

AQA A-LEVEL ENGLISH LANGUAGE (from 2015 onwards)

The AQA English Language A level is assessed by 80% exam and 20% Non-Examined Assessment (NEA).

The NEA consists of:

- a language investigation (2,000 words excluding data) – a mini research project on a topic of your choice.
- a piece of your original writing (750 words) and commentary which refers to your chosen style model (750 words). The writing will be persuasive, narrative or informational.

You will be examined via analytical essays, discursive essays and an original article on English language issues, over the course of 2 papers. Topics include:

- How to analyse texts and examples of spoken English and identify how they represent people and ideas.
- Children's language development – oracy and literacy.
- How language varies according to social group, time and place e.g. regional dialects, age, occupation, gender.
- Language change: the history of English; the mechanics of change; social, global and technological factors which cause change; the future of the English Language.
- Attitudes towards English language change and variety.

The subject offers plenty of opportunity for discussion and study via a variety of media; you will engage with theory and research from universities about socio linguistics, language development and so on. Independent reading and keeping up with relevant articles, blogs and discussions on the internet throughout the course is recommended.

BOOK and Article RECOMMENDATIONS

A good start is to buy the course book (English Language A/AS level for AQA published by Cambridge); also Advanced English Language by Sara Thorne is a useful textbook, as would be anything by David Crystal. The Independent's Voices or The Guardian's Modern Tribes are collections of articles recommended by AQA to capture the style of an opinion article.