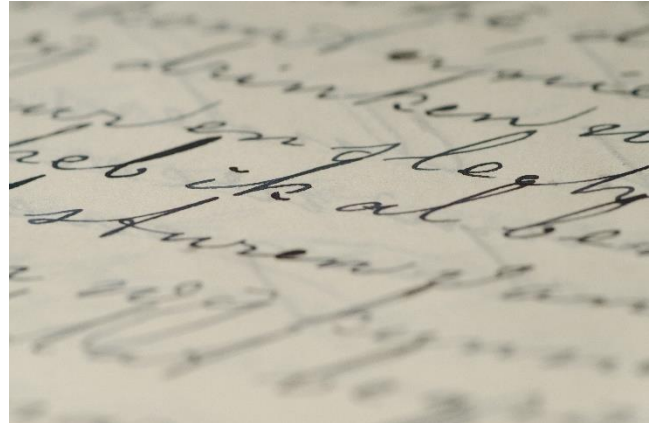


A LEVEL ENGLISH LANGUAGE

WHAT IS ENGLISH LANGUAGE?

A Level English Language is a two-year linear course. This means that although you will complete numerous assessments and practice exams throughout your time at college, the exams which will provide you with your qualification come at the end of two years of study.

You will learn about a wide range of interesting linguistic topics, and be expected to discuss, analyse and evaluate both language itself and many of its associated concepts and theories. It's a challenging and diverse course, which our current students love!



WHY STUDY ENGLISH LANGUAGE?

You should study this course if you are interested in finding out how language works and in analysing the importance of social context on how we express ourselves. The course will help you to develop your communication skills, both in speech and writing, as well as help you to increase your analytical and evaluative skills. There is a small creative element as well, but please be aware that this is a linguistics course, and not a creative writing course.

USEFUL SKILLS & INTERESTS

You should have a good command of English yourself and a keen interest in analysing, discussion work and finding out how language works.

COURSE STRUCTURE & CONTENT

This is a two year course and over that period you will develop your understanding of different linguistic study methods and the importance of things like audience, purpose and wider context in the production of language. The areas to be studied are as follows:

- **Language, the Individual and Society**
 - **Textual variations and representations:** analysing and comparing texts linked by a common theme, including an element of how language has changed over time.
 - **Children's language development (0-11 years):** exploring how children learn to speak, read and write
- **Language Diversity and Change**
 - Exploring ideas around language diversity e.g., how language is used in relation to your: gender, region, ethnicity, social class and groups, occupation
 - Considering how and why language has changed over time and continues to change now
 - Analysing how texts use language to present ideas about language itself, and writing an opinion text of your own in response to this

- **Language in Action**

- Creating a piece of original writing for a set audience and purpose, using professional texts as style models and evaluating your writing process.
- An independent investigation into language use on a topic/in an area of your choice.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

At the end of the course you will have two written exams, which are both 2 hours and 30 minutes in length. They each count for 40% of your A Level. You will also produce a coursework folder for Language in Action; this will count for 20% of your A Level.

COURSE COMMITMENT

You will be expected, as with any A Level, to read around the subject and study intensively in your own time, with about four hours of homework per week. Throughout the course we expect you to read texts, which are not directly related to the specification but are of interest thematically and linguistically. We also ask you to keep a glossary of key terminology.

COURSE COSTS

We believe it is important for you to have a variety of experiences related to your studies. We sometimes attend specialist conferences at universities and organise visiting speakers, who might lead workshops with our students. Other trips are organised where possible. Although not compulsory, it may be beneficial to purchase a copy of the course textbook for around £15.

ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

The college requires 5 GCSE passes grades 4 - 9 for entrance onto this course including English Language and English Literature. The jump from GCSE to A Level work can be quite hard, but as long as you bring to the course an enthusiasm for study and are prepared to attend workshops as required by your teacher, you should do well.

PROGRESSION ROUTES

English Language combines well with many other disciplines and so it is helpful for most Higher Education options. It is an ideal basis for career choices such as teaching, marketing, advertising, publishing, speech therapy, journalism and the Law. Effective communication is fundamental to any future career though, and this course will equip you with the skills you need for the workplace.

Some of the students who studied this course at Prior Pursglove College progressed on to:

- Durham University – **Law / Mathematics / Modern Languages / Psychology**
- Edinburgh Napier University – **Law**
- Huddersfield University - **Journalism**
- Leeds University – **Law / Management with Marketing**
- Liverpool John Moore University – **Drama & English / Law & Criminal Justice**
- London College of Fashion – **Fashion Management**
- Manchester Met University – **Primary Education**
- Newcastle College – **Children and Young People**
- Newcastle University – **Law**
- Northumbria University – **Journalism**
- Nottingham Trent University – **Broadcast Journalism**
- Salford University – **Broadcast Journalism**
- Sunderland University – **Magazine Journalism**

- Teesside University – **Crime Scene Science / English Studies / Journalism**
- University of Chester – **Primary Education with QTS**
- University of Cumbria – **Primary Education with QTS**
- University of Edinburgh – **Modern Foreign Languages**
- University of Westminster – **International Marketing**
- York St John University – **American Studies & Film Studies / Primary Education**

STUDENT COMMENTS

What our English Language students say:

“Classroom experiences are dynamic; they are packed with learning, but carried out with enthusiasm and vigour. You almost forget you are being taught.”

“My teacher explains everything well and is very supportive. She makes sure I know where I am and I feel I learn a lot in lesson.”

“The feedback allows me to see my weaknesses and be able to improve myself from this. I also feel that my teacher has been very supportive especially with my coursework as she tells me exactly what I need to include and is very clear about this too (easy to understand).”

“The structure of lessons has been made much more entertaining, enjoyable and educational and probably more relevant than any other subjects I have taken.”

“The variety of teaching methods used helps to make the topic more interesting and engaging. I like the fact that at the beginning of the year a good amount of effort was put into making us all feel comfortable with one another through 'icebreakers', and to make the learning environment a better place.”

“I enjoy every English lesson because we study a range of texts in order to develop our understanding of the English language and how it has changed.”

“Through my studies, the support from the tutors has been exceptional and they are always ready to help whenever you need it.”

“I think that it is challenging however very interesting at the same time. There is always extra support available which is very helpful.”

“This subject is really interesting. It looks at language in a range of contexts such as power, gender and technology and how language has changed overtime. You also cover how children learn language. The coursework allows you to be creative.”

“English Language is a challenging but rewarding subject. It covers a wide range of enjoyable topics and every lesson involves something different from the last.”

“English Language at A Level is much more diverse and challenging than GCSE English Language. The course is flexible to individual needs due to the wide range of topics and the relative freedom with coursework.”

“The course is challenging in some parts, but the staff make them much more manageable. The course is very interesting as it relates to everyday life, leaving you analysing everything you read.”

FURTHER INFORMATION

If you require further information, please contact Joel Ingram on j.ingram@tvc.ac.uk or Steve Boyes sr.boyes@tvc.ac.uk