

# ENGLISH LANGUAGE

## Examination Board: AQA, spec 7701

### Why study English Language?

Maybe you are a budding media-guru, keen to carefully consider and craft words for maximum impact on your audience? Perhaps you have an interest in the way young children learn to speak, and how their vocabularies might shape their entire futures? Or maybe you pay particular attention to the world around you, and would love a chance to take apart the ideas that language feeds us every day?

If the answer to any of these questions is 'yes', then English Language A-level is the course for you.

### Where does it lead?

English Language students go on to a whole range of different careers; some become journalists or enter advertising, others use the analysis skills they have developed to work in marketing, law or psychology. One thing is for sure, whatever degree path you decide to follow, the kudos an A level in English carries will make you stand out from the crowd.

### Course Content

#### Language, the Individual and Society

This part of the course will introduce you to language study, exploring textual variety and the language and methods needed to describe how language functions. It explores concepts of audience, purpose, genre, mode and representation. You will also explore children's language development; how children learn language and how they are able to understand and express themselves through language.

#### Language Varieties and Change

You will apply methods and systems of language analysis to a range of different 'languages' that operate in different social and geographical contexts. How, for example, do different 'groups' use language based on their gender, their profession, their region? You will also look at language across time, exploring the processes of language change. This part of the subject content also asks you to study social attitudes to, and debates about, language diversity and change.

### Course Assessment

There are two examinations at the end of the course, one for each of the two modules described above and each paper contributes **40%** to the A Level.

Additionally, there is a non-exam assessment (NEA) module, contributing **20%** to the A Level which allows you to explore and analyse language independently, and to develop and reflect upon your writing expertise. This comprises two different kinds of individual research:

- a **language investigation** (2,000 words excluding data)
- a **piece of original writing and a commentary** (750 words each)

**For further information, please contact Mrs Francis or Mr Elliott**



The **limits of my language** mean the **limits of my world.**"

Ludwig Wittgenstein (philosopher)