



English Language

Examination Board: EDUQAS

Examination Code: A700QS

Outline of the Course

The Eduqas A Level English Language is a departure from English Language as studied at GCSE. Although it builds on the knowledge obtained at GCSE with terminology and methods the A level course is an exploration of ideas about how language is used and its role in shaping identity and discourse.

Topics studied in Year 12

Teacher 1:

- **Terminology**
- **Creative writing and critical use of terminology**
- **Child Language Acquisition**
- **Language Change**
- **Language in the 21st Century**

Teacher 2:

- **Language Issues: Accent and Dialect**
- **Spoken Language**
- **Language Issues: Language and Power**
- **Language Issues: Sapir Whorff**
- **Language and Identity**
- **Taught NEA**

Topics studied in Year 13

Teacher 1:

- **Language over time**
- **Creative Writing**
- **Language in the 21st Century**
- **Revision**

Teacher 2:

- **Non-Examined Unit**
- **Spoken Language Transcripts**
- **Language Issues**
- **Revision**

What will you learn?

A-Level English Language is an in-depth exploration of how language works in a variety of spoken, written, electronic and multimodal forms. You will investigate the building blocks of English—from the sounds we produce (phonetics and phonology) and the words we choose (lexis and semantics), to the structures we use (grammar and morphology) and the wider contexts in which language is shaped and interpreted (pragmatics and discourse).

Throughout the course, you'll develop key analytical skills such as interpretation, evaluation, synthesis and reflection, and you'll be encouraged to apply theoretical knowledge to real-life texts and situations. The course offers a rich understanding of the interconnected areas of linguistics, helping you to see how language operates in both familiar and unfamiliar contexts. You'll also learn how to interrogate data and explore how language changes over time and varies according to region, identity, and social context.

• **Component 1: Language Concepts and Issues**

This unit helps you explore how language is used in a variety of spoken contexts and introduces key social issues linked to language.

Section A: Analysis of Spoken Language

You will study real-life spoken transcripts and learn how to analyse interactional features, language variation and structure in speech. You'll develop skills in close reading, terminology, and comparative analysis across multiple texts.

Section B: Language Issues

You will study four key topic areas: Standard and Non-Standard English, language and power, language and situation, and language acquisition. You'll explore how language shapes and is shaped by society, developing essay-writing skills and applying theoretical perspectives.

• **Component 2: Language Change Over Time**

This component focuses on how the English language has evolved from the 1500s to the present day.

Section A: Language Change Over Time

You'll study a range of written texts from different historical periods and analyse how grammar, lexis, spelling, and punctuation have changed.

Section B: English in the Twenty-First Century

You'll explore how language is used in modern contexts, especially in digital communication. Topics include slang, code-switching, internet language, and changing forms of English.

• **Component 3: Creative and Critical Use of Language**

This component allows you to develop your own writing voice across a range of genres and reflect on your stylistic choices.

Creative Writing

You'll be asked to produce original pieces in literary or non-literary forms in response to a given stimulus. This could include fiction, journalism, or personal writing.

Commentary

After writing, you'll produce a commentary analysing your own language use, justifying your choices and exploring how language constructs meaning.

• **Component 4: Language and Identity (Non-Exam Assessment)**

This independent investigation allows you to explore how language reflects identity and diversity through a research-based project (2500–3500 words). You'll choose one of the following themes:

1. Language and Self-Representation – Explore how your own idiolect is shaped by context and interaction.

2. Language and Gender – Investigate how language reflects or challenges gender norms and roles.

3. Language and Culture – Examine how language is influenced by cultural contexts such as education, the arts, or belief systems.

4. Language Diversity – Study a non-standard variety of English (e.g. AAVE, regional dialects, occupational language).

You'll develop your own research question, collect and analyse data, and apply linguistic theories to draw conclusions.

Overall, A-Level English Language will help you become a skilled analyst of how language works in real life—past and present, formal and informal, spoken and written—while also building your own ability to communicate with purpose, clarity and creativity.

Mark Breakdown and Assessment

Assessment is via three examination papers at the end of a two-year course alongside a non-examined assessment.

A LEVEL ENGLISH LANGUAGE

SUMMARY OF ASSESSMENT

Component 1: Language Concepts and Issues
Written examination: 2 hours
30% of qualification

Section A: Analysis of Spoken Language

One question requiring analysis of at least two transcriptions

Section B: Language Issues

One question from a choice of three based on the study of four topic areas

Component 2: Language Change Over Time
Written examination: 2½ hours
30% of qualification

Section A: Language Change Over Time

One multi-part question and one essay question analysing language change over time

Section B: English in the Twenty-First Century

One question based on the ways language is used in the twenty-first century

Component 3: Creative and Critical Use of Language
Written examination: 1½ hours
20% of qualification

One question, from a choice of two, requiring two original writing responses and one commentary

Component 4: Language and Identity
Non-exam assessment: 2500-3500 words
20% of qualification

2500-3500 word language investigation based on the study and research of a topic related to language and identity
Learners are required to choose a topic from the following list: language and self-representation; language and gender; language and culture; or language diversity.

Website links

<https://www.eduqas.co.uk/media/fxefxsd5/wjec-eduqas-a-level-english-language-specification-from-2015.pdf>

Key Dates

Exam: May/June Year 13
NEA: Autumn Term Year 13

Further Information

Mr Howell – Subject teacher for English Language and Curriculum Leader for English
Mr Crowley – Subject teacher for English Language
Mrs Baker - Subject teacher for English Language

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What can I do after I have completed the course?

English Language is a highly respected and versatile A Level that provides an excellent foundation for a wide range of degree courses and careers. It is particularly well-suited to students interested in areas such as Linguistics, Law, Journalism, Publishing, Creative Writing, Advertising, Marketing, Speech and Language Therapy, Public Relations, Management, Communications, Film, Television and Radio. Many of our students have gone on to study these subjects at university or pursue careers in these industries.

English Language complements a wide range of other subjects, making it a strong choice in many subject combinations. Popular pairings include English Language with: English Literature, History, Sociology, Psychology, Media Studies, Politics or Modern Foreign Languages.