

Get ready for English Language

About the subject

English Language at A-Level is very different from your studies at GCSE. Studying English at an advanced level introduces you to the world of linguistics (the science of language), and whilst this doesn't mean test tubes and chemicals, it instead looks at how and why language makes us human.

Topics in this course include language and gender, accent and dialect, language and technology and language change. In this course we evaluate the past, present and future of the English Language in all its diversity, and challenge our stereotypes of what we think language should be, and where it comes from. We look at types of English throughout the country, and wider in the world, as well as child language acquisition to teach us about the nature of language learning.

If you have a passion for words, and an interest in language, you will thrive in this course!

Your tasks

1) It's important to sharpen your grammatical knowledge before you start the course, and ensure that you're confident with everything you studied in your GCSEs. Please complete all the modules at the below Seneca learning link to give yourself a head start! <https://tinyurl.com/bsfclangy112020>
[https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2ftinyurl.com%2fbsfclangy112020&c=E,1,xVN50cRQc-x0mxllfiszfBlp1EzqHbnYbClp5fvUCp8Qr0h817ropqC9xbiD7omC_39O1u6Dr3wEZTej3kB5bzKOZumyVTCd3]

2) Consider your own 'linguistic footprint'. Language is always individual to each and every one of us (our idiolect), so we would like you to complete the attached task [<https://www.barnsleysixthformcollege.co.uk/app/uploads/2020/05/Linguistic-Footprint-homework-induction.docx>] to consider all the elements that you feel affect how and why you use language in the way you do. This might be your accent, particular words you use, or even something from popular culture that you've embedded into your language.

Essential reading

We recommend purchasing the AQA A-Level English Language textbook for this course. This will take you over both years, and can be purchased new or second-hand: <https://tinyurl.com/aqalangbook>
[<https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2ftinyurl.com%2faqalangbook&c=E,1,FPmDxqW9SZ7C>]

We would also recommend that you consider purchasing the student workbook, which has lots of useful activities that you can be complete in your independent revision:

<https://tinyurl.com/aqalangworkbook>

[https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2ftinyurl.com%2faqalangworkbook&c=E,1,xOQMW0LFW6SXBfY9eghZZ8I_INcud2NvwVEgt4cN1IQtzWo2cb6cgqObb1CxpjXlrQWEgfCS-yIF0wxAn7t_-n2bIXltZcgCow,,&typo=1]

Useful websites and other resources

Links to The Guardian's Language specific articles: <https://www.theguardian.com/media/mind-your-language>

[https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.theguardian.com%2fmedia%2fmind-your-language&c=E,1,c96NQ4uGrIPUDEbNy9iV-VAatogX7e9iF8qO7qDT3sgsWIBk_EfWnVlnj59JkkOCjsep5-CASPMGfhV9ykd7aHnC8yjWwQWv9s3lZ-e8Y1A6IN5BoaqcJ&typo=1]

Dan Clayton's English Language blog (really fantastic resource for all things linguistic!): <http://englishlangsfx.blogspot.com/>

[https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=http%3a%2f%2fenglishlangsfx.blogspot.com%2f&c=E,1,5v7y0RQ5RnqW55M8v5G55vmiOXX6Suk5ABitA-BQOy0LjZnWXDDkaBS_-MdKsOgCQ2XEwwMpXRdEvYkGOa9_ToK2xXUEJGcqEfeTXEDw,,&typo=1]

British Library on Accent and Dialects: <https://sounds.bl.uk/Accents-and-dialects/>

[https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fsounds.bl.uk%2fAccents-and-dialects%2f&c=E,1,6KaemghILUmBpirfLMbGadXWOGSDfpc7jOPoG3AUq_V_vRbWOICNANhpszWZMps5bS]

Deborah Cameron on gendered language: <https://debuk.wordpress.com/>

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Last updated: 6th May 2020

Any questions?

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