



English Language

Course objectives

This course encourages students to develop their interest in, and appreciation of, the English Language. They analyse its structures and functions and develop their ability to express themselves in the spoken and written mode. Students examine and produce a wide range of texts for different audiences, purposes and genres.

Main qualifications

- A Level

Awarding Body

- AQA

Duration/ Lessons per week

- 10 x 1 hour lessons over a two week timetable

Standard entry requirements

- Grade 5 English Language and English Literature GCSE Minimum grade 5

Progression opportunities

- The subject will provide you with a well regarded A Level which is readily accepted for a wide range of degree courses, as well as offering a good grounding for careers in areas such as the media, publishing, law and the civil service

Course content

Paper 1: Language, the Individual and Society

Section A - Textual Variations and Representations: two texts (one contemporary and one older text) linked by topic or theme; a question requiring analysis of a second text (25 marks); a questions requiring analysis of a second text (25 marks); a question requiring comparison of the two texts (20 marks)

Section B - Children's Language Development: a discursive essay on children's language development, with a choice of two questions where the data provided will focus on spoken, written or multimodal language (30 marks)

Paper 2: Language Diversity and Change

Section A - Diversity and Change: one question from a choice of two, either: an evaluative essay on language diversity (30 marks) or and evaluative essay on language chance (30 marks)

Section B - Language Discourses: two texts about a topic linked to the study of diversity and change; a question requiring analysis of how the texts use language to present ideas, attitudes and opinions (40 marks); a directed writing task linked to the same topic and the ideas in the texts (30 marks)

Non-exam assessment: Language in Action

Students produce - a language investigation (2,000 words excluding data); a piece of original writing and commentary (1,500 words total)



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Assessment

- Paper 1: Language, the Individual and Society written exam, 2 hours 30 minutes - 40% of A-Level
- Paper 2: Language Diversity and Change written exam 2 hours 30 minutes - 40% of A-Level
- Non exam assessment: Language in Action coursework: 3,500 words - 20% of A-Level

Costs

- Students will need to purchase a designated course reader book, past examination papers & mark schemes (£33 total to include course folders with stationery)
- The Department offers visits and trips where relevant. These are normally in the region of £20-£30 for a one day visit

Additional information

- The course has a number of similarities with GCSE English, and offers excellent progression. Students should be aware, however, that much of the content of the course will be entirely new to them
- This course is offered to students in the context of it being academically challenging whilst also immensely enjoyable for students who want to study an English subject but may not enjoy the amount of reading required by English Literature A Level

Staff contact

- Matt Fermor
- E-mail: matt.fermor@ringwood.hants.sch.uk