



# AQA A Level English Language

*“Language has no independent existence apart from the people who use it. It is not an end in itself; it is a means to an end of understanding who you are and what society is like.” - David Crystal*

## Subject Information

Like many A Level subjects, English Language A Level bears little resemblance to its GCSE counterpart – in fact, it is more like an A Level in Linguistics. Analysis is a major part of the course and you will encounter countless texts of countless different genres and subjects – and not only written data either. But it is more than text analysis. Are you interested in why certain people speak like they do? Have you ever noticed how men and women speak differently? Are you intrigued at how technology influences language choices? English Language is always evolving and this A Level gives you a chance to actively engage with everyday language and understand how it works. Basically, linguistics helps us understand our world. Language captures the unique concepts of the world and has its own way of constructing words and sentences to communicate ideas. By comparing the words and structures of language, we arrive at a better understanding of our world.

## Career Pathways

With its emphasis on critical thought, analysis and communication skills, A Level English language can open the door to a wide variety of different careers. Direct career paths that can be followed are lexicographer, speech and language therapist, languages teacher, copy editor, proof-reader, or a role in communications. Other career paths may include, but are not limited to, the civil service, marketing, journalism, law and IT. Studying language or linguistics provides you with skills in debate, analysis and communication but, perhaps more importantly, facilitates a better understanding of the way people, society and indeed the whole world works.

## Course Content

Exam Papers	Exam Time	Total Marks
<b>Paper One: Language, the individual and society</b> Section A – Textual variations and representations Section B – Children’s language development	2 hrs 30 mins	100 40%
<b>Paper Two: Language</b> Section A – Diversity and change Section B – Language discourses	2 hrs 30 mins	100 40%
<b>Non-exam assessment: Language in Action</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Language investigation</li> <li>• Original Writing and Commentary</li> </ul>	---	100 20%

**Entry Requirements:** Grade 5 or above in English Language or Literature.

**Complementary subjects:** *Sociology, Psychology, History, English Literature, Ethics and Philosophy, Media Studies*

**Excellence in thinking:** <https://accentbiasbritain.org/> <https://allthingslinguistic.com/>