

A level English courses - FAQs

How is the course assessed?

English Language is 80% exam and 20% non-examined assessment, i.e. coursework.

Is it like GCSE English Language?

Not at all. **English Language** at A level is a completely new course, what at university is called [linguistics](#). The only thing in common with GCSE is that you will do some textual analysis, although the tools you use to do this will be new and covered at the start of the course.

What is the difference between English Language and English Literature at A level?

English Language is rather different from English Language at GCSE but most students like the challenge involved in a subject which is very new to them. You will study a range of topics linked to language – regional accents and dialects, the difference between speech and writing, language and gender, language and ethnicity, language change, and children's language development as well as learning techniques which will enable you to analyse a wide range of shorter texts in different genres and from different time periods. You should be open-minded about looking at language in new ways, not be daunted by having to study language in great detail (including its grammar) and prepared to read books about language issues and research. It is NOT a creative writing course, but we have enrichment opportunities for students interested in writing. Students who study English Language at university will be applying to study courses entitled either 'English Language' or 'Linguistics'.

What GCSE grade will I need to have in English to study an English A level?

We treat our students as individuals so have some flexibility but in general students need 5 or more GCSEs, graded 4/5 or above including English and Maths to do an A level course at QMC. A specific entry requirement for this course is a minimum of grade 5 in GCSE English Language.

What does English language lead onto?

No individual A level leads directly onto any specific career. The majority of our students go on to do a wide variety of different courses at university (including English, teaching, journalism or creative writing courses), onto apprenticeship schemes or in some cases go directly into employment. Most people choose an English course because they are good at the subject, enjoy it and because they feel the skills they will develop will be helpful to them in the future, giving them a stepping stone to the next phase of their education.