

Course Content

The A-Level English Language course is a 2 year course worth a maximum 56 UCAS points.
The course contains 2 examined components and 1 non-examined coursework unit

AS

Understanding language features in context

The focus of this section is on the effect of writers' linguistic features in a short written text. Learners should study a range of texts and genres, and they are expected to be able to explore how and why particular features have been used in the construction of the text. Learners should be able to identify and analyse a variety of features across a range of language levels, exploring the possible effects of contextual factors on language use.

Comparing and contrasting texts

The focus of this section is on exploring linguistic connections and comparisons between different modes of communication, e.g. in spoken and written texts or spontaneous and crafted speech. At least one spoken text will always be included in the paper. Learners should be prepared to explore the effects of mode across the two texts.

Writing about a topical language issue

This section focuses on an issue or concept related to language in use particularly in relation to the issues associated with language and gender, and language and power and gives learners the opportunity to explore their own ideas and attitudes in a piece of original writing.

Exploring language in context

This section offers learners a choice of two texts and contexts to explore. Learners will explore and respond to an unseen text in relation to gender theories and issues, or they will explore and respond to a different unseen text in

A-level

Language under the microscope

The focus of this section is on the effect of lexical choices and grammatical features in a short written text.

Analysis of: – lexis and semantics: the vocabulary of English, including social and historical variation – grammar, including morphology: the structural patterns and shapes of English at sentence, clause, phrase and word level – pragmatics: the contextual aspects of language use – discourse: extended stretches of communication occurring in different genres, modes and contexts.

Child language acquisition:

The focus of this section is on children's acquisition of spoken language. The age range to be explored is 0–7 years old.

Language in the media:

This section focuses on discourse in a multi-modal media text and requires learners to apply language concepts and theories to their analysis of linguistic and graphological features.

Language change:

The focus of this section is on the analysis of historical varieties of English. The analysis will be based on drawing connections and comparisons between two texts from different times.

Language Investigation & Academic Poster.

Section A: An independent investigation of language, provides learners with the opportunity to pursue an area of study which is of particular personal interest. Section B, The academic poster, allows learners to present their research from their independent investigation in a concise and visually accessible way.

Skills and Qualifications Required

Students will need to have gained 5 or more GCSEs at a grade **5** or above. This must include a **grade 6** for English Language GCSE.

Skills required for successfully completing the course

Reading for meaning	Investigative skills
Reading skills	Data handling
Writing skills	Collaborative skills
Analytical and interpretive skills	Communication Skills

Assessment

AS - The course will be assessed at the end of the year with two 90 minutes exam papers.

A-Level - The course will be assessed at the end of the year with two 2 1/2 hour exam papers plus one coursework piece of an independent research study.

A Pathway To...

This course is suitable for careers in English, Linguistics, Journalism, Publishing and Writing. In addition, this course is suitable for almost any degree at University as it is a facilitating subject.

For More Information Speak To: Miss A Cook Email: CookA@thomasbecket.org.uk

