
A Level English Language





English Language involves studying a range of authentic texts and transcripts taken from everyday sources and a variety of contexts. It considers how texts are designed for particular audiences and purposes. It also involves studying how the dimensions of power, technology, history and age can significantly influence the ways individuals, social groups and institutions communicate.

Level Level 3

Specific course entry requirements

College entry to include a grade 5 in GCSE English Language and a grade 5 in GCSE English Literature. (please refer to the Entry Requirements section page 24 for further details).

What will I study?

The course is designed to sharpen your understanding of how language works, with detailed analysis of language use in a range of texts. You will look at how language can be used to achieve particular effects in different contexts, for different audiences and purposes. You will develop your creative and analytical skills by learning to discuss texts with increasing confidence and precision. You will also acquire knowledge of linguistic frameworks and how these are used to create meaning.

You should be willing to justify your ideas during class discussions and in written essays and enjoy working both independently and in a group.

What is the difference between English Language and English Literature?

These subjects are radically different disciplines that involve practising very different skills. English Literature is about reading, analysing and evaluating poetry, prose and drama, looking at the ways that writers use techniques to create effects. English Language is the study of language taken from everyday sources-this may include spoken and written language. It focuses on how values, attitudes and purposes are revealed through the mechanics of language and how these can vary according to gender, power, time and technology. This is very different from English Language at GCSE.

How will I be assessed?

You will be assessed through external examinations and coursework.

Where will this course lead me?

English Language combines well with most subjects and can lead to a wide variety of courses in Higher Education. It prepares you for careers which require good communication skills such as teaching, journalism and media, advertising, marketing or personnel work.

