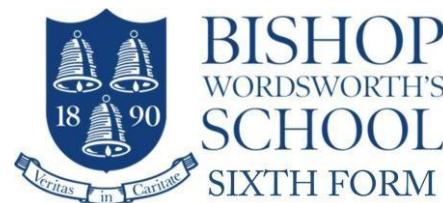


English Language

OCR Specification



General information:

English Language is a dynamic and highly respected subject that explores how language shapes our identities, relationships and society. The course develops analytical thinking, communication, research and creative writing skills, making it excellent preparation for a wide range of university courses and careers. Students investigate how language works in real-world contexts and explore how it changes over time, varies between different groups of speakers and writers, and influences the way we see the world.

Course content:

The AQA A Level English Language course is divided into three components.

Paper 1: Language, the Individual and Society

Students explore:

Textual variations and representations

Children's language development (spoken and written)

Methods of language analysis

Students learn how language is used to create meanings and representations, analysing texts from a range of modes, genres and contexts. They also investigate theories about how children acquire language.

Paper 2: Language Diversity and Change

Students study:

Language diversity

Language change

Language discourses

This component examines how language varies according to social, geographical and cultural factors, as well as how English has evolved over time. Students consider attitudes towards language and explore debates surrounding modern language use.

Non-Exam Assessment: Language in Action

Students complete two independent projects:

A language investigation based on an area of personal interest

A piece of original writing with an accompanying analytical commentary

This coursework element encourages students to undertake independent research and apply their linguistic knowledge in both analytical and creative ways.

How is the course taught and assessed?

The course combines linguistic theory with the study of authentic spoken, written and digital texts. Lessons are highly interactive and involve discussion, debate, collaborative research and detailed textual analysis.

Students develop expertise in analysing language through frameworks such as: Grammar and syntax, Lexis and semantics, Discourse, Pragmatics, Phonology, Graphology.

Regular assessments include timed essays, data analysis tasks, original writing assignments and independent research projects. Students are encouraged to read widely, engage with contemporary language issues and develop the confidence to construct sophisticated arguments.

Entry requirements:

In addition to the general entry requirements for BWS, a grade 6 in English Literature and a grade 6 in English Language.

Results information:

This is a new subject starting in 2027

Top destinations for students:

Students go to a range of universities to study related courses, including Oxford, Cambridge, Exeter, Royal Holloway, Manchester and UCL.

A level Literature student have progressed to become lawyers, journalists, broadcasters, linguistics, marketing and advertising, public relations, teaching, publishing, speech and language therapy, media and communications.

Beyond the curriculum:

The English Department is keen to organise theatre trips whenever there is a relevant production running. We frequently take students to The Globe in London, or to the RSC at Stratford, as well as other major venues. We often invite speakers from the world of The Arts to speak to students, and there are countless other opportunities to help support groups for younger pupils, join the school's vibrant play productions or help run reading groups, plus much more besides. Public Speaking and Debating are particularly strong within the School, the former being run by a member of the English Department. Literature students can also get involved in the running of *Wordsworth*, the school magazine, the editor usually being an English Lit student!