

The **GCE A-Level in English Language (AQA)** is a stimulating and diverse qualification designed to develop students' understanding of how language works in different contexts and its role in society. It combines linguistic analysis, exploration of textual variety, and independent research, equipping students with critical, analytical, and creative skills.

Key Features

1. **Qualification Level:** A-Level (Level 3).
 2. **Assessment:**
 - Two written exams (worth 80% of the qualification).
 - One non-exam assessment (worth 20%).
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Content of Study

The course is divided into key areas of focus, enabling students to explore and analyze language use across a wide range of contexts.

Paper 1: Language, the Individual, and Society (40% of A-Level)

Focuses on language analysis and the ways individuals use language:

1. **Textual Variations and Representations:**
 - Analysis of written, spoken, and multimodal texts.
 - Understanding audience, purpose, genre, and context.
 2. **Children's Language Development:**
 - Exploration of how children acquire language.
 - Study of key stages in spoken and written language development.
 3. **Assessment:**
 - Written exam (2 hours 30 minutes).
 - Questions include data analysis, comparative analysis, and essays.
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Paper 2: Language Diversity and Change (40% of A-Level)

Explores how language evolves and varies over time and across social groups:

1. **Language Diversity:**
 - Study of accents, dialects, sociolects, and idiolects.
 - Exploration of gender, ethnicity, and regional variation.
2. **Language Change:**
 - Historical and contemporary language development.
 - Factors influencing language change, including technology and globalization.
3. **Language Discourses:**
 - Critical analysis of attitudes and debates about language in society.
4. **Assessment:**
 - Written exam (2 hours 30 minutes).
 - Questions include essay writing and language data analysis.

Non-Exam Assessment (NEA): Language in Action (20% of A-Level)

Students complete independent research, applying linguistic methods to real-world language use:

1. **Language Investigation:**
 - A focused research project on a specific area of interest (e.g., gendered language, digital communication).
2. **Original Writing and Commentary:**
 - Production of a creative text (e.g., speech, article, or narrative) with a reflective analysis.

Skills Developed

- **Linguistic Analysis:** Identifying patterns and structures in language use.
- **Critical Thinking:** Evaluating texts and debates about language.
- **Research Skills:** Conducting independent investigations and presenting findings.
- **Creative Writing:** Producing original texts tailored to specific audiences and purposes.
- **Communication:** Developing clarity and precision in both written and spoken expression.

Assessment Overview

1. **Paper 1:** Language, the Individual, and Society (40%).
2. **Paper 2:** Language Diversity and Change (40%).
3. **NEA:** Language in Action (20%).

Career Pathways

This qualification provides a foundation for:

1. **Higher Education:** Degrees in English language, linguistics, journalism, media, or education.
2. **Professional Training:** Careers in teaching, publishing, content creation, or language therapy.
3. **Employment:** Roles in marketing, communications, advertising, or public relations.

Who Is It For?

- Students with an interest in language, its societal impacts, and how it evolves.
- Those who enjoy analyzing texts and debating language-related issues.
- Learners aiming for careers that require strong analytical and communication skills.