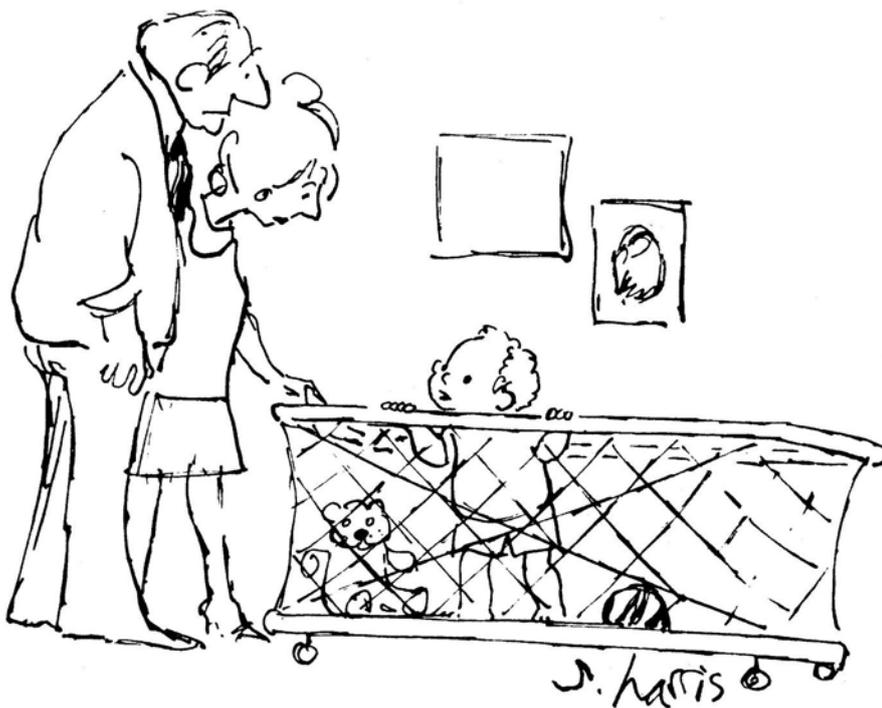




ENGLISH
LANGUAGE AT
THE BISHOP'S
STORTFORD
HIGH SCHOOL



THIS IS A WUG



"WHAT'S THE BIG SURPRISE? ALL THE LATEST THEORIES OF LINGUISTICS SAY WE'RE BORN WITH THE INNATE CAPACITY FOR GENERATING SENTENCES."



TBSHS English Department - English Language (AQA)

English Language at A Level aims to provide students with a learning environment which is both stimulating and academically successful. Group discussion, textual analysis and heated debate are fundamental to this experience. Students can expect to become self-sufficient learners, acquiring the critical and essay writing skills essential for many university degree courses. Classes benefit from the flair and imagination of experienced staff who have high expectations of those they teach.

Staff

The English Department's Language teachers are:

Mr N J Patterson, Subject Leader, English

Mr E A Shortland

Mr P L Williams, Teacher i/c A Level English

Structure

Every student has nine lessons of Language per fortnight and will be taught by two members of the Department. Lessons are organised around a mix of teacher-led and seminar-type lessons, supported by individual supervisions.

Expectations

The course demands that every student takes an increasing responsibility for their own work. With this in mind, there is an expectation that students complete at least another ten hours of study outside of lessons per fortnight.

The course demands that students are continually aware of the English language as it takes place around them. They should read as widely as they can from newspapers, magazines and websites all the way through to billboards, baked bean labels and even notes to their mum! They should not only be watching a range of television but should also listen to the radio. Nothing is off limits.

Students who study English Language go on to study at a range of universities including Oxbridge, Russell Group universities and other esteemed institutions. This course is particularly suitable for those students who wish to study English Language, Linguistics or English Studies in Higher Education and many go on to courses related to journalism, advertising and the media.

AQA English Language Textbook

The Department provides the appropriate textbook. This will provide the students with ready recourse to the necessary knowledge, concepts and terminology required as well as supporting students with advice on how to go about undertaking creative coursework and writing up an investigation. These textbooks provide a much greater chance of success in their final examinations.

The Department prides itself on its success, not only in terms of examination results but also in terms of the enjoyment for the subject it engenders in the students. Much of this success comes through the tailoring of the course to match the needs of the students.

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT A LEVEL RESULTS 2010-2020

Year	No. Candidates	@	A	B	C	D	E	N	U	No. Passes	% A-B	% A-C
2020	13	1	2	3	7	0	0	0	0	13	46	100
2019	17	0	0	7	6	4	0	0	0	17	41	76
2018	19	0	6	9	2	2	0	0	0	19	79	89.5
2017	30	0	3	11	12	3	1	0	0	30	46.6	86.6
2016	25	0	2	11	12	0	0	0	0	25	52	100
2015	19	0	3	8	8	0	0	0	0	19	58	100
2014	18	0	3	6	9	0	0	0	0	18	50	100
2013	24	0	2	10	11	1	0	0	0	24	50	95.8
2012	30	1	3	9	11	4	2	0	0	30	43.3	80
2011	20	0	1	9	9	1	0	0	0	20	50	95.0
2010	18	0	2	6	9	1	0	0	0	18	44.4	94.4

A Breakdown of AQA English Language A Level

Paper 1: Language, the Individual and Society

What's assessed

- Textual variations and representations
- Children's language development (0-11 years)
- Methods of language analysis are integrated into the activities

Assessed

- written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes
- 100 marks
- 40% of A-level

Questions

Section A - Textual variations and representations

Two texts (one contemporary and one older text) linked by topic or theme.

- A question requiring analysis of one text (25 marks)
- A question requiring analysis of a second text (25 marks)
- A question requiring comparison of the two texts (20 marks)

Section B - Children's language development

A discursive essay on children's language development, with a choice of two questions where the data provided will focus on spoken, written or multimodal language (30 marks)

Paper 2: Language Diversity and Change

What's assessed

- Language diversity and change
- Language discourses
- Writing skills
- Methods of language analysis are integrated into the activities

Assessed

- written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes

- 100 marks
- 40% of A-level

Questions

Section A - Diversity and change

One question from a choice of two:

either: an evaluative essay on language diversity (30 marks)

or: an evaluative essay on language change (30 marks)

Section B - Language discourses

Two texts about a topic linked to the study of diversity and change.

- A question requiring analysis of how the texts use language to present ideas, attitudes and opinions (40 marks)
- A directed writing task linked to the same topic and the ideas in the texts (30 marks)

Non-exam Assessment: Language in Action

What's assessed

- Language investigation
- Original writing
- Methods of language analysis are integrated into the activities

Assessed

- word count: 3,500
- 100 marks
- 20% of A-level
- assessed by teachers
- moderated by AQA

Tasks

Students produce:

- a language investigation (2,000 words excluding data)
- a piece of original writing and commentary (1,500 words total)

Reading List

Get ahead – spend the summer reading! Here are some suggestions.

General

Bill Bryson – *Mother Tongue*
Bill Bryson – *Made in America*

Melvyn Bragg – *The Adventures of English*

David Crystal – *The Stories of English*
David Crystal – *The Story of English in 100 Words*
David Crystal – *Spell it Out – The Singular Story of English Spelling*
David Crystal – *English as a Global Language*
David Crystal – *The Language Revolution*
David Crystal – *A Little Book of English*
David Crystal – *Making sense*

Gender

Deborah Cameron – *The Myth of Mars and Venus: Do Men and Women Really Speak Different Languages?*
Deborah Tannen – *You Just Don't Understand: Women and Men in Conversation*
Deborah Tannen – *Talking from 9 to 5: Women and Men at Work – Language, Sex and Power*