



English Language: AS Level

What do I need to start the course?

An interest in language. You need to be the kind of person who is fascinated by how language affects the way we think and how the way we think affects language. You need to be prepared to learn a wealth of new terminology and become conversant enough with it in order to apply it to textual analysis.

What will I learn on this A level course?

Learners will develop a broad knowledge and understanding of the language levels, including:

- Phonetics, phonology and prosodics: how speech sounds and effects are articulated and analysed
- Lexis and semantics: the vocabulary of English, including social and historical variation
- Grammar including morphology: the structural patterns and shapes of English at sentence, clause, phrase and word level
- Pragmatics: the contextual aspects of language use
- Discourse: extended stretches of communication occurring in different genres, modes and contexts

What kind of student is this course suitable for?

This course will appeal to students who:

- enjoy analysing, expressing their opinions and justifying their comments on texts.
- enjoy studying a subject which is relevant to their own lives
- want to keep their options open as it is a popular qualification for a wide variety of courses and future careers.

What can you do when you have your qualification?

You will learn a wide range of transferable skills: writing for different audiences and purposes; responding to spoken and written texts; expressing informed and independent opinions; identifying and developing the links between different parts of the subject. These skills are in demand from employers, Universities and Colleges and are also valuable in their own right. English Language forms a sound basis for study alongside any other subject. Journalism, the Media, Law, Teaching and Management are some of the areas former students have pursued.

For further information or advice please contact
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Examination Board: OCR
Qualification: AS Level

AS COURSE CONTENT AND ASSESSMENT

Paper 1: Exploring Language

Written paper 60 marks - 50% of total AS level
(1 hour 30 minutes)

Section A: Understanding language features in context
Analysing one written text. (24 marks)

Section B: Comparing and contrasting texts Comparing a written text to a spoken text. (36 marks)

Paper 2: Exploring Contexts

Written paper 60 marks - 50% of total AS level
(1 hour 30 minutes)

Section A: Writing about a topical language issue
Written discussion on gender or power study to be created for a non-specialist audience. (24 marks)

Section B: Exploring language in context
Analysing a text using the theories of gender or power. (36 marks)

