



**The Cardinal Wiseman School**  
**A Level courses 2026-28**

**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?**

A Level English Language is a renowned, academic subject which will be helpful in any field of work or study. Studying English Language at A Level equips you with strong communication, analytical, and writing skills that are highly valued across many careers. It enhances your ability to think critically, express ideas clearly, and understand how language shapes society—skills that are essential in fields like teaching, law, journalism, marketing, and public relations among many others. It also provides a solid foundation for further study in humanities and social sciences, making it a versatile and respected qualification for a wide range of future opportunities.