

ENGLISH LANGUAGE A Level

Why Study this course?

- You are good at writing for different audiences and purposes
- You are interested in the 'technical' aspect of language, such as grammar and technical terms
- You have excellent written skills – accuracy in spelling, punctuation and grammar
- You have an interest in how language is used for effect
- You are able to work and research language independently



Career Progression

- A Level Language is a wide-reaching linear A Level course, which prepares you well for careers in journalism, media, publishing, government, international relations, advertising, law and a host of other sectors.
- Law, journalism, teaching, publishing, novelist, advertising, administration, marketing, PR, retail and sales positions, accountancy, banking, research.

What You'll Study

Year 1:

Your course will focus on teaching you methods of language analysis ("the frameworks") with a wide variety of new specialist terms to memorise. We will progress to preparing you for the two papers that make up this examination only qualification. Material studied in Y12 builds towards the understanding you will need in the final examination.

Paper 1 will introduce you to Language and the Individual, a chance to analyse and compare texts for their use of a wide variety of language features. You will get to examine a wide variety of texts. How do advertisers appeal to their customers? What language features characterise a debate between friends over a movie, or an apologetic phone message to your granny?

Paper 2, Language Diversity, will examine Language's role in Society, known as Sociolinguistics. We will see how our identity is reinforced by slang, how occupational language gives prestige to the Professions, whether or not is important if a panda eats shoots and leaves and why a glottal stop may reduce (or improve!) your chances of getting a job.

Year 2:

You will further develop your knowledge of Language and the Individual and Language and Diversity, adding two new components – Child Language Acquisition, which studies how humans develop the ability to speak, read, and write, and Language Change which investigates how and why language shifts over time. There is also a coursework component at A-Level, comprising a Creative Piece with Commentary and a Language Investigation, which together count as 20% of your overall mark.

You will focus on two main areas of study: Child Language Acquisition – the study of how children acquire language, with a focus on spoken and written language; and Language Change – the study of how language has changed from the 1700's to the present day. You will also be challenged to investigate an area of language focus that interests you and to create a media text.

Why study English Language at PWSFC?

Why I chose English Language

It's an interesting subject and is very different from GCSE. I've enjoyed studying spoken language as it was interesting to see how different people use language and I found spoken language theories intriguing. The teachers are extremely helpful and supporting and having two different teachers is useful because you can get different views on the subject. They challenge you by suggesting extra reading to give you a deeper understanding. I think English Language is an important subject because it is useful in all fields of work." - Alice

Why Parrs Wood?

- **Visiting Academic Speakers and Staff Lectures** We regularly welcome visiting speakers and academics in English to discuss issues in English-language, from intersectionality to language and DNA. Our library of staff presentations allows you to access specialist video lessons on subjects from Language and Power to Slang.
- **Creative Writing Group and Book Club** Blogger, journo or journaler? Contribute to creative writing group and develop your own skills at creative writing, to compliment your NEA coursework.
- **University Level Research** This year's students took part in the Accentism Project Workshop from Manchester Metropolitan University investigating accents and dialects. Watch this space for further opportunities to engage with university level research.

If you like this subject, you may also like:

Languages, Psychology, Law, Sociology, Business, Government & Politics, History

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