

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Rochdale
sixth form
college

1

WHY STUDY ENGLISH LANGUAGE A-LEVEL?

English Language is the study of how we communicate, a skill that you use every day of your life in almost every situation. But it isn't just the words, the punctuation and the grammar; it is the sub-text, the theory, the reasons why you speak the way that you do, and why others speak to you in certain ways, that is most interesting. Through the study of English Language, you will explore the most meaningful, linguistic questions. Why does your language exist in the way that it does? What it is used for? And most importantly, what does it all really mean? In a world where language everywhere and is manipulated to influence the way you think, it has never been more important to be informed about how language is being used, and to be able to wield it yourself.

2

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY?

As well as the study of linguistics and grammar, you will also study a wide range of theory and complete three pieces of coursework. Year 12 begins with the study of grammar and speech theory, before moving on to Language Varieties. In this module, you will look at how your language is affected by your class, gender, occupation, ethnicity, and your region. We even look at the different varieties of English that are developing around the world. Finally, you finish the year completing a piece of original writing and a commentary comparing it to a professional piece in a genre of your choosing. At the start of Year 13, your studies will take you back to the birth of the English Language as you analyse how the language has changed from Anglo-Saxon to yesterday's latest social media post. You will also complete a piece of coursework exploring the changes in the language of a genre of your choosing over the last 300 years. After that, you will complete a module investigating how children develop their ability to read and write, before finishing by analysing a range of different attitudes towards language variety and change.

3

WHAT CAN I GO ON TO STUDY WITH AN ENGLISH LANGUAGE A-LEVEL?

As well as further study at university and later work in academia, English A level teaches a wide range of skills well-suited to roles based on language and interaction. For instance, the subject is a good choice if you want to do journalism, writing, advertising, marketing, or linguistics. It is important in fields such as politics, performing arts, law, foreign languages, design, and media. If you are thinking of studying humanities at university, the skills it teaches you will be of great use, whatever you study, thanks to its focus on communication and textual analysis. The course is highly valued because of the wide range of transferable skills it develops, such as: research skills; critical thinking; essay writing; analytical skills; an attention to detail; crafting arguments, and communication skills.

4

HOW IS THE COURSE ASSESSED?

80% of the course is assessed through examination and 20% through coursework. Paper One contains textual analysis and child language. Paper Two contains language varieties, change, and attitudes to English. The three pieces of coursework are your original writing piece, your commentary and your language investigation.