

# A Level English Language

---

## What is English Language?

English Language entails the study of the language of English from a more technical perspective than that encountered at GCSE level. It encourages students to develop their interest in and appreciation of English through learning about its structures and its functions, its developments and variations. Students analyse diction as well as the use and exploitation of language. The course develops understanding of the different uses of English in various sociolinguistic contexts, as well as the use of language for different purposes within the media and political worlds.

## What sort of student does it suit and what will you get out of the course?

The course would suit students who wish to develop their understanding of English from a linguistic rather than a literary perspective. At GCSE English level, the language of literature tends to dominate, whereas in A level English Language students focus on why people speak the way they speak and how the language can be changed for different purposes and contexts. The course allows students to develop their ability to express themselves in speech and writing, producing texts for different audiences, purposes and in different genres. The course suits those undertaking subjects such as Media Studies, Law, Psychology, Sociology as well as a number of other Arts and Humanities subjects. Please note, it is not recommended to take AS English Language alongside English Literature. It is particularly suitable for those who wish to study English Language, Linguistics or English Studies in Higher Education.

## AQA Specification 2705

### Unit 1 ENGB1      **Categorising Texts**      **30% of A level**      **2 hrs**

Introduction to the study of language:

Section A Text Varieties focuses on varieties of date which can be grouped under the following headings: purpose, audience, genre, formality, speech, writing, multimodality, representation, linguistic areas (eg lexis, grammar, phonetics/phonology etc)

Section B Language and Social Contexts focuses on three specific social contexts: Language and Power, Language and Gender and Language and Technology.

### Unit 2 ENGB2      **Creating Texts**      **20% of A level**      **Coursework**

Coursework piece – internally assessed and externally moderated by AQA. Candidates produce writing in different genres and for different audiences and purposes. The coursework piece must be 2500 – 3000 words long.

## MPW Approach to study

The course encourages students to take responsibility for their own learning and gives them a strong grounding in the academic principles relating to working with data. This workshop style of teaching and learning instils academic confidence in students, as well as an appreciation of the English Language and its varieties. Tutors will work closely with specialists in other subject areas, such as Media Studies and Modern Foreign Languages and, of course, English Literature. Throughout the course, students will be encouraged to read in a variety of genres, both for pleasure and for more analytical purposes.

## Reading list

<i>Author</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Publisher</i>
Pearce, et al.	AQA AS English Language B Student's book	Nelson Thornes ISBN 978-0-7487-9850-6

(Not Yet Published - due summer 2008)

# A Level English Language

---

## English Language A2

### AQA Specification 2705

#### **Unit 3 ENGB3      Developing Language      30% of A level      2 hrs 30 mins**

Section A – Language Acquisition: candidates are taught about the nature and functions of language acquisition and social development of children from 0 – 11 years of age.

Candidates answer one question from a choice of two on each sub-topic.

Section B – Language Change: explores historical and contemporary changes in the English Language from Later Modern English (1700+) to the present day, alongside explanations of their causes and impact.

Candidates answer one question from a choice of two on each sub-topic.

#### **Unit 4 ENGB2      Investigating Language      20% of A level      Coursework**

Candidates produce two pieces: a language investigation and an informative media text.

Coursework piece 1: Language Investigation - internally assessed and externally moderated by AQA. Students should choose their own areas of study in consultation with the tutor(s). Areas of study may be chosen from topics that have arisen during their AS/A2 course, for example: studies of gender and representation; studies of the power of media texts; investigations of the language of new communication technologies; the language of children at play; historical changes in English over time. The study should include the following sections: introduction, methodology, analysis, conclusion/evaluation, bibliography and appendices. Required length: 1750 – 2500 words.

Coursework piece 2: Media Text – Candidates will use the broad subject focus of their language investigation to produce a media text – such as a newspaper or magazine article – highlighting the language ideas and issues surrounding their chosen topic. The audience and purpose of the media text will remain the same for each series, ie an informative media text for a non-specialist audience. Required length: 750 – 1000 words.

### **MPW Approach to study**

The A2 Units build on the knowledge and skills developed at AS level, with an additional focus on new areas of language study, namely Child Language Acquisition and Language Change. There is correlation with studies in A level Psychology and the aim is to arrange joint workshops for students in both English Language and Psychology to complement their learning. Students will be exposed to a broad range of literature from a variety of sources and will be encouraged to take an analytical approach to the magazines, newspapers, books and brochures that they read during their leisure time.

### **Reading list**

<i>Title</i>	<i>Publisher</i>
AQA A2 English Language B Student's book	Nelson Thornes ISBN 978-0-7487-9852-0

(Not Yet Published - due summer 2008)