

English Language

A level

What will I study and learn?

The idea of a 'text' in English Language is not restricted to literature (poetry, prose, drama), but is much wider and may refer to newspapers, blogs, interviews, magazine articles, transcripts of spoken language, even advertisements. You will develop the analytical muscles in your brain, so that you are able to identify the assumptions, prejudices and values – in short, the agenda, and how it's conveyed – of the increasingly diverse and diffuse language used around you.

How will I be assessed?

The English Language course is linear and all four components will be taken in the Upper Sixth:

Examinations
Component 1 Language Variation (35%)
Section A. Individual Variation: comparison of two unseen 21st century texts. Section B. Variation Over Time: comparison of two texts from different periods in the development of English.
Component 2 Child Language (20%)
One question on text(s) showing child language development. Texts may be written and/or transcripts of spoken language.
Component 3 Investigating Language (25%)
Two questions on one topic that you have chosen and researched yourself: Global English, Language and Gender, Language and Power, Language and Journalism, or Regional Dialects.
Coursework
Component 4 Crafting Language (20%)
Section A. Two pieces of creative writing, in the same genre but for different audiences Section B. A commentary on your creative writing.

For Component 3, the exam board will publish specialist topics for each area in January. For example, having studied Global English generally, you might be asked to make yourself an expert in South African English, or Australian English, for the examination. For those who have studied Language and Gender, the specialist micro-topic for the examination might be language and gender in advertising for children.

What skills will I develop?

The course is designed to equip you with the analytical skills, knowledge, theoretical tools and terminology to be able to take an informed academic approach to almost any example of language use in the world around you. In this regard, you will develop a heightened awareness of the extent to which every act of speech or writing is, fundamentally, a political as well as a linguistic act. You will gain important transferable skills for your future career: excellent writing skills, form eloquent arguments and be responsive to new challenges that you will face on a daily basis.

Want to know more?

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Exam Board:
www.qualifications.pearson.com
(Edexcel)



“English Language is not just about the study of English. It's about the journey and history of English, which is why I find it very interesting.

Raag Khera, OB 2023
Courses: English Language,
Economics, Mathematics, and
the Extended Project Qualification

