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The English Department



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English Language



OCR Specification

Paper 1: Exploring language

2 hour 30 mins

40%

Paper 2: Dimensions of linguistic variation

2 hour 30 mins

40%

Coursework: Independent language research

20%

At A-level, students will:

- Analyse language use in a range of authentic texts
- Engage with language issues and concepts
- Understand how children acquire language
- Investigate an area of study which is of particular personal interest

At A Level, students develop a deep knowledge and understanding of the English language at all levels:

- Phonetics, phonology and prosodics
- Lexis and semantics
- Grammar including morphology
- Pragmatics
- Discourse.



Common Misconceptions

1. It is going to be the same as GCSE
2. It's easier than A-level Literature
3. I need to be creative to take this subject
4. All you do is analyse texts and comment on grammar
5. There's too much focus on terminology
6. It is not regarded highly by universities
7. It has no relevance in the real world
8. It doesn't complement STEM subjects
9. It is not directly relevant to any career path (other than teaching!)
10. Studying English is easy



What is English Language at A-level?

What will you do?

- **Language and Power**
- **Language and Gender**
- **Language and Technology**
- **Use knowledge to produce professional style opinion pieces**
- **Write creative, lively and knowledge rich articles**



Year 12: Writing about a topical language issue

What will you do?

- Investigate the differences between text types
- Analyse how contextual factors can influence our language use
- Develop analytical and essay writing skills



European Super League collapsing as all six English clubs withdraw

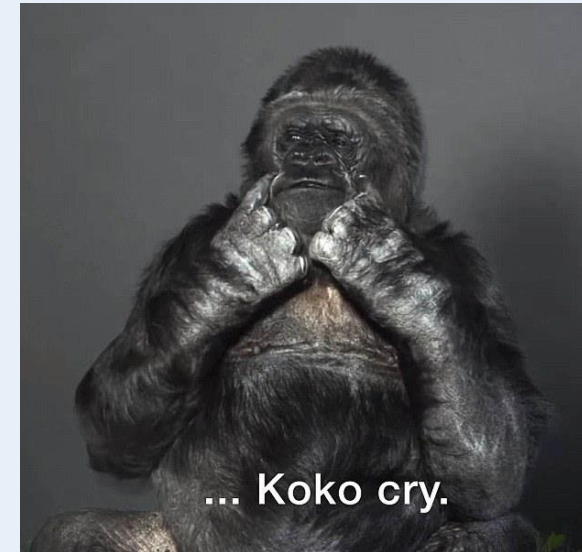
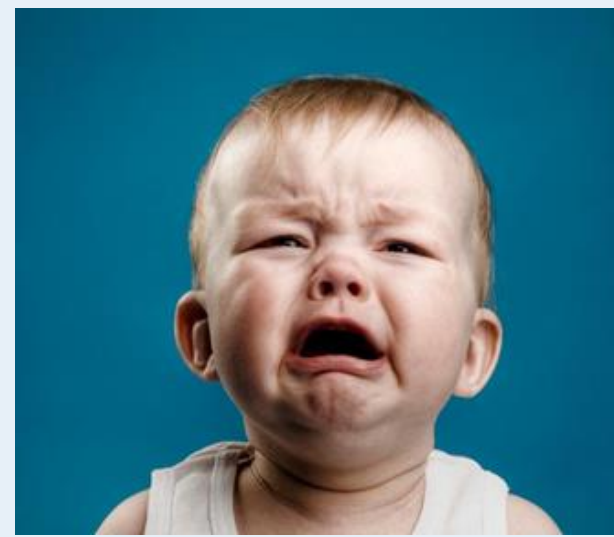
- Clubs make U-turn after pressure from fans and government
- Arsenal and Tottenham Hotspur apologise to supporters
- [Updates as Premier League clubs withdraw - live](#)



Year 12: Comparing and Contrasting Texts

What will you do?

- **Understand how children learn language**
- **Study a range of child language theorists**
- **Look at famous case studies of language acquisition**
- **Analyse transcripts of children talking**



Year 13: Child Language Acquisition

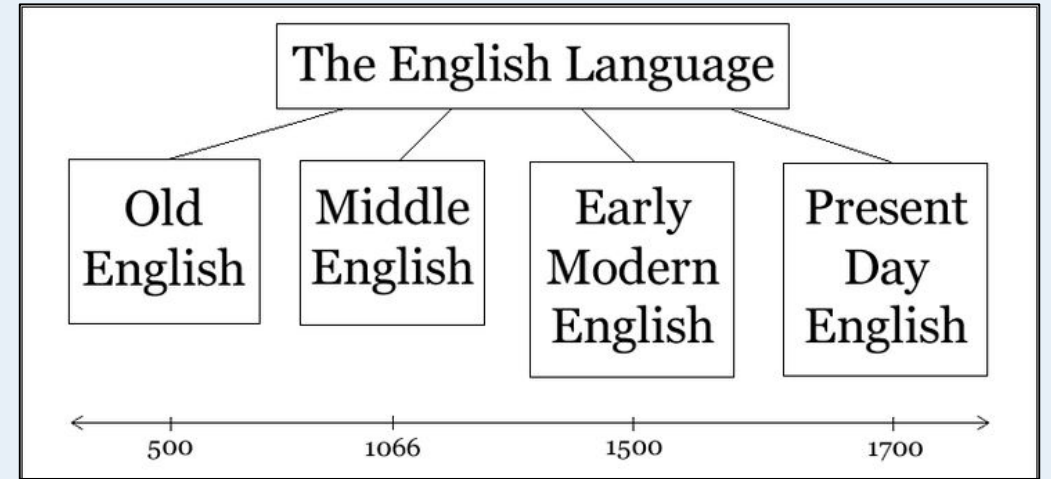
What will you do?

- **This section focuses on discourse in a multi-modal media text**
- **Learn about representation in media**



What will you do?

- **Learn where our language comes from**
- **Analyse the historical varieties of English**
- **Look at texts from different time periods**



Year 13: Language Change

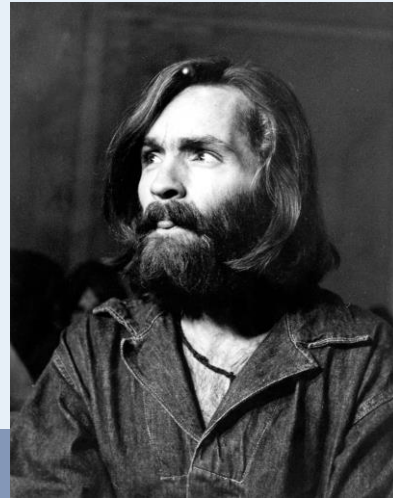
What will you do?

- **Select your own topic to investigate**
- **Conduct primary and secondary research**
- **Produce an investigation**

How female politicians exert influence...



The language of cult leaders...



How sports managers use language to motivate...



Mancunian accent and dialect...



The representation of race in the language of RnB...



The rhetoric of tyrants...



NEA: investigation

Josh

Applying for History

“...it is a completely new subject, nothing like English at GCSE”

Donal

Applying for Linguistics

“...it allowed me to discuss and investigate how people use language in real life”

Lucas

Applying for Sports Journalism

“...studying real life topics, things that matter and need to be discussed...a subject that can help in everyday life”

Joseph

Applying for Philosophy

“...enjoyable lessons...helps with other essay writing subjects”

What current students say...

Callum

“...it interesting to see how language has shaped our culture and perception of the world”

Adam

“...fun and discussion focused”

Ben

“...not what I expected...you learn more about topics that are applicable to the real world”

Henry

“...interesting learning how it links to real world problems and politics”

What current students say...

English Language

- **A new and unique subject**
- **Deeply rooted in real-world texts and issues**
- **Technical and scientific approach to language**
- **Gain vital analytical, discussion and essay writing skills**
- **Creatively explore language issues**

If you have any questions or would like to know more about the subject please come and speak to Mr Rushton or Mrs Hill or get in touch:

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missjwalton@st-ambrosecollege.org.uk

Summary