The Cardinal Wiseman School
A Level courses

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Entry Requirements

6 Level 9 to 4 GCSE passes including a **6 in English Language**

What will I study?

- English Language introduces the study of English in its various forms and contexts, with the concepts and methods appropriate for the analysis of language underpinning all elements of the course.
- Offering clear skills progression from GCSE, this course allows you to build on the skills already gained and prepare for your next steps.
- The variety of assessment styles used, such as data analysis, discursive essays, directed writing, original writing and research-based investigative writing will allow you to develop a wide range of skills. These include critical reading, data analysis, evaluation, the ability to develop and sustain arguments and a number of different writing skills which are invaluable for both further study and future employment.

A Level English Language is assessed by written examination (80%) and coursework (20%). There are two written papers:

Paper 1: Language, the Individual and Society – 40% of the A level mark. 2 hours 30 minutes.

Section A: Textual Variations and Representations – two texts (one contemporary and one older) 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 multi-modal language

Paper 2: Language Diversity and Change – 40% of the A level mark. 2 hours and 30 minutes

Section A: Diversity and Change

- One question from a choice of two – either an evaluative essay on language change **or** language diversity (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)

Coursework: Language in Action – 20% of the A Level mark.

Students will research and produce:

- A language investigation.
- A piece of original writing and commentary.

What skills will I develop?

- You will develop your skills as producers and interpreters of language, by understanding and using the concepts and methods appropriate for the analysis and study of language.
- You will also develop your skills as independent producers and interpreters of language.

How will this subject help me with my future career?

Studying A Level English Language develops valuable skills in communication, analysis, research and critical thinking that are highly regarded by universities and employers. You will learn how language shapes communication, identity and society, while becoming a more confident and effective communicator.

The course strengthens your ability to analyse information, evaluate evidence, solve problems, conduct research and present ideas clearly. These transferable skills are useful in almost every profession and can help you succeed in both higher education and the workplace.

English Language can support careers in journalism, publishing, editing, teaching, lecturing, law, policing, criminology, forensic linguistics, politics, the civil service, marketing, advertising, public relations, human resources, recruitment, management, sales, business consultancy, speech and language therapy, psychology, social media content creating and editing, sociology, social work, youth work, counselling, broadcasting, digital media, content creation, copywriting, technical writing, market research, customer experience research, user experience (UX) design, communications, event management, international relations, diplomacy, library and information management, translation, intelligence analysis, museum and heritage work, fundraising, and community outreach.

Overall, A Level English Language helps you understand how people communicate and interact in the modern world. The skills you develop are versatile, highly transferable and valued across a wide range of careers, making it an excellent choice for students who wish to keep their future options open while preparing for university and employment and those with a specific career path in mind.