

# English Language

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**Awarding Body: AQA**

## Course Content and Examination Requirements

English Language encourages students to develop their interest in English through learning about its structure and functions. It also allows students to develop their ability to express themselves with increasing competence and sophistication.

The AS course introduces students to an understanding of the ideas basic to the study of language, enabling them to apply these to an investigation of their own and others' use of speech and writing, for different purposes and audiences. The A2 course builds on this foundation with the opportunity to investigate a chosen area of language, within the requirements of the syllabus, and to study Language Change and Children's Language acquisition.

Year 12	Year 13
<b>AS Level Units</b>	<b>A2 units leading to a full Advanced GCE</b>
<b>Unit 1 Categorising Texts</b> Introduction to the study of language, focusing on three specific social contexts: Language and Power, Language and Gender, and Language and Technology.	<b>Unit 3 Developing Language</b> Builds on AS knowledge and skills, with an additional focus on two new areas of language study: Child Language Acquisition and Language Change.
<b>Unit 2 Creating Texts</b> Coursework – internally assessed, and externally moderated by AQA Candidates produce writing in different genres and for different audiences and purposes.	<b>Unit 4 Investigating Language</b> Coursework – Internally assessed, and externally moderated by AQA Candidates produce two pieces: a language investigation and an informative media text

## Comparison with GCSE

The course builds on some of the skills learned for GCSE English, but part of the course is devoted to factual learning about language, and is therefore *significantly different* from GCSE.

In order to cope with the demands of the course it is necessary to have **Grade A or B in English** at GCSE and to be prepared to meet deadlines for coursework **without fail**. The coursework component in years 12 and 13 is substantial so students **must** be prepared to devote time and personal study to the completion of coursework.

## Relevance to Further Studies and Careers

Good writing and language skills will be an asset in any career and will help students in studying for a degree in any subject such as English Literature, History etc. where command of language can make the difference between effective written answers and weak ones. It would also be helpful to anyone wishing to study a modern foreign language, where knowledge of structures of language and the terminology to describe them would be valuable.

**Further Information: Mrs H. Schofield**