



CITY OF LONDON ACADEMY  
**ISLINGTON**

WHERE STUDENTS SUCCEED

# English

## A Level English Language

### Exam Board: AQA

#### Why Study English Language?

Studying English language can involve exploring almost any use of words. You will have the opportunity to study the ways English language is used in a variety of forms, such as casual spoken conversations and advertising material, texts and tweets, and legal and medical discourse. You will also be able to study language from a range of periods and cultures, engaging with the evolution of the English language from its Anglo-Saxon beginnings onwards, and looking at global Englishes – the variety of forms of English in use across the world today. You will not just be looking at language on the page but language in use, in particular contexts, by speakers with motives, expectations and cultural knowledge.

This course will prepare you for English at university, a variety of career opportunities in fields such as publishing, journalism, law, teaching, media and any job that requires you to think independently and in a critical manner. This course will also help you develop skills in critical reading, writing, data analysis, evaluation, building and sustaining arguments, which are invaluable skills for both further study and future employment.



#### Entry Criteria

Five 9 to 5 grades at GCSE, plus a minimum of grade 6 in English GCSE.

#### What Will I Be Studying?

##### **Paper 1: Section A: Language, the individual and society; Section B: Children's language development**

Section A involves study of a range of texts: 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 and from different places (global, national, regional). Section B involves exploration of how children develop their spoken and written skills. You will be awarded marks out of 100 which is 40 % of A-level course.

##### **Paper 2: Language diversity and change**

In this unit, you will study different sociolects and dialects; texts that use language to represent different groups of people; texts from different periods, from 1600 to the present day. You will explore the texts which represent language and gender, language and power, language and technology. You will learn how to write analytically about texts as parts of different genres. You will be awarded marks out of 100 which is another 40% of A-level course.

##### **Non-exam assessment:**

The aim of this area of study is to allow you to explore and analyse language data independently; develop and reflect upon your own writing expertise. This coursework unit consists of investigation task which will be based on the area of your particular interest, e.g. how the language is presented in TV adverts, political debates, the language of wedding ceremonies from two different cultures, etc. The second piece of your coursework folder is original writing which can be presented in your chosen genre: story writing, a journalistic piece of writing, a speech, etc. This coursework forms 20% of your A Level.

#### How will I be assessed?

This course is a mixture of exams and coursework. At A Level, Paper 1 and Paper 2 are sat at the end of the year and the coursework essay counts for 20% of your final grade.

#### Who should I see for more information about this course?

Visit [aqa.org.uk/7702](http://aqa.org.uk/7702) for the most up-to-date specification, resources and support. Please approach Dr Loizou for further guidance about this new syllabus.