhaps you would investigate the differences between sports commentaries or how lyrics to songs have become more sexualised over time?

Where are they now?

Recent students of English Language at CRGS have gone on to study:

- American and Canadian Studies and English Lit. (*Birmingham*)
- English and Classics (*Nottingham*)
- English Language (*Birmingham, Durham, Leeds*)
- English Literature and Creative Writing (*Newcastle*)
- English Literature and Sociology (*Newcastle*)
- French and Linguistics (*Oxford*)
- International Business Studies (*Liverpool*)
- Law (*Cambridge, York*)
- Liberal Arts (*Warwick*)
- Medicine (*Glasgow*)
- Modern and Medieval Languages (*Cambridge*)
- Psychology (*Liverpool*)

Clitheroe Royal Grammar School

Founded in 1554

Assessment

- Paper 1: Language, the Individual and Society (Written Exam, 2hrs 30 mins, 40% of A Level)
- Paper 2: Language Diversity and Change (Written Exam, 2hrs 30 mins, 40% of A Level)
- Paper 3: Language in Action (Non-Exam Assessment, 20% of A Level)

Frequently Asked Questions

Is any previous knowledge required to study this subject?

You should have GCSE English Language and English Literature at Grade 5 or above. For any English A Level, a love of writing and a commitment to undertaking extensive, independent and challenging reading is imperative. Students are required to meet the General Entry Requirement of a minimum of 4 GCSEs at grade 6 with at least GCSE grade 4 in English Language and Maths.

How will you support my studies?

The department makes use of a variety of online and paper materials. We use a wide variety of teaching methods and expect you to engage actively in lesson discussion. Pre reading enables you to access key knowledge before lessons so that you can use the time in lesson to ask questions, develop your skills and crucially, debate with other students to develop your understanding of the topic. Teachers are incredibly knowledgeable and experienced. They keep abreast of new developments in the world of linguistics to ensure their subject knowledge is up to date. We encourage you to read widely and to make use of online platforms to further embed and develop a deeper understanding of learning areas.

You will be assessed at least once every half term, being given detailed feedback and the time and skills to further develop your essay writing so that you can become the best student you can be.

What are lessons like?

Lessons are paced effectively with a range of activities and discussions. An enquiring mind and the ability to engage with articles and extracts outside the classroom means learning is focused on being an active learner through either written work or paired discussion. Debate is encouraged!

For the NEA, how will you help me to achieve the best grades?

You will choose a genre and an intended readership for your writing. We will then guide you through the process giving you detailed feedback on how to improve.

In the language investigation, we will teach you how to collect data, analyse it and report your findings as a student of linguistics. We will help you to choose an area which will enable you to enjoy your investigation as well as achieve the best marks for you.

What sort of jobs might this A Level help me with?

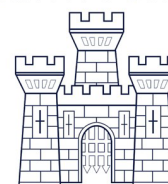
Students of English Language may go on to become journalists, Speech and Language Therapists, students of linguistics or writers. They also might go on to Marketing and PR, careers in publishing or law.

English language at A Level complements any career which needs some level of data analysis, argument arguing, evaluation or close attention to detail.

Exam Board Specification

AQA A Level English Language (7702) www.aqa.org.uk

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SIXTH FORM



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