

Why study English Language ?

“The words. Why did they have to exist? Without them, there wouldn’t be any of this.”

Markus Zusak, *The Book Thief*

“Because without our language, we have lost ourselves. Who are we without words?” (Melina Marchetta, *Finnikin of the Rock*)

English is the primary language of communication in the UK, as well as a one of the biggest global languages used in all corners of the earth. Why wouldn’t you want to study it in great detail?

Writer and philosopher Ludwig Wittgenstein once said: “The limits of my language means the limits of my world.” The doors and possibilities opened through a study of English Language are limitless. It is a subject that allows you to develop a deeper understanding of the words and texts that shape and manipulate your very existence on a daily basis. The English Language is all around you, all of the time, in many different guises... studying English Language at A-level will open your eyes to this fact and get you thinking about the deeper aspects of your mother tongue.

Check out this quotation from Stephen Fry:

“Language is my whore, my mistress, my wife, my pen-friend, my check-out girl. Language is a complimentary moist lemon-scented cleansing square or handy freshen-up wipette. Language is the breath of God, the dew on a fresh apple, it’s the soft rain of dust that falls into a shaft of morning sun when you pull from an old bookshelf a forgotten volume of erotic diaries; language is the faint scent of urine on a pair of boxer shorts, it’s a half-remembered childhood birthday party, a creak on the stair, a spluttering match held to a frosted pane, the warm wet, trusting touch of a leaking nappy, the hulk of a charred Panzer, the underside of a granite boulder, the first downy growth on the upper lip of a Mediterranean girl, cobwebs long since overrun by an old Wellington boot.” [Stephen Fry]

English Language A-Level is interesting, stimulating and allows you to actively engage with everyday language – written and spoken – and understand how it evolves and how it works. You will encounter a wealth of texts of different types, genres and subjects, as well as getting the opportunity to get your own creative writing juices flowing by penning your own coursework texts.

Entry Requirements

It is recommended that you have at least a B Grade in GCSE English Language AND Literature. It is vital that you are also an avid and capable reader, skilled in creative writing and willing to study independently throughout the course.

Studying English Language helps to sharpen your analytical skills. If you can take a text and find the themes plus connect it with other texts, theories and historical events, you are showing that you can handle complex ideas, search for patterns and interpret information in a wider context. You will also develop your planning and research skills as well as gain knowledge of history, culture, philosophy

and even human behaviour. The skills developed on this course are well-suited to the following career paths:

Academia | Advertising | Business | Editing | Foreign Languages | Journalism | Law | Marketing
Media | Politics | Teaching | Writing

Where do I go from here?

In a nutshell, it goes with everything. It's especially helpful with essay subjects like History or Politics and goes well with social science subjects that look at human behaviour, such as Psychology or Sociology. English Language is an essential requirement for an English-based degree, and highly recommended for various other university degree courses.