



A-LEVEL ENGLISH LANGUAGE

TOGETHER WE SUCCEED
ACHIEVEMENT ASPIRATION HIGH EXPECTATIONS COMMUNITY

A-LEVEL ENGLISH LANGUAGE

EXAM BOARD: AQA

Aims of the Course:

You will investigate the roles of purposes, audiences and contexts and the impacts of these pressures upon language production and reception. You will examine how language varies because of personal, social, geographical and temporal contexts. You will use linguistic methods to analyse and investigate factors which influence the way we speak, including child language acquisition.

Programme of Study:

Paper 1 – Language, the Individual and Society- Exam- 40%

This area of study introduces you to methods of language analysis to explore concepts of audience, purpose, genre, mode and representation. It also introduces you to the study of children's language development, exploring how children learn language and how they are able to understand and express themselves through language.

Paper 2 – Language Diversity and Change- Exam-40%

You will study the key concepts of audience, purpose, genre and mode and will explore language in its wider social, geographical and temporal contexts. You will explore processes of language change. This part of the subject content also requires you to study social attitudes to, and debates about, language diversity and change.

Non-exam assessment: Language in Action-coursework-20%

The aim of this area of study is to allow you to explore and analyse language data independently and develop and reflect upon their own writing expertise. You will produce two pieces of work, one investigating language and another a piece of original creative writing.

Approaches to Learning:

This investigative course requires a lot of discussion based tasks. Presenting work to others and debating skills are crucial. Independent research tasks underpin the course. You will need to write extensively.

This course is for you if you have a genuine interest in how language shapes all aspects of human interaction. A love of language and curiosity about how and why the English Language evolves is a must. You must be able to articulate your ideas and write extended pieces of analysis.

This course will prepare you for any course or career including education, psychology, sociology, media, history and politics.

Minimum Entry Requirements:

Five grade 9-5 GCSE passes including English and Maths. A 9-5 in English Language and English Literature

STEP-UP INDEPENDENT STUDY TASKS

These tasks help you to consider different aspects of linguistics, exploring different levels of language (or frameworks) used in discourse. This is a key part of the AQA A Level English Language course, and builds upon similar aspects from GCSE English Language.

You will also begin to consider how language is used to create particular representations in texts; throughout the course we will look at representations including gender, age, class, organisations, events, and these tasks give you an introduction to this idea.

Task 1

The purpose of this task is to introduce you to exploring discourse and how language is used to fulfil its purpose within a specific context.

You will need the PDF “Obama Task”, which has a copy of President Obama’s inaugural speech. This is followed by some “Initial questions” and then some more “Detailed questions”.

You should answer all of the questions, on separate paper if you cannot print it out.

The full speech can be watched here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JwcR00oGb%20v0>.

Task 1 Resource - [Obama Task](#)

Task 2

Exploring the way things are represented in different discourse is a key component of the AQA A Level English Language course, and this activity gives you an introduction into looking at how men and women can be represented through language.

For this task, you should find some printed adverts selling a product to men and some selling a product to women. How is each gender represented in the texts? (This means you are considering what version of men and women is being constructed by the adverts).

Repeat the exercise for adverts aimed at teenagers and older people.

The format your work will take is flexible – you could write a more structured response, or a mind-map, PowerPoint, or even a recorded (video or audio) presentation of your findings.

TO DEEPEN YOUR UNDERSTANDING

Complete some of the activities in the [“10 Things To Do To Prepare for A Level English Language”](#) document.

Watch and learn about some of the more peculiar aspects of English Language on Tom Scott’s “Language Files” YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL96C35uN7xGLDnHuhD7CTZES3KXFnm0>

Engage with all things linguistic by listening to the Lexis podcast:

<https://anchor.fm/lexispodcast>

Read the e-magazine Resource Pack [“Leaping into Language: Moving from GCSE to A Level Language Study”](#).

COMPLETED TASK

Student Name			
Subject Teacher		Date:	
Form Tutor:		Date:	