Southend High School for Girls
Sixth FORM

Course outline

Head of subject:
Mrs H Osborn

Minimum entry requirements:
Grade 6 in GCSE English Language

English Language

What will you study in Year 12?

Unit 1: Textual variations and representations

You will explore language use in writing through the analysis of a variety of texts of different genres and from different time periods. You will develop your understanding of how language is used to create meanings and representations in written, spoken and electronic modes of communication.

Unit 2: Language diversity

You will begin to study the English language through a different lens: the study of Sociolinguistics. During this unit, you will study the many theories around how language is used in society and how our language is influenced by factors such as our age, occupation and gender.

Unit 3: Language discourses, production

You will learn how to write about current topics in the English language by developing your skills in writing opinionated editorial pieces.

You will begin the non-examination assessment in the Summer term.

What will you study in Year 13?

Unit 1: Language change

During this unit, you will study how the English language has changed over time, the main influences on language and attitudes towards language change.

Unit 2: Children's Language Development

You will study the process of language acquisition in children. During this unit, you will learn how children develop skills in understanding and communicating by learning the stages of language development and the theories which explain this process.

Unit 3: Language discourses, analysis

You will study opinionated editorial pieces and assess how effectively writers use language to position their reader and to convey their viewpoints.

How will you be assessed during the course?

In school

You will undertake frequent topic tests for each unit. You will also be assessed through examination style essays to prepare you for external assessments.

External

Paper 1: Language, the Individual and Society – 40% – written examination (2 hours 30 minutes)

Paper 2: Language Diversity and Change – 40% – written examination (2 hours 30 minutes)

Non-examination assessment: Language in Action – 20% – coursework component

Where will this course lead?

You can expect to develop relevant skills in the use and understanding of language in a variety of practical and intellectual contexts. Beyond its relevance to many Higher Education courses, A level English Language can lead to a broad variety of careers including: teaching, advertising and media, journalism, law, politics, expressive arts and speech therapy.

Combined with Mathematics, English Language can be used for entry to banking, insurance, commerce and accountancy.

Further information

Examination board: AQA English Language

https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/as-and-a-level/english-language-7701-7702

Super curricular

We encourage you to engage with the recommendations on our 'read, watch and listen' list. We have a super curricular Microsoft Teams site where relevant additional content is shared, as well as competitions and opportunities.