

Overview of Paper 1 (H470/01): Exploring Language

- **Duration:** 2 hours 30 minutes
 - **Weighting:** 40% of A Level
 - **Sections:**
 - **Section A:** *Language Under the Microscope*
 - **Section B:** *Writing About a Topical Language Issue*
 - **Section C:** *Comparing and Contrasting Texts*
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Revision List by Section

Section A: Language Under the Microscope

Focus: Close analysis of short written texts.

Key Revision Areas:

- Lexis and semantics (word classes, figurative language, connotation)
- Grammar and syntax (clauses, sentence types, functions)
- Discourse structure (cohesion, paragraphing, connectives)
- Pragmatics (implied meaning, politeness, deixis)
- Graphology (typography, layout – if applicable)
- Use of subject-specific terminology
- AO1 (accurate linguistic terminology) and AO2 (how language creates meaning)


 **Tip:** Practice short extracts – annotate and write 500-word analysis essays.

Section B: Writing About a Topical Language Issue

Focus: Discursive/argumentative writing in a journalistic or essay format.

Key Revision Areas:

- Language debates:
 - Language change
 - Prescriptivism vs descriptivism
 - Gender and language
 - Accent and dialect discrimination
 - Technology and language
 - Standard English and identity
- Structuring an argument clearly and persuasively
- Tone, register, audience awareness
- Using linguistic evidence and examples
- AO2 (language issues/theories) and AO5 (creative and appropriate writing)


 **Tip:** Read articles from *The Guardian*, *The Conversation*, or *Emagazine* on language topics. Practice writing your own viewpoint articles.

Section C: Comparing and Contrasting Texts

Focus: Two texts from different times or genres; compare and analyse.

Key Revision Areas:

- Text types: spoken, written, multi-modal
- Mode, audience, purpose, genre (MAPG)
- Representation of identity, place, events
- Historical and cultural context (especially for older texts)
- Comparative language analysis
- AO1, AO3 (context), AO4 (comparison and synthesis)

 **Tip:** Practice comparing two texts – write paragraphs that focus on **specific linguistic methods** and their effects.

General Theory & Knowledge to Revise

Linguistic Frameworks:

- Lexis
- Semantics
- Grammar (morphology/syntax)
- Phonology (if needed for spoken texts)
- Pragmatics
- Discourse

Key Theorists to Know:

- Jean Aitchison (language change)
 - Deborah Cameron (gender, language myths)
 - Robin Lakoff, Deborah Tannen (gender)
 - Labov, Trudgill (sociolinguistics)
 - Giles (Accommodation Theory)
 - Grice's Maxims
 - Brown and Levinson (Politeness Theory)
 - Fairclough (Power and Discourse)
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Practice & Prep Checklist

- Practice past papers from OCR
- Create revision cards for key terminology
- Build a language glossary with examples
- Annotate unseen texts regularly
- Plan and write at least 2 topical opinion articles
- Revise contextual influences on language (historical, social, technological)
- Practice comparing texts across time