

English Language A level

	Student Count	A*-B %	A*-C %	A*-E %
2019	10	70%	80%	100%
2018	7	71%	100%	100%

English Language A level

What does it entail?



Paper 1: Language, the Individual and Society

What's assessed

- Textual variations and representations
- Children's language development (0-11 years)
- Methods of language analysis are integrated into the activities

Assessed

- written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes
- 100 marks
- 40% of A-level

Questions

Section A - Textual Variations and Representations

Two texts (one contemporary and one older text) linked by topic or theme.

- A question requiring analysis of one text (25 marks)
- A question requiring analysis of a second text (25 marks)
- A question requiring comparison of the two texts (20 marks)

Section B - Children's Language Development

A discursive essay on children's language development, with a choice of two questions where the data provided will focus on spoken, written or multimodal language (30 marks)

Paper 2: Language Diversity and Change

What's assessed

- Language diversity and change
- Language discourses
- Writing skills
- Methods of language analysis are integrated into the activities

Assessed

- written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes
- 100 marks
- 40% of A-level

Questions

Section A - Diversity and Change

One question from a choice of two:

Either: an evaluative essay on language diversity (30 marks)

Or: an evaluative essay on language change (30 marks)

Section B - Language Discourses

Two texts about a topic linked to the study of diversity and change.

- A question requiring analysis of how the texts use language to present ideas, attitudes and opinions (40 marks)
- A directed writing task linked to the same topic and the ideas in the texts (30 marks)

Non-exam assessment: Language in Action

What's assessed

- Language Investigation
- Original Writing
- Methods of language analysis are integrated into the activities

Assessed

- Word count: 3,500
- 100 marks
- 20% of A-level
- Assessed by teachers
- Moderated by AQA

Tasks

Students produce:

- a language investigation (2,000 words excluding data)
- a piece of original writing and commentary (1,500 words total)

Module breakdown

Textual variations and representations

You will study a range of texts:

- about various subjects
- from various writers and speakers
- for various audiences
- for various purposes
- in a variety of genres
- using a variety of modes (written, spoken, electronic)
- from different times
- from different places (global, national, regional).



In the exam you will be expected to read two texts from two different times periods and write about:

- 1. How the writers use language to represent places, people and things in each text**
- 2. How the texts may be similar or different**

Module breakdown

Children's language development

You will explore how children develop their spoken and written skills. To achieve this, you will study:

- the functions of children's language
- phonological, pragmatic, lexical, semantic and grammatical development
- different genres of speech and writing
- different modes of communication (spoken, written, multimodal)
- theories and research about language development.



In the exam you will write an essay in response to a statement about how children best learn language.

Module breakdown

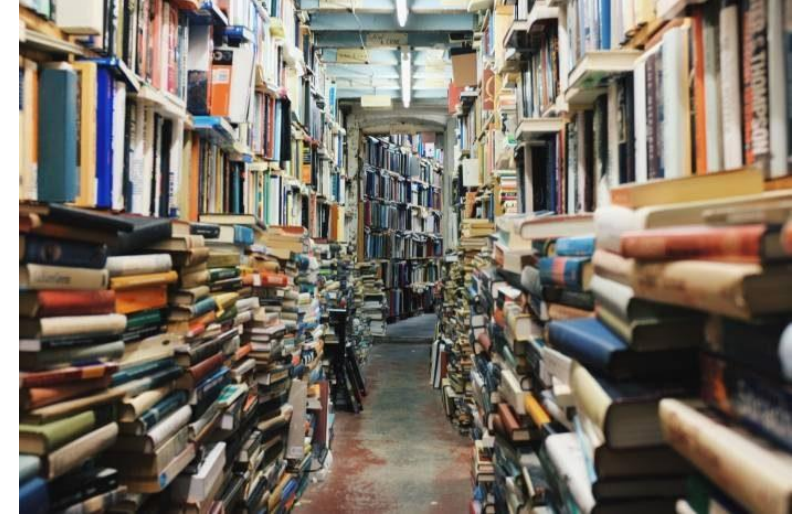
Language diversity and change

You will study a range of different ideas in this module:

- sociolects (to include social and occupational groups, gender and ethnicity)
- dialects (to include regional, national and international varieties of English)
- texts from different periods, from 1600 to the present day

When analysing texts and data, you will explore:

- how language varies because of personal, social, geographical and temporal contexts
- why language varies and changes, developing critical knowledge and understanding of different views and explanations
- attitudes to language variation and change
- the use of language according to audience, purpose, genre and mode
- how language is used to enact relationships.



Module breakdown

Language diversity and change

This exam is split into three parts:

1. A discursive essay on one of the diversity and change topics
2. An analysis of two texts on the same diversity topic (both modern texts in this one)
3. Writing your own opinion article on the topic



Module breakdown

Non Examined Assessment

You will produce two pieces of coursework:

1. A language investigation – on a topic of your choice
2. A piece of original writing and accompanying commentary



Where can English Language take you?

Typical careers that link to English Language

Digital copywriter

Editorial assistant

English as a foreign language teacher

Lexicographer

Magazine journalist

Newspaper journalist

Publishing copy-editor/proofreader

Secondary school teacher

Talent agent

Web content manager

Writer

Academic librarian

Social media manager

Speech and language therapist

Teaching assistant

Advertising copywriter

Arts administrator

Education consultant

Information officer

Learning mentor

Marketing executive

Media researcher

PPC specialist

Primary school teacher

Private tutor

Public relations officer

Records manager

Civil Service fast streamer

Digital copywriter

Public librarian

Social researcher

A Level English is FUN

The variety of topics studied makes the course interesting and different – I like to call it the ‘science of English’ because rather than studying novels and poems, you explore real life texts and look at how real writers use language to influence us as consumers.



Famous people with English degrees

