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# St Mary's College

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE A LEVEL AQA 7702**  
**Pre-course reading and guidance**





# A LEVEL ENGLISH LANGUAGE

## WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE LANGUAGE?

- › English Language is a new and exciting course which is very different to what you will have studied at GCSE. It draws on all aspects of English, looking at written and spoken varieties, as well as looking at key issues of gender, power and technology. You will also focus on language change, child language acquisition and a creative writing element. It focuses on modern language in use, looking at a variety of shorter texts and the reasons behind their production.

## WHAT IS THE COURSE STRUCTURE LIKE?

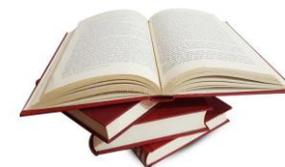
- › The course is a two year course. It consists of two exams and a language investigation piece of coursework. The exams are worth 40% each, and the coursework will be 20%. **All exams will be taken at the end of your second year.**



# A LEVEL ENGLISH LANGUAGE

**Paper 1 Language, the individual and society.**

**(2hrs 30 mins)**



## **Section A (1 hr 30mins):**

- You will examine two texts, exploring how meaning and representation are shown both individually, and as a comparison. You will study key areas of gender, power, technology, multi-modal texts, language change and attitudes and values. The third question will ask for a comparison of the two texts, and look at similarities and differences, referencing key linguistic frameworks.

## **Section B (1 hr):**

- Section B focuses on Child Language Acquisition. In this, you will study how children develop spoken and written language, as well as learning key theories of language development. Students are expected to compare two pieces of data and apply linguistic frameworks and studies to demonstrate understanding.

# A LEVEL ENGLISH LANGUAGE



## Paper 2 Language Diversity and Change (2 hours 30 mins)

### Section A (45 minutes)

- › This paper takes a sociolinguistic approach to language, and students will be asked to respond to current trends in gender, race, power, attitudes to accent and dialect and language change. For the first part of the paper, you will be given a debate question to argue points both for and against, evaluating key theories and linguistic ideas on given topics. You will be given the choice of two questions, and have to answer on one.

### Section B (1 hour)

- › For the second section, you will have to analyse the attitudes and values shown in two differing articles on Language Change, Gender, Power or Occupation. It includes analysing 2 texts and exploring how they present ideas on modern linguistic issues.

### Section C (45 minutes)

- › Once you have read section B, you then recast these ideas into a piece of creative writing, offering your own opinions on what you have read and studied. This is ideal for students interested in journalism or creative writing.





# A LEVEL ENGLISH LANGUAGE (Year 12)

## Exam Syllabus for English Language

<https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/english/specifications/AQA-7701-7702-SP-2015.PDF>

## Example papers for the examinations

- › <https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/english/AQA-77021-SQP.PDF>
- › <https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/english/AQA-77021-SIN.PDF>
- › <https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/english/AQA-77022-SQP.PDF>
- › <https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/english/AQA-77022-SIN.PDF>



# A LEVEL ENGLISH LANGUAGE – NEA (coursework)

## Non Exam Assessment. Language in Action (3500 words)

- › For this, you will undertake a language investigation of your choice. You can study a specific theme or aspect of language, language change, diversity or spoken language ideas. You need to collect and analyse data using key linguistic frameworks, forming a key hypothesis and then attempting to prove or disprove your theory. (2000 words)
- › For the second part of the NEA, you need to complete a piece of creative writing of your choice, accompanied by a commentary on the linguistic and structural choices they have made. (1500 words). Again, this is ideal for anyone who is interested in a career in journalism.

For NEA guidance, please follow the link below.

<https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/english/AQA-7701-7702-NEA-GUIDE.PDF>



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# A LEVEL ENGLISH LANGUAGE (YEAR 12)



**Some ideas used for the Creative Writing aspect of the NEA by previous students:**



- A speech on the topic of video referees
- A dramatic monologue in the style of Alan Bennett
- An editorial for the Guardian/Times
- A match report for 4-4-2
- A Fashion article for Vogue
- An Anime story/narrative
- A children's book
- A review of a film for Empire Magazine

**However, the topic and what you want to write is entirely up to you; in discussion with your teacher you will find something you are interested in to write about.**



## Resources to develop your language knowledge:

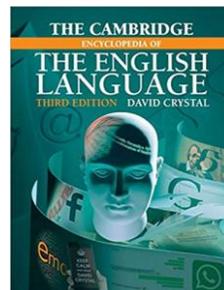
- **English and Media Centre** – produce a quarterly magazine that explores a wide range of literature texts. This magazine is aimed at A-level students and includes an archive of previous articles.  
<https://www.englishandmedia.co.uk/e-magazine/emag-login/>
- **Andrew Moore's English Language site**  
A great resource broken down into key topics to help you study. This is really handy for theorists.  
<http://www.universalteacher.org.uk/>
- **The English Language Blog**  
Lots of great articles and ideas from practicing teachers. Really good for current research on linguistic topics.  
<http://englishlangsfx.blogspot.com/>
- **Quizlet**  
Handy revision site with many revision tools made by students and teachers.  
<https://quizlet.com/en-gb>
- **Lancaster University's Department of Linguistics and English Language**  
A webinar series called *Speaking of Variation in Language*. Topics explored will include differences in language about gender to World Englishes and variation in sounds across dialects.  
These short talks will run from 20<sup>th</sup> May to 17<sup>th</sup> June, every Wednesday, 1.30 – 2pm.  
The sessions are free but you need to sign up. Register at:  
<http://wp.lancs.ac.uk/speaking-of-variation-in-language/>



# English Language A Level

## Suggested pre/wider reading for A Level

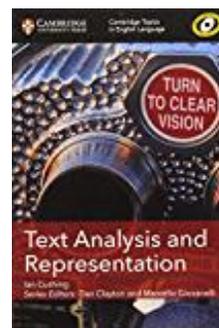
The Cambridge  
Encyclopaedia of The English  
Language. (David Crystal)  
[https://www.amazon.co.uk/Cambridge-Encyclopedia-English-Language/dp/1108437737/ref=dp\\_ob\\_title\\_bk](https://www.amazon.co.uk/Cambridge-Encyclopedia-English-Language/dp/1108437737/ref=dp_ob_title_bk)



Language and Gender  
(Cambridge Topics in English  
Language  
(Felicity Titjen)



Text Analysis and  
Representation (Cambridge  
Topics in English Language)  
(Ian Cushing)



Attitudes to Language  
(Cambridge Topics in English  
Language)  
(Dan Clayton)



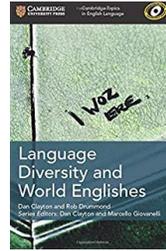
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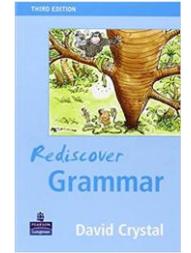
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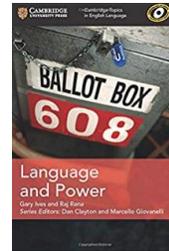
- Language Diversity and World Englishes (Cambridge Topics in English Language - Dan Clayton)



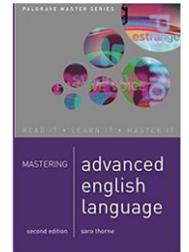
- Rediscover Grammar (David Crystal)



- Language and Power (Cambridge Topics in English Language - Gary Ives)



- Mastering Advanced English Language (Sara Thorne)



- Revision Express – AS and A2 English Language (Alan Gardiner)



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## Any further questions?

Contact details of lead teachers of Language:

[nhussey@smchull.org](mailto:nhussey@smchull.org) Neil Hussey

[ahallam@smchull.org](mailto:ahallam@smchull.org) Anna Hallam

We also offer **English Literature** and a combined **English Language and Literature** course at A Level.

Please see the relevant pre-course reading guidance for further details.