

A-Level English Language

Entry Requirements: GCSE 6 or above in English Language and 5 in English Literature.

Exam Board: AQA

Subject Leader: Mrs C Law claw@taptonschool.co.uk

Main Syllabus Area:

Students will focus on three areas of language study; Language, the Individual and Society, Language Varieties and Change and Language in action. Within these topics they cover a range of data and a variety of extracts. Text types could include magazines, social media, text messaging and adverts. They will also complete a Language Investigation.

Method of Assessment

Students will be assessed by two written examinations, each worth 40% of the final A-Level grade and an Investigation worth 20%.

Qualities Required

You must enjoy reading and have a genuine interest in the use of English in a variety of contexts and genres, with a willingness to extend and develop your range. You will need well established writing skills, an open mind and a willingness to enter into debate and discussion. You will need to be able to manage a demanding workload.

Links with other subjects

English Language provides an excellent complement to Arts, Performing Arts and Social Sciences. As a discipline which demands rigorous analytical and fluent communicative skills, it enhances all Post 16 study.

Career Prospects

This course is particularly suitable for those students who wish to study English, Linguistics or English Studies in Higher Education. It offers a wide range of options with or without a degree: Law, Accountancy, Media, Banking, Local Government, Civil Service, Personnel / Human Resources, Journalism – and Teaching.

Extension and Enrichment Opportunities

Conferences, Lectures, Visiting Speakers, Workshops.

Reading List

Y11s preparing for A-Level:

Into the Woods: How Stories Work and Why We Tell Them by John Yorke
A Little Book of Language by David Crystal
How Language Works by David Crystal
English Accents and Dialects by Hughes, Trudhill and Watt
Teentalk – The Language of Adolescents by Taglimonte
Radio 4 Word of Mouth podcasts

Autobiography:

The Long Walk to Freedom by Nelson Mandela
Wild Swans by Jung Chang

Y13s preparing for degree Level:

Begin brushing up on general grammar rules (e.g. knowing tenses, being able to classify words easily). This is an expectation of most courses.

Contemporary Stylistics: Language, Cognition, Interpretation (Edinburgh Textbooks on the English Language - Advanced) (paperback) by Alison Gibbons (Author), Sara Whiteley (Author)

Anything by Fairclough / M.A.K Halliday / David Crystal

Do consider browsing the recently released resources from Eton College that will prepare you well for further study in English <https://etonx.com/uk-schools>

Independent Study

AQA Website for past papers and mark schemes: <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/a-level/english-7702/assessment-resources?secondaryResourceType=Question+papers%3BMark+schemes>

David Crystal: Stories of English (and other David Crystal books in library)

Bill Bryson: Mother Tongue

YouTube channel: 'Sprouts' for Ao2 concepts and ideas

TED Talks: Lera Boroditsky, Jassa Ahluwalia

BBC Sounds podcast: The Language Doctor

Spotify podcast: An Overview of English Literature