

English Language A Level



Exam Board: AQA

Entry requirements: Grade 5 or above in English Language GCSE

Intent

Structure

A-level English Language offers opportunities for students to develop their subject expertise by engaging creatively and critically with a wide range of texts and discourses. Students will create texts and reflect critically on their own processes of production, while analysing the texts produced by others. The specification explores the study of English Language both as a medium of communication and as a topic in its own right, with an emphasis on the ability of students to pursue lines of enquiry, debate different views, and work independently to research aspects of language in use. Language is seen as a creative tool for expression and social connection, as well as for individual cognition. The study of language as a system used to assert power in society is also fundamental to the scope of this specification.

Implementation

Content & Sequencing

Textual variations and representations- We study a range of texts from a variety of writers, speakers, and subjects and explore how language is shaped according to audience, purpose, genre, context, and other factors. We will also analyse how language is used to enact relationships between writers, speakers and audiences or between participants within a text.

Children's language development: We will explore how children develop spoken and written skills. We'll be studying the functions of children's language, semantic and grammatical development, different genres of speech and writing, different modes of communication, and theories and research about language development.

Language Diversity and Change: The aim of this area of study is to allow students to explore language diversity and change over time. Students will study the key concepts of audience, purpose, genre and mode and will explore language in its wider social, geographical and temporal contexts. They will explore processes of language change. This part of the subject content also requires students to study social attitudes to, and debates about, language diversity and change.

Original Writing: Students will produce one piece of original writing based on one of the following three areas and one accompanying commentary:

- The Power of Persuasion
- The Power of Storytelling
- The Power of Information

In preparation for the writing, students will study a range of style models before selecting and analysing one style model in detail. Students will select their own style model in consultation with their supervising teacher. Students will then use this research to inform their own piece of original writing.

Assessment Methods

Two 150-minute examinations (40% each) and 2 assessed pieces of written coursework totalling 3,500 words: 1 language investigation and 1 creative writing.

Impact

Onward Progression

This course builds dynamic, independent thinkers. We allow and encourage students to explore the text they read and look for the inner depths of critical and analytical thinking. We want to build strong lovers of language and that truly understand and appreciate how language is used and developed. A Level English unlocks many doors. It is a marker for high levels of skill in communication and thought processing. It can take you on to a degree in similar areas: Literature / Language / Journalism. However, it can also be used to obtain places on Law degrees and beyond. Most, if not all, professional employers will look favourably on a high level of competency in A level English and therefore it is a great choice as an academic subject.



Further information contact

Mr Tyson Stevens - Curriculum Leader KS5 English
tyson.stevens@shoreham-academy.org