

English from the Engl
German tribe

A Level: English Language

English

Course Facts & Figures at a glance...

Subject Leader

Miss Sarson

Course Title

A-Level English Language

QAN Code

601/4640/0

Awarding Body

AQA Specification 7702

English degrees offer opportunities to develop your own interests and enthusiasms (especially a love of reading), as well as time to think about a range of personal, cultural and historical issues. English is a flexible and adaptable subject that opens up a wide range of career choices.

Contrary to popular belief, teaching is not the main occupation of English graduates. Many go into general management, research and consultancy and the public services as well as publishing and the creative industries.

First things first: at A Level, the English Language course is very different from GCSE. This is the study of linguistics. Don't be expecting 'more of the same' after your GCSE studies. Things are about to get a lot harder!

AQA, the exam board we follow, say: "The variety of assessment styles used, such as data analysis, discursive essays, directed writing, original writing and research-based investigative writing, allows students to develop a wide range of skills. These include critical reading, data analysis,

evaluation, the ability to develop and sustain arguments and a number of different writing skills which are invaluable for both further study and future employment."

You will be required to study a range of concepts pertinent to modern language study. Paper One covers the topics of textual variations and representations and children's language development. Paper Two covers the topics of language diversity and change. In addition, you have a non-examined assessment unit - what we would have called coursework in previous years. You will decide on an area of linguistic study to research and you will complete an investigation on this. This will involve you gathering your own data and analysing it from a variety of linguistic theories. This allows you to go into greater depth of study in an area which interests you. In previous years, students have researched the way children acquire language; the way gender affects language use and the way language is used to exert power in a classroom setting. You also complete a piece of creative writing about your research which may take the form of a blog or short story, a radio transcript or newspaper editorial.

You are required to read and research a range of texts and to do so independently. If you do not enjoy reading, you should probably choose a different option. Texts are not

always read in class; they are analysed, critiqued and discussed. There is no time to read them. So, if you are not prepared to regularly read and research independently, then this is not the course for you. You need to be proactive and a self-starter. In addition, you will be learning to use a range of new linguistic terminology accurately in your analysis and comparison of texts. This will require regular revision from the start of the course.

A Level English Language is a challenging option. It is also well-regarded by universities who recognise the skills of analysis, evaluation and critical thinking which it develops.

The English Department welcomes any students who are passionate about language and who have the enthusiasm and commitment to really get to the heart of the concepts studied. Given the linear nature of the new A Levels, there is much more emphasis on the examined units and so this course will suit students who are able to read and study independently and those who are prepared to engage in meaningful classroom debate and discussion.