

How will I be assessed?

80% of your marks will come from two examined components at the end of the second year.

In paper 1 you apply linguistic methods to a single text and then compare and connect two texts which have something in common, one of which will be a transcript of real speech; you will also produce a piece of original writing for a general audience on a language issue.

In paper 2 you respond to a transcript of speech produced by young children, as well as to a media text and to two texts from different times.

There is also a 20% coursework element where you will produce a 2,500 word language investigation, exploring how the linguistic concepts and knowledge you have gained during the course can be applied to some data that you have collected yourself; you will also produce an academic poster explaining your investigation to a non-expert audience.

What extra work can I do?

The wider your experience of texts, the better it will be for your English Language skills. You will learn a lot from watching and listening to a range of news output, advertisements and documentaries of all kinds, and reflecting on their language use, as well as reading biographies and a range of newspapers and magazines. We will provide you with our own in-house anthologies of texts so that you can practice planning and writing analytically every week.

The English Language page on Godalming Online contains a range of useful resources to support your study. We have an on-line Advanced Linguistics course that you can work through, designed for students who are intending to study English Language or Linguistics at university.



Godalming College



ENGLISH LANGUAGE A Level OCR

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What sort of work will I be doing?

From the outset we will be encouraging you to gather texts yourself from all sorts of sources, and be generally inquisitive about language use. You will be engaged in group discussion activities and presentations as well as detailed, practical exploration of the main aspects of language study. These include lexis (vocabulary), grammar, syntax, phonology (the study of the sound of language), semantics (the study of meaning) and pragmatics (the study of language strategies). Students often enjoy the element of the course that focuses on language in society, such as how people in power use language to control or influence others.

We will ask you to practise your analytical writing every week. You will also develop the skill of writing about language for a general audience (in a newspaper comment section, for example).

Coursework is an important element at A level. In the second year your independent language investigation will encourage you to develop self-discipline and to take more responsibility for organising your own studies. This will include wider reading about your chosen area of interest which you collate into a bibliography at the end.



What is the course about?

The aim of the course is to encourage you to develop your interest in the ways that the English language is used in a wide variety of texts and contexts, and for you to learn about its structure and functions. The course encourages you to reflect on how you express yourself in speech and writing, and should help you to do so with increasing competence, sophistication and enjoyment. A key element is also the study of language in society - how men and women converse, for example - and this aspect tends to prompt lively and fascinating debate.

What are the entry requirements?

Required: grade 5 in English Language GCSE, and four other subjects at grade 4 or above.

Preferable: a grade 6 or higher in English Language GCSE.

Note: If you are having difficulty choosing which English course to take, please refer to the 'Deciding Factors Table', comparing our three different English A levels, available at Open Evening or on request. You can do both English Language and English Literature as separate A levels if you wish.

What is the department like?

We are an enthusiastic team of expert English Language teachers, keen to share our enjoyment of language with you. Our aim on the course is to guide you in acquiring a range of linguistic skills which you can demonstrate in focused analysis and in texts that you create yourself. We try to provide a variety of learning experiences so that you are developing the skills you need in order to do well. We meet regularly and select and share resources that we hope will challenge and stimulate you. We aim to give careful and constructive feedback on your work.

From you, meanwhile, we need intellectual and creative involvement. An enjoyment of reading and listening to a wide variety of texts is the best place to start, but you also need to be keen to prepare for class and to work to the best of your ability on all assignments. This kind of engagement should lead to a high grade and for many, we hope, the decision to study an English Language related degree at university. Ultimately we want you to be able to think critically about how language is manipulated by those around you, as well be able to use it skillfully yourself.



WHAT ARE THE PROGRESSION ROUTES FOR THIS QUALIFICATION?

There are some excellent English Language or Language and Linguistics degree courses for which English Language A level is ideal. You can also apply for combined Language and Literature degrees. If you are applying for a degree course entitled "English" or "English Literature", an A Level in English Literature is usually required. Students doing a wide variety of other subjects, in Arts, Humanities and Sciences, also take A level English. They go on to many different courses and careers. The skills that you learn are a useful starting point for careers in the arts and the media (including journalism), law and business, and in other professions where a disciplined approach and critical awareness are needed. *Please note that it is possible to study English Language and English Literature as separate A levels.*