

## LANGUAGE ACQUISITION

We are designed to walk... That we are taught to walk is impossible. And pretty much the same is true of language. Nobody is taught language. In fact you can't prevent the child from learning it.

Noam Chomsky, *The Human Language Serie 2* (1994)

### Students studying this course say:

"Studying A level English Language has been thoroughly enjoyable. We have covered a wide range of intriguing topics. The standard of reading is second to none and has helped me dramatically with taking my interest in the subject to University level."  
Michael – a year 13 student.

"As part of English Language A level I have studied Child Language Acquisition. This is a module that I thoroughly enjoy as it links to how and when children develop reading, writing and speaking skills."  
Lauren – a year 13 student.



Succeeding Together

## Trinity Sixth Form

# A Level English Language



## What is the level of course I will take?

A Level - Level 3 – AQA 2706 (Spec B)

## What will I learn?

This qualification is linear: Linear means that students will sit all the AS exams at the end of their AS course and all the A-Level exams at the end of their A-Level course.

Subject content:

3.1.1 Textual Variations and Representations

3.1.3 Children's Language Development

3.2.1 Language Diversity and Change

3.2.3 Language Discourses

3.2.4 Language Investigation

3.3.2 Original Writing

Methods of language analysis underpin each component::

Component 1-3.1.2 Methods of language analysis

Component 2-3.2.2 Methods of language analysis

Component 3-3.3.3 Methods of language analysis

## How will the course help me after Sixth Form?

English Language is an interesting course and many of our students go on to study an English based degree such as journalism and creative writing.

It is a good route into degrees in psychology, law and education too.

English Language will demonstrate that you have excellent written communication skills.

## How will I learn?

You will learn in a variety of ways. Some of the lessons are taught, some involve class and group discussion. You will need to do research and reading to help with your studies. The coursework elements allow the course to be quite personalised. You will need to do independent work and research for this. English Language classes are full of discussion and reflection and are quite interactive and hands-on for a subject that demands written outcomes for assessment.

## How will I be assessed?

**Paper 1:** Language, the individual and Society

What is assessed:

- Textual variations and representations
- Children's language development(0-11 years)
- Methods of language analysis are integrated into the activities

Assessed:

- Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes
- 100 marks
- 40% of A-Level

Questions:

Section A: Textual Variations and Representations

Two texts (one contemporary and one older text) linked by topic or theme.

- A question requiring analysis of one text(25 marks)
- A question 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(30marks)

**Paper 2:** Language Diversity and change

What is assessed:

- Language diversity and change
- Language discourses
- Writing skills
- Methods of language analysis are integrated into the activities

Assessed:

- Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes
- 100 marks
- 40% of A-Level

Questions:

Section A-Diversity and Change

One questions from a choice of two:

Either: An evaluative essay on language diversity(30 marks)

Or: An evaluative essay on language change (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

What is assessed:

- Language Investigation
  - Original writing
  - Methods of language analysis are integrated into the activities
- Assessed: Word count: 3,500, 100 marks, 20% of A-Level, Assessed by teachers & moderated by AQA
- Tasks– Students produce:
- A language investigation(2,000 words excluding data)
  - A piece of original writing and commentary (1,500 words total)