



ENGLISH LANGUAGE & LINGUISTICS

Entry Requirements: Grade 5 in English Language and Grade 4 in English Literature

Exam board: AQA

Full Subject Specification website: <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/as-and-a-level/english-language-7701-7702>

Why study English Language:

As an English Language student at Stratford you will explore how language works, from how words are formed to how they are used to influence our decisions. You will build a toolkit for linguistic analysis. You will engage in debates around language use, looking at accent and dialect; language and gender; how social class, age and ethnicity affect language use; how children learn language and how language changes over time.

In addition to benefiting from the expertise of passionate, specialist teachers, you will be given opportunities to engage in a variety of enrichment activities which, this year, include conferences and workshops with eminent linguists and visits to places of interest such as the British Library and The Guardian newspaper in London.

Subject Specification Outline:

This specification consists of three main units:

1. Language: the individual and society: provides a thorough grounding in the concepts of audience, purpose, genre, mode and representation. You will become adept in linguistic analysis, studying lexis, semantics, grammar, phonology, discourse structure and graphology. You will also get to discover how language develops in children including, how babies and toddlers acquire spoken language and how children learn to read and write.

2. Language diversity and change: you will study social attitudes and debates about areas as diverse as: idiolect and sociolect; gender; occupation; English around the world; attitudes to language varieties and how language changes.

3. Language in action: you will complete your own research project where you will collect and analyse your own data. You will write your own piece of original writing, which may include a piece of journalism, poetry, prose, formal speech, blog – it's entirely up to you!

Progress Assessment:

Regular, structured exam-style assessments in preparation for two terminal examinations.

Ongoing ½ termly assessment.

The non-examined element (Language in action) accounts for 20% of the overall grade and is internally assessed. You will receive feedback throughout the drafting process.

Final Exam Format:

Paper 1: Language, the individual and society

- 2 ½ Hours
- 4 Questions
- 100 Marks.

Section A:

Analyse two texts for meaning and representation and then compare for contextual factors.

Section B:

A discursive question on Child Language Acquisition

Paper 2: Language Diversity and Change

- 2 ½ Hours
- 3 Questions
- 100 Marks.

Section A:

An evaluative essay on either language diversity or language change.

Section B:

- An analysis and comparison of two newspaper articles on a sociolinguistic topic
- A directed writing task linked to the same topic and the ideas in the texts.

Self Study Requirements:

- Regular reading on topics being studied (some provided by the teachers)
- Research of concepts and topics from the lesson
- Completion of assignments and essay questions
- Preparation and completion of the non examined investigation and original writing.

One hour of lesson time should result in one hour of self study to consolidate and build your understanding.

Progression Pathways:

English Language goes with virtually any subject. It is a highly regarded, multidisciplinary course which develops a range of skills, including critical reading, data analysis, evaluation, argument and a number of different writing skills invaluable for further study and future employment.