



ST CHRISTOPHER'S SIXTH FORM
ENGLISH LANGUAGE
BRIDGING UNIT

English Language

Introduction

Language is a fascinating subject for study. You will learn how and why language changes and evolves. You will learn how spoken language differs from written language. You will learn how children learn to talk. You will also learn how the language of social media differs from other forms of English.

Students who go on to study Linguistics at university are often recruited into companies who specialize in such fields as:

- Advertising
- AI
- Media
- Publishing
- Forensics

For a more detailed description of the course and its contents you should visit the EDUQAS English Language A-level website using this link [AS and A Level English Literature | Eduqas](https://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/english-literature-asa-level/#tab_keydocuments)

Or type in: https://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/english-literature-asa-level/#tab_keydocuments

Course Content

Lower Sixth

An Introduction to linguistic Analysis

You will learn to use and apply some of the key terminology and concepts which underpin the course.

Language Issues

- **Language and Power** (how is language used to exert authority and influence?)
- **Child Language Acquisition** (how do children learn to talk?)
- **Standard English** (is there only one “correct” form of the English Language?)

Creative Writing

You will learn to write effectively across a range of both fiction and non-fiction genres.

Upper Sixth

Language Change

You will learn some of the key features of **Early Modern English** which is the language of the 16th century.

You will learn how to analyse and evaluate texts of the same genre such as diary entries which have been written at different historical periods.

You will learn how to analyse and evaluate 21st century electronic English by studying the language of such mediums as Snapchat, X and TikTok.

Spoken Language

You will learn how to analyse and evaluate spoken language across a range of contexts through studying transcripts of spoken conversation.

NEA (coursework)

You will, at the end of Year 12 and at the beginning of Year 13, undertake a **Language Investigation**. Most students choose to investigate language and gender.

Recent A* investigations have included the following titles:

- *Do men and women use language differently in their profiles on dating apps?*
- *To what extent does the language of 18th Birthday Cards differ in terms of gender?*
- *Do Key Stage 3 pupils use distinct forms of language in terms of gender when writing creative essays?*
- *Do males and females use different forms of language when responding to videos on TikTok?*

The word limit on the investigation is between 2,500 and 3,500 words.

English Language

Preparation

By way of introducing yourself to the subject, I would highly recommend that you read Bill Bryson's book on the English Language titled "**Mother Tongue**" which is funny, accessible, and interesting. You can buy a second-hand copy relatively cheaply on Amazon.

I would also recommend that you read at least a couple of the following books which also offer an excellent introduction to the subject:

- David Crystal "**Words, Words, Words**".
- P.H. Matthews **Linguistics: A Very Short Introduction**
- Deborah Cameron **Verbal Hygiene**
- Anthony Burgess **A Mouthful of Air**
- Melvin Bragg **The Adventures of English**

You can further your understanding of some of the key issues that shape the subject by watching the following documentaries which are available on either YouTube or BBC iplayer:

- **Planet Word** (Stephen Fry) and **Why Do We Talk?** (BBC Horizon).

Word of Mouth is a podcast about everyday language use presented by Michael Rosen which is accessible, engaging and interesting. It is available on BBC Sounds.

Questions

In addition to the above reading, I would like you to answer the following questions:

1. What is the etymology (word history) of your first name, your last name and the place in which you live?

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2. Why do we spell *knee* with a k?

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3. Why might men and women speak differently?

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4. What is Standard English?

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5. “King Charles speaks better English than Stormzy?” Consider the truth of this statement.

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6. What is a modal auxiliary verb?

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7. What have the words shampoo, thug and jodhpurs got in common?

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8. Why was it impossible for Shakespeare to make a spelling mistake?

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English Language

9. "Fæder ure þu þe eart on heofonum" Translate these words. From which language do they come?

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10. Why has your generation been described as "the most literate in human history"?

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We will discuss your answers to the above questions in the first week of next term.





**“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord,
“plans to prosper you and not to harm you,
plans to give you hope and a future.”**

Jeremiah 29:11

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