ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Exam Board: AQA (B)
Entry Requirements: Grade 6 in English Language

COURSE SUMMARY

This subject provides students with a natural progression from their GCSE study of English Language. It encourages students to develop their interest in and appreciation of English, through learning about its structures and its functions, its developments and its variations. The course will look at a range of language issues such as the language use in different social contexts, different accents and dialects, the histories of words or the reasons why new words appear, the influence of modern technology on language and why women and men speak differently. The course also allows students to develop their ability to express themselves in speech and writing, producing texts for different audiences, purposes and in different genres.

COURSE STRUCTURE

Paper 1: Language the individual and society
40% of A Level - 2 hr 30mins written examination

Introduction to the study of language and how children's language develops.

Section A - Textual Variations and Representations.
Two texts (one contemporary and one older text) linked by topic or theme.

A question requiring analysis of one text (25 marks)
A question requiring analysis of a second text (25 marks)
A question requiring comparison of the two texts (20 marks)

Section B - Children's Language Development
A discursive essay on children's language development, with a choice of two questions where the data provided will focus on spoken, written or multimodal language (30 marks)

Paper 2 – Language Diversity and Change
40% of A Level - 2hrs 30mins
Language diversity and change
Language discourses
Writing skills
Methods of language analysis are integrated into the activities

Section A - Diversity and Change
One question from a choice of two:
Either: an evaluative essay on language diversity (30 marks)
Or: an evaluative essay on language change (30 marks)

Section B - Language Discourses
Two texts about a topic linked to the study of diversity and change.
A question requiring analysis of how the texts use language to present ideas, attitudes and opinions (40 marks)
A directed writing task linked to the same topic and the ideas in the texts (30 marks)

NEA – (20% of A Level)
The non-exam assessment (NEA) for the A-level specification is 'Language in Action', and consists of an investigation, original writing and a commentary.