

# English Language A-Level



**Exam board:** [AQA English Language](#)

English Language is an A-level qualification which both broadens and deepens your understanding of the foundations, functions and mechanics of the English Language. It is designed to give you the opportunity to interpret and dissect how language is used to shape meanings and representations. Throughout your study, you will encounter a wide range of texts across a variety of different genres and modes. You will explore why people speak differently due to their social background, occupation, gender and the part of the country or the world they come from. In addition, you will study how and why the English language changes as well as how children learn to speak, write and read.

You will discuss and investigate the big questions regarding language use such as: what caused selfie to enter the dictionary? Why is our language so different from Shakespeare's? Why do people have different accents across the country? Why is English the most spoken language around the world?

The Non-exam Assessment gives you an opportunity to conduct your own research and investigate an area of language use that you are passionate about. Students who have a sharp analytical and inquisitive mind and enjoy applying their understanding to real life contexts and data sets will excel at this course. It is a challenging qualification, which will guide you to express your ideas in a coherent and academic manner.

## Entry requirements:

PH6 standard entry requirements of five + GCSEs (or equivalent) grades 9-5.  
A grade 5 or above in GCSE English Literature and GCSE English Language.

## Who is this course for?

- Students who have a keen interest in both written and spoken communication and how these can be used to influence opinions and decisions.
- Students who need a good basis for any of a wide range of courses and careers in the arts, the media, journalism, advertising, editing, social sciences and teaching.

'After studying English Language at A-Level, I have a renewed appreciation for the power of language and how it shapes and influences the world around us. The course is varied and interesting and totally different from any English Language study I completed at GCSE.'

PH6 pupil

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## Course Content & Assessment:

### **Paper 1 - Language, the Individual and Society**

Textual variations and representations  
Children's language development

Exam duration: 2 hours 30 minutes (100 marks, 40% of A Level)

### **Paper 2 - Language Diversity and Change**

Assessed on language diversity and change  
Language discourses  
Writing skills and methods of language analysis

Exam duration: 2 hours 30 minutes (100 marks, 40% of A Level)

### **Non-Exam Assessment**

Non-exam assessment: Language in Action  
Language Investigation  
Original Writing

Word count: 3,500 (100 marks, 20% of A Level)

### **Future Destinations:**

Having a critical understanding of language use and improving your written and verbal communication will pave the way for success in any career or university course you wish to apply for. Examples of careers that explicitly relate to the study of the English Language are: media; advertising; speech and language therapy; teaching or journalism.