

Subject: A Level Language and Linguistics

This course is based on the idea that language itself (particularly English) is a subject to be studied. We will explore language as a medium of communication as well as a system of meaning with its own structures and principles. Students will be encouraged to examine language all around them, focusing on groups and communities, including gender groups; language acquisition in children; the extent to which language is associated with power; the influence of technologies and media on language use and change; the history of English and the ways it has changed over time; and how to produce and critique their own creative writing. Students will learn to linguistically analyse unseen examples as well as to apply language theories where appropriate. They will also conduct original linguistic research. For wider learning, the course encourages the development of independent learning skills, the ability to apply knowledge to unseen material as well as applying knowledge appropriately to texts and transcripts for analysis.

Syllabus Content:

- Linguistic analysis of 'real life' texts (such as news articles, advertising, text messages and so forth—not novels or plays!)
- Original creative writing produced and self-critiqued from a linguistic perspective
- Analysis of how children acquire language
- Analysis of spoken language in different contexts
- Language in the 21st century
- How language changes over time
- An investigation into one of three themed areas from which students choose

Assessment:

The examination board is Eduqas, with the specification being A Level English Language A700QS. The course is split into four linear sections: three examined components and one non-examined component. Components 1 and 2 are worth 30% each, while component 3 and the coursework component are worth 20% of the qualification. The award in A Level English Language A700QS is given at the end of the second year of study.

Where can A Level Language and Linguistics lead me?

A Level Language and Linguistics provides a solid footing for most university courses and can be applicable for a diverse range of careers, such as law, marketing and advertising, journalism, history, psychology, sociology, drama and so forth.

