

English Language AS/A Level AQA (Spec A)

Structure & Specification

Year 1: AS 1701 (2 units, can be taken as an AS Level only)

Year 2: A2 2701 (another 2 units, making up the full A Level).

What does the course include?

Year One- AS

Unit 1 (ENGA1) Seeing Through Language (60% of AS; 30% of A level)

In this unit you will learn how to analyse a range of spoken and written non-fiction texts. You will also study children's language development.

Unit 2 (ENGA2) Representation and Language (40% of AS; 20% of AS level)

One investigation, in which you analyse representations of a chosen group, individual, event or institution, and one production task, with commentary, creating your own representation of the topic. (2000-2500 words)

Year Two- A2

Unit 3 (ENGA3) Language Explorations (30%)

In this unit you will study the ways language varies and changes, and learn how to discuss and evaluate the debates around the issues of language variation and change.

Unit 4 (ENGA4) Language Investigations and Interventions (20%)

One independent investigation into a linguistic topic of your own choice, and one intervention task, in which you write about a language debate in a form suitable for a non-specialist audience. (3000-3750 words)

How will I learn?

You will have two teachers using a range of methods to suit different learning styles. You will be expected to participate actively in class discussions, give presentations, carry out independent research and write in a variety of different forms. Our aim is to help you develop as independent readers, researchers and writers.

How will my work be assessed?

Unit 1 (ENGA1) 2 hour written examination

Unit 2 (ENGA2) Coursework

Unit 3 (ENGA3) 2 ½hour written examination

Unit 4 (ENGA4) Coursework

What skills will I need to be successful in this subject?

You must enjoy analysing texts in detail, and be interested in learning more about the English language, including grammar. You also need to be open-minded and prepared to engage in discussions about moral, ethical and cultural issues.

What are the entry requirements?

Five GCSEs, including a grade B in English Language.

What are the opportunities after this course for further/higher education and employment?

An A level in English is a useful qualification for a wide range of careers and university courses. (You should however note that it is not usually possible to study English Literature at degree level if you have taken the Language A level.)