



ST. AIDAN'S AND ST. JOHN FISHER ASSOCIATED SIXTH FORM  
Exam Board: AQA

**What do I need to be able to do this course?**

English Language will suit you if you want to study how both spoken and written language is used in a variety of situations and you enjoy composing your own writing. The subject involves the study of language in all its forms but also requires you to compose pieces of creative writing and a language investigation. The minimum entry requirement for this subject is a grade B in English Language and Literature at GCSE.

**What does will I do on the course and how is it assessed?**

**A Level Paper 1: Language, the Individual and Society**

2 hours 30 minutes exam. 40% of A Level.

**Section A – Textual Variations and Representations:** Students will answer three questions based upon two texts from different time periods. Students will answer questions on language use in one text, answer another question on language use in the second text and then compare the two texts.

**Section B – Children's Language Development:** Students produce a discursive essay on children's language development based on either spoken, written or multimodal data.

**Paper 2: Language Diversity and Change**

2 hours 30 minutes exam 40% of A Level

**Section A – Diversity and Change:** Students select one question either on language diversity (how language is affected by social class, occupation, ethnicity, age, gender, sexuality, disability) or language change.

**Section B – Language Discourses:** Students answer a question on how texts use language to present ideas. They must then complete a directed writing task on the same topic.

**Non-exam assessment: Making Connections**

20% of A Level

This involves an investigation that explores a strand of language which is of interest to the student (2000 words). This is written up as a research report in preparation for subject related university courses. Students also complete a piece of original writing and a commentary (1,500 words) This is assessed by teachers.

**What can I do with this course?**

English is a widely ranging subject which offers excellent preparation for degree level study and lends itself naturally to careers in the Arts and the Media or any other area where communication is a valuable tool. An English Language A-level would be good preparation for a degree in Journalism or English.

**Where can I get further information?**

Please speak to the Head of English at either school: Miss Fairburn at SA or Miss Gregg at SJF or alternatively your current English teacher.