



Course Overview

A level English Language will build on the skills you have developed at GCSE, by engaging you creatively and critically with a wide range of texts and discourses.

There will be an opportunity for you to write creatively, and investigate language use.

Exciting and relevant text and data-based sources will be used to inspire your study of English Language.

Topics Covered

TEACHERS SAY...

This specification provides a good progression to a range of higher education degree and vocational level courses or to employment. This course is for students who are interested in why we use the words we do, how language works to convey meaning and how a speaker or writer can craft language for effect.

YOUR NOTES

First year of A level	Second year of A level
<p>Language, the individual and society Section A: Textual variations and representations This area of study introduces students to methods of language analysis.</p> <p>Section B: Children's language development Introduces students to the study of children's language development, exploring how children learn language.</p>	<p>Language diversity and change Students will study the key concepts of audience, purpose, genre and mode and will explore language in its wider social, geographical and temporal contexts. They will explore processes of language change. This part of the subject content also requires students to study social attitudes to, and debates about, language diversity and change.</p>
<p>Language in action The aim of this area of study is to allow students to explore and analyse language data independently and develop and reflect upon their own writing expertise.</p>	

A level English Language

Examination board:



Teacher contact:

Ms L Elmes or Ms S Young
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syoung@chichesterfreeschool.org.uk

Entry requirements:

Five 9 to 4 (A* to C) with a minimum 6 in English Language.

Type of assessment:

This is a linear course that includes one non-examination assessment and leads to two terminal exams [2 1/2 hours for each].

Progression Opportunities

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.

What can I do now to help me prepare for my course?

English Language is an academically challenging course and the start of A level study is demanding. The key to success is, as ever, good preparation. How can you prepare? The course will build on what you have covered in GCSE English Language so you need to be comfortable with the terminology used to analyse language.

Read as many non-fiction texts that you can. Ensure that they are:

- about various subjects,
- from various writers and speakers,
- for various audiences,
- for various purposes,
- in a variety of genres,
- using a variety of modes (written, spoken, electronic) from different times, from different places (global, national, regional).

Think about how language is:

- shaped according to audience, purpose, genre and mode,
- shaped according to context,
- used to construct meanings and representations used to enact relationships between writers, speakers and audiences or between participants within a text.

- explore how the text uses language to create meanings and representations
- explore use of language and representations according to context

Research the following ideas:

- That English is changing and breaking up into many Englishes
- That men and women use language differently

Borrow or buy the following books to read:

- the English Language: A Guided Tour of the Language
- the Stories of English
- making Sense: The Glamorous Story of English Grammar

All by David Crystal and available on audiobook.

Possible career and progression options

A degree in English Language and Linguistics can lead to careers in many different areas, from speech therapy and teaching (including TEFL teaching), to journalism and forensic linguistics; indeed any career where skill with language is key.

The knowledge, understanding and confidence with the language that this subject brings means that it provides excellent grounding for a wide range of careers and university courses including:

Media
Marketing and advertising
English
Law
Journalism
Politics
Sociology