

THE PRIORY ACADEMY

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Sixth Form Induction Day

English Language Taster Session



Starter: What does an A Level in English Language involve and what does it mean to be a great student of English Language?

Task 1: Tick the relevant sections of the table.

Task 2: Select (highlight) three of the areas for language study that you most want to study in greater depth.

Challenge: Write a paragraph explaining what you already know (either through study or general knowledge), and a paragraph explaining what you would like to know more about and why.

What you might study	I know a bit about this but have never studied it	I've studied this	Would like to learn more about it
How children start to say their first words			
The ways in which women and men use language in similar and different ways			
Why everyone has an accent but why some accents are liked more than others			
How social media language has developed rapidly in the last couple of decades			
Where new words come from and why			
Why people in India, Nigeria, USA and New Zealand all have their own ways of speaking English			
How people in conversation interrupt and overlap with each other and how that works			
How slang develops and how it's been around for hundreds of years			
Why some words in the language are particularly offensive and make others feel angry or upset			

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Learning Objectives:



To consider what it means to be a great student of English Language.



To know important information about the course.



To offer some views about issues related to language.



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AQA A Level English Language

Paper 1: Language, the individual and society

40%

- Textual variations and representations
- Methods of language analysis
- Children's language development

Paper 2: Language diversity and change

40%

- Language diversity and change
- Methods of language analysis
- Language discourse
- Writing skills

NEA: Language in action

20%

- Language investigation
- Original writing
- Methods of language analysis

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/as-and-a-level/english-language-7701-7702/specification-at-a-glance>



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Strongly
disagree

0

5

Strongly
agree

To what extent do you agree?

There are some words that are so offensive,
they should just be banned.



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Strongly disagree

0

5

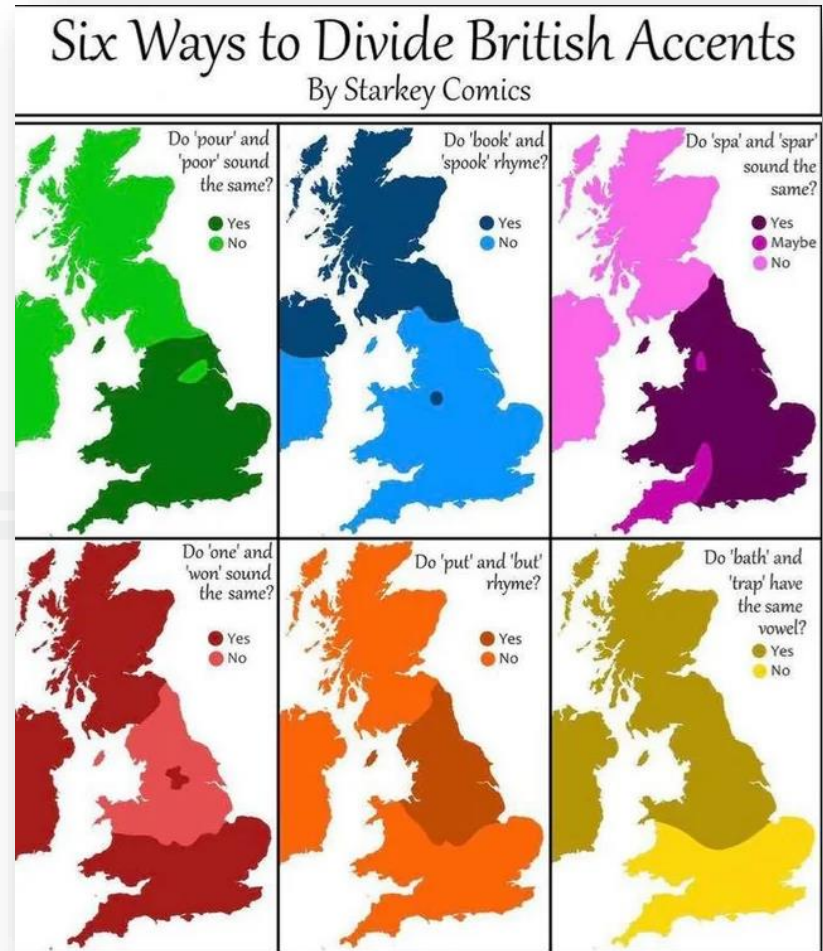
Strongly agree

To what extent do you agree?

Some accents are just better than others; that's a fact of life.



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Strongly
disagree

0

5

Strongly
agree

To what extent do you agree?

When you're communicating online, it doesn't matter if you make mistakes or don't follow the normal rules of grammar; as long as people can understand, that's all that matters.



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Strongly
disagree

0

5

Strongly
agree

To what extent do
you agree?

Teenagers are the
biggest influence on
the development of
spoken language.



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Strongly
disagree

0

5

Strongly
agree

To what extent do you agree?

Interaction with caregivers is the most important influence on a child's language development.



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Strongly
disagree

0

5

Strongly
agree

To what extent do
you agree?
Gender affects
language.



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Top tips for studying English Language at A Level:

- ✓ Read widely about issues of language change and diversity.
- ✓ Read as wide a range of journalistic writing as you can.
 - ✓ Keep up to date with current affairs.
- ✓ Think critically about the world around you.
- ✓ Be inquisitive and ready to ask questions.
- ✓ Be ready to discuss and evaluate ideas.
- ✓ Be ready to develop your analytical skills.
 - ✓ Be ready to act on advice.
- ✓ Be organised and meet deadlines.

What do I need to do to prepare before September?

- Over the summer make sure you **complete the transition work** which can be found on the website.
- Please **bring the completed transition work** to your **first lesson** in September.
- **Look at the specification** from the examination board:
<https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/english/specifications/AQA-7701-7702-SP-2015.PDF>
- As well as debating big ideas about the English language, you'll be studying what others say about it. Language is constantly being discussed online and in the news, with opinion pieces being produced all the time. This is great news for language students, because there's a never-ending supply of material to explore. Your task: **Read six (one a week) opinion articles about language.** Look at the next slide for recommendations.

Suggested Articles:

1. [The subtle ways language shapes us - BBC Culture](#)
2. [The surprisingly subtle ways Microsoft Word has changed how we use language - BBC Future](#)
3. [Isolated for six months, scientists in Antarctica began to develop their own accent - BBC Future](#)
4. [UK accents: it's not what you say, it's how you say it | British Council](#)
5. [What's in a word? How less-gendered language is faring across Europe | Europe | The Guardian](#)
6. [Why it's time to stop worrying about the decline of the English language | Language | The Guardian](#)



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Emagazine is a magazine and website for A Level students with articles written by academics, critics, writers, teachers and students on texts and topics set for A-Level (and on literature and language more generally).

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