

English Language

A LEVEL

Exam Board: AQA



Beckfoot
Sixth Form

This course builds on the study of English Language at GCSE. Students study language itself, exploring its development in children and its use by mature English users in a variety of contexts. Students learn to approach language analytically, applying this knowledge to the investigation of language in use and their own creative writing. This course contrasts with English Literature in that it is more focused on non-fiction texts and formal analytical methods.

Subject specific criteria:

- Grade 6 in GCSE English Language or English Literature
- Grade 4 in GCSE Maths

Units studied:

Unit 1: Language, the Individual and Society Exam (40%)

For Section A, students learn specific methods of language analysis and apply them to the comparison of two unseen non-fiction texts. For Section B, students study the development of language in children and apply their learning to the analysis of real-world texts.

Unit 2: Language Diversity and Change Exam (40%)

For Section A, students study a range of texts to explore language diversity and change in society. They then write a discursive response exploring attitudes to language. For Section B, students learn to compare texts that reveal societal attitudes to language and then explore these attitudes in a creative response.

Unit 3: Non-Exam Assessment - Language in Action (20%)

Students produce a language investigation of 2000 words in an area of personal interest. They also produce a related piece of original writing and commentary of 1500 words combined.

Skills required:

- Analytical and critical thinking skills
- Independent learning
- Communication skills

Futures:

This course is widely accepted by universities as an entrance qualification for those wishing to read English or other related subjects. It also develops higher level analytical skills which are useful in a wide range of University courses and careers.