



# A Level English Language

## Course details

This course explores key language concepts and analyses language use by utilising a range of linguistic methods which are introduced at the start of the course: lexis; semantics; grammar; pragmatics; phonetics; graphology and discourse conventions. At A Level, students complete an original language investigation and an original piece of writing.

The topics and titles of the subject content reflect a possible trajectory through the course, with 'Language and the Individual' focussing on individual contexts for language, and with 'Language Varieties' working outwards to consider larger-scale public discourses about variety. However, it would be just as viable to start with the bigger questions about language use in 'Language Varieties' and end closer to home in 'Language and the Individual'. Both represent valid teaching methods, and the chosen route will depend on teacher or student preferences and abilities.

## Units covered

**Paper 1: Language, The Individual and Society** (40% of A Level) 2 ½ hour written exam This paper explores individual and social contexts for language. A wide range of texts is studied and explored using methods of language analysis

**Section A:** Analyse two texts from 1600 onwards exploring meaning, representation and context.

**Section B: Children's Language Development – evaluate an idea about children's language acquisition.**

**Paper 2: Language Diversity and Change** (40% of A Level) 2 ½ hour written exam Language is explored in its wider social, geographical and temporal contexts. Processes of language change are studied as well as debates about social attitudes to languages. Section A: Diversity and Change

**Section B: Language Discourses.**

**Non-exam assessment:** Language in Action, Language Investigation and original writing with commentary (20% of A Level) 3500 words in total.

