

E LANGUAGE G L I S H



ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Think you understand the language you have grown up with? Think again!

The GLM (Global Language Monitor) estimates that in the modern world a new word is created every 98 minutes. Where do these words come from? Why do we need them, and what do they tell us about the societies we live in? How has the English language changed over time, and what forces have influenced that change?

English Language A Level explores the language we use in its everyday contexts. You will analyse spoken and written modes, from conversations between friends and colleagues, to analysing the power and gender dynamics in language, and exploring the impact of technology on our language use. You will also have the opportunity for some creative freedom as you learn to craft your writing for different audiences and purposes.

What will I study?

A Level Unit 1: Language, the individual and society (40%)

The focus in this unit is how language is used in the world around us in varying contexts. You will study a number of different texts including newspaper articles, blog posts, media advertisements, social media pages and transcripts. You will analyse how text producers use language to represent, manipulate and mislead. In Year 13, you will also study how children acquire language – a process both entirely natural and highly complex!

A Level Unit 2: Language diversity and change (40%)

Do women and men use language differently? Are teenagers destroying the English language? What is the future of punctuation? These are just a tiny selection of the linguistic questions we will explore when studying the diverse nature of language and how it changes over time.

A Level Non-Exam Assessment: Language in action (20%)

You will craft an original piece of writing, with a commentary exploring your decisions. In a separate piece of work you will conduct an independent Language Investigation.

Assessment

Unit 1: Written examination. (2.5 hours)

Unit 2: Written examination. (2.5 hours)

Non-Exam Assessment: One piece of original writing & a Language Investigation

Career Opportunities

English Language A Level will support the development of your communication, analytical and evaluative skills, and will help you learn how to apply your knowledge and understanding to a wide range of topical areas. Because English Language is all about how language is used in different contexts, you will become adept at thinking flexibly and with nuance.

Both Higher Education and employers value the skills of analysis, problem solving and the ability to craft your writing: there are very few areas or careers that do not benefit from a qualification in English Language. Recent A Level Language students at The Sixth Form have gone on to study areas as diverse as nursing, occupational therapy and business.

Entry Requirements

Five Level 4 GCSEs are required for entry into 6th Form.

Level 5 pass is required in your chosen, or related, subject.

Some subjects require Level 6; decisions will be based on individual students.

Specialist facilities

Fully resourced dedicated classrooms

Hours of study (fortnightly)

9 hours of lesson time
 6 hours independent learning

