

English Language A' Level - the nitty gritty!

STARTER:

- On a post-it, write down a joke. Keep it handy for discussion later...

What's involved?

- Coursework element
20%
- 2 terminal examinations
Both 2.5 hrs 80%

Course delivery:

- This is a **2 year A level course** – linear not modular.
- There are **no AS exams and no AS qualification**.
- You will have **6 lessons per week equally divided between two teachers**.
- **Each teacher** will focus upon **different aspects** of the course.
- **Termly assessments:** End of Year exam; Trial exams.

Coursework 20%:

- **Creative Writing** element-
1,500 words- text and
commentary- GAP 10%
- **Investigation** - 2,000 words,
excluding data. 10%

Subject areas

Exam 1

- Language, the Individual and society
- 2.5 hours
- 40%

Exam 2

- Language diversity and change
- 2.5 hours
- 40%

Coursework

- Original writing
- Investigation
- 20%

Exam 1



- Textual variations and representations – analyse 2 texts for meaning, representation and context
- Children's Language Development – Essay based on data provided

Exam 2



- Diversity and Change – an essay responding to an opinion about language
- Discourses – analyse 2 texts and then write an opinion piece on the topic of the texts

Coursework



- Original writing and commentary 1500 words
- Investigation 2000 words

Exam- Paper 1 2.5hours

Section A- No choice.

1. How is language used to create meaning and representation in Text A? 25marks
2. How is language used to create meaning and representation in Text B? 25marks
3. Compare how language is used in Texts A and B. 20marks

Section B- One question out of two.

4. CLA- spoken language 30marks

OR

5. CLA- literacy 30marks

Exam- Paper 2 2.5hours

Section A- One question out of two No choice. DIVERSITY & CHANGE

1. Evaluate the idea that....

[30 marks]

OR

2. Evaluate the idea that ...

[30 marks]

Section B – LANGUAGE DISCOURSES

3. **Text A**, printed on the insert, is a blog post about... **Text B**, printed on page 3, is the start of an article about....

Analyse how language is used in **Text A** and **Text B** to present views about the nature of... In your answer you should:

- examine any similarities and differences you find between the two texts
- explore how effectively the texts present their views. [40 marks]

4. Write an opinion article about language change in which you assess the ideas and issues raised in **Text A** and **Text B** and argue your own views.

[30 marks]

What students say:

The Good:

‘Much better than GCSE.’

‘Very different to GCSE in terms of content taught.’

‘Transferable skills from GCSE.’

‘English language A’ Level is more interesting than GCSE because we go into more depth and have a greater understanding of the techniques.’

‘Relaxed, enjoyable lessons with nice and funny teachers.’

‘The teachers are fun and make the lessons interesting.’

‘CLA is really interesting.’

What students say:

The Bad and The Ugly:

‘A lot to learn in terms of content.’

‘Lots more terminology and theory than expected.’

‘The pace is much more rapid than expected.’

‘I have a number of teachers who all advise you to adopt different strategies so it’s tricky to decide which approach is best.’

Task 1: Jokes!

Task 2: Work with a partner.

WHO HAS THE POWER HERE?

A: Can I have your sweets?

B: No.

A: Please.

What if...

Task

Work with a partner.

Write down as many platforms for this sort of internet communication as you can think of – places where people have “conversations” on the internet.

- Twitter
- Facebook

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Boj8VYzDAy8>

- <https://www.theguardian.com/books/2008/jul/05/saturdayreviewsfeatres.guardianreview>
- <https://twitter.com/davcr>
- <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-12381912>

In essence, get to know the Godfather of English Language!

Other useful resources:

The English Language section: www.englishbiz.co.uk

Andrew Moore's homepage: <http://universalteacher.org.uk>

Language videos

English Language Videos

- What is A level English Language?: <http://youtu.be/tYI-CMIT2WE>
- Language Power Theorists: <http://youtu.be/6APgc5SPZko>
- Armstrong and Miller: <http://youtu.be/lwNQf08Kxsw>
- Language and Power: <http://youtu.be/lwNQf08Kxsw>
- BBC News Regional Accents: <http://youtu.be/u9vdObWYjsc>
- War of Words: <http://youtu.be/2bS0JdyWSLc>
- The Future of English: <http://youtu.be/w8mufJngOHQ>
- The Origin of English: <http://youtu.be/g5XIA0oKHNM>
- Ali G with Noam Chomsky: http://youtu.be/4zPHAhj_Cio
- Is control of English shifting away from British and American native speakers?

David Crystal: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YJ29zDW9gLI>

David Crystal - Will English Always Be the Global Language?:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Kvs8SxN8mc>

Professor David Crystal: The Influence of the King James Bible on the English Language

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lgSDd6Bkatg>
- David Crystal - Texts and Tweets: myths and realities: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Boj8VYzDAY8>
- Academic English - Prof. David Crystal on standard vs. non-standard English:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hGg-2MQVReQ>
- David Crystal - How is the internet changing language today?:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P2XVdDSJHqY>
- David Crystal - Which English?: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0XT04EO5RSU>
- David Crystal - What do you most enjoy about the English language?:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sqklv79KBTw>

Task

On your own.

Think about the two or three platforms that you use most frequently or know most about.

- Make a list of the **affordances** of each one – that means the things that you can do with it that you can't do in a spoken conversation? (eg Twitter – retweet, favourite... Facebook – Like, Friend...)
- Now make a list of the **limitations** of each one – what does a spoken conversation have that a digital conversation doesn't (you can't see the other person, you can't hear tone of voice...)

In a group of 4

Discuss

Which are the most useful affordances of digital communication platforms? Pick out a top 3.

Write them down.

Which are the most serious limitations?

Pick out a top 3.

Write them down.

Be prepared to explain WHY you think that

Extension Task:

You have been given the task of designing a new social network platform.

- What affordances would it have?
- How would you overcome the most serious limitations of other platforms?
- What would you call it?