

English Language A Level Year 12

A good A Level English Language student is curious, analytical, and disciplined. They engage actively with both spoken and written language, noticing how context, audience, purpose, and mode shape communication. They can confidently use technical terminology to explain language features and their effects, linking observations to social, cultural, or historical contexts. Such a student is also independent, reading widely to explore different registers, dialects, and styles, and reflecting critically on their own and others' language use. They are organised in their thinking and writing, producing clear, structured essays and investigations, while showing creativity in exploring language patterns or producing original texts. Most importantly, they are willing to question assumptions, develop their own interpretations, and back up arguments with evidence.

Summary of course content

The English Language A Level syllabus is split into three areas:

Paper 1: Language, the Individual & Society

- How language is used in **texts and social contexts**
- Textual analysis of things like articles, blogs, speeches and adverts
- **Children's language development** (ages 0–11)
- Study of how language reflects **identity, power and occupation**
- Compare and analyse two texts
- Some **creative writing** with commentary

Paper 2: Language Diversity & Change

- How **English has changed over time** (history of English)
- **Regional and social language variation** (dialects, accents)
- Global spread of English (e.g. World Englishes)
- Language and **gender, ethnicity, and social groups**
- Discursive essay about language issues

Non-Exam Assessment (Coursework)

- **Language investigation** (independent research project)
- Analyse real language data (spoken, written, or online)
- **Original writing piece** in a chosen style (e.g. article, story, speech)
- Commentary explaining language choices
- Usually about **3,500 words total**

You can find the AQA specification here: <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/a-level/english-7702/specification/specification-at-a-glance>

Weekly:	• Completion of set work as outlined in the grid below
Fortnightly:	• Review of recent lessons, learning key terminology, producing revision resources such as cards and mind maps; completion of additional reading from anthologies using pro-forma • Independent Study Folder (ISF): this will be checked fortnightly by your tutor and logged.
Half termly:	• Revision: Review knowledge quizzes. Review topics and produce revision resources, e.g., flashcards, mind maps, posters, etc. Complete planning of past exam paper answers (here).

In addition to those provided for specific tasks by your teacher, resources include:

TEAMS: reading list; knowledge organisers; language anthologies 1 and 2; lesson PowerPoints and reference materials; end of unit summaries.

Massolit: <https://massolit.io/>

Recommended sites for independent research – see separate list.

Independent Learning Schedule – two hours directed by each of your teachers (subject to change):

Week beginning	Teacher 1	Teacher 2
7 th September	Enrolment week	Knowledge Organiser:
14	Learn specialist words from knowledge organiser Complete annotation of Texts 1 – 5 in Written Language Anthology	Topic: spoken language KO (1-10)
21	Paper 1 question 1 completion of planning sheet and then writing of essay: Mushrooms Make Sense Guided independent reading of three texts from English Language Anthology volume 1 (Teams)	Topic: spoken language KO (10-20)
28	Guided research task: Language and Power	Annotation and Analytical Task on paper 1 Q1
5 th October	Grammar analysis activity #1 Guided independent reading of three texts from English Language Anthology volume 1 (Teams)	Flashcards / revision resources on spoken language.
12	Grammar activity analysis #2 Original writing practice and commentary bullet points: opening of novel	Topic: language and gender – KO
19	Grammar activity analysis #3 Guided independent reading of three texts from English Language Anthology volume 1 (Teams)	End of unit KO test
26	Half term	
2 nd November	Paper 1 question 1 completion of planning sheet and then writing of essay: NHS leaflet	Knowledge Organiser: language and gender (AO1)
9	Guided independent reading of three texts from English Language Anthology volume 1 (Teams)	Language and gender theory AO2
16	Paper 1 question 1 completion of planning sheet and then writing of essay: Aladdin advertisement	Massolit lecture: Difference / Dominance & summary
23	Guided independent reading of three texts from English Language Anthology volume 1 (Teams)	Research and summary of recent article on gendered language
30	Paper 1 Questions 1 and 2 2017 past paper	Reading of Dan Clayton language and gender. Summary and annotations
7 th December	Paper 1 Question 3 practice: 2017 past paper Guided independent reading of three texts from English Language Anthology volume 1 (Teams) topic of language change	Paper 2: Q1 / Q2
14	Original writing practice and commentary point commentary: children's writing	Flashcards / revision resources on language and gender
21	Christmas holidays	
28	Christmas holidays	
4 th January	Accents: knowledge organiser Completion of paired research survey on attitudes to accents	Topic: Occupational Language KO

	Guided independent reading of three texts from English Language Anthology volumes 1 and 2 (Teams) – topic of accents	
11	Accents: analysis of case study articles with completion of summary grid	Language and occupation theory AO2
18	Guided independent reading of three texts from English Language Anthology volume 2 (Teams)	Research and summary of recent article on language occupational language
25	Read sources and summarise in grid – Irish English	Flashcards / revision resources on language and occupation
1 st February	Work experience	
8	Paper 2 Question 1: evaluation of accents	Topic: Language & Age KO & Theory
15	Half term	
22	Dialects: knowledge organiser Guided independent reading of three texts from English Language Anthology volume 2 (Teams) – topic of dialect	Massolit video and summary: history of slang
1 st March	Past paper: questions 1, 2, 3: ‘cats’ devised paper	Research and summary of recent article on language age language
8	Dialects knowledge organiser Guided independent reading of three texts from English Language Anthology volume 2 (Teams) – topic of dialect	X2 articles annotated and summarised on language and age – could be a lead in for Q3 and Q4?
15		Paper 2 Section A – language and age
22	Paper 2 Question 1: exam question evaluation of dialects Guided independent reading of three texts from English Language Anthology volume 2 (Teams)	Flashcards / revision resources on language and age
29	Easter holiday	
5 th April	Easter holidays	
12	Past paper: questions 1, 2, 3: food trends past paper	Topic: Language & technology KO & Theory
19	Language change knowledge organiser – learning key content/test #1	Pre reading: Dan Clayton – language and technology
26	Guided independent reading of three texts from English Language Anthology volumes 1 and 2 (Teams) – topic of language change	Massolit lecture
3 rd May	Language change Language change knowledge organiser – learning key content/test #2	Flashcards / revision resources on language and occupation
10	Guided independent reading of three texts from English Language Anthology volumes 1 and 2 (Teams) – topic of language change	KO revision – spoken language
17	Anne Hughes diary: Paper 1 Question 1 analysis essay	KO and AO2 revision – all yr 12 topics
24	Evaluation question planning on accents, dialects and language change	X1 recent article / theory, per topic, summarised and bought into school
31	Half term	
7 th June	Revision: AO1 and the topics of accent and dialect	Original Writing: annotation of text #1 Planning of own idea
14	Revision: AO1 and the topics of language change	Original Writing: annotation of text #2 Planning of own idea
21	Trial examinations	Trial examinations

		Original Writing: annotation of text 3 Planning of own idea
28	Learning theorists related to attitudes to language Language investigation: mini-investigation and related theory	Identifying x2 style models and detailed annotations
5 th July	Language investigation: mini-investigation and related theory	
12	Set language investigation data gathering for September	
19	Data collection as above - ongoing	