

**HIGHAM LANE  
SIXTH FORM**

# English Language

The background of the slide features a photograph of the Higham Lane Sixth Form building. The building is a two-story brick structure with a prominent orange-red section. The words "Sixth Form" are visible on the brickwork. In the foreground, a green lawn is populated with several students walking. The sky is a clear, light blue. The image is partially obscured by a large, semi-transparent light blue circle on the left side of the slide.

HIGHAM LANE SIXTH FORM - ACHIEVE - BELIEVE - SUCCEED

# FAQs

How is this different to GCSE English Language?

There is no correlation between GCSE English Language and A level English Language- in fact, it would be more accurate to call the A level course 'Linguistics' as it is the science of language! The topics that we will study reflect this: language and gender, power, technology; child language acquisition; how language has developed over the centuries. In addition to this, you will be able to have a voice in debating topical issues such as political correctness, attitudes to accent and dialects and whether there is a 'correct' form of English!

If you are fascinated by language and are keen to know how language works, changes and what influences it, then A Level English Language is the course for you. It offers a very different experience from your GCSE English, with linguistic concepts, theories and terminology, underpinning A level. The course enables students to learn how children acquire language; how language use is affected by power, gender and technology; and how language changes over time, amongst other topics. Students can expect a wide range of learning activities, with discussion and presentation central to their experience. A level is assessed by examination with an additional coursework component which is an independent investigation.

### Exam Board:

OCR English Language (H470)

### Assessment:

For their first exam, students will develop their knowledge and understanding of the language levels and apply their critical analysis skills to a range of spoken, written and multi-modal texts. They will also study for an engaging writing production task where learners demonstrate their own language skills in response to a language issue.

Component 02 specifies interesting and varied contexts for further exploration of language in use: child language acquisition, language in the media and language change. For language in the media, students will develop their knowledge and understanding of the ways in which power is represented in a variety of texts; the ways gender is represented and reproduced in texts; and how developments in technology have had an influence on our language and its evolution.

Finally, students will conduct an independent investigation into an aspect of language use which interests them. As well as this research project, students will produce an academic poster to communicate their findings to others in a visually accessible way. This independent research project is excellent preparation for Higher Education.

# FAQs

Will there be any opportunities to explore areas that I am interested in?

The coursework component of the course (the NEA) will be just the place to do this. With advice and guidance from teachers, you will be able to explore areas of linguistics that you are interested in. Previous topics have ranged from exploring the differences between male and female comedians, language use in Marvel comics, teacher's use of language in the classroom to the language used to establish power in Bake Off!

## Course Details:

Methods of language analysis are integrated into all components.

### Component 1: Exploring Language (40%)

#### What's assessed?

- Language under the microscope
- Writing about a topical issue
- Comparing and contrasting texts

#### How is it assessed?

Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes

### Paper 2: Dimensions of Linguistic Variation (40%)

#### What's assessed?

- Child language acquisition
- Language in the media
- Language change

#### How is it assessed?

Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes

### A Level Non-exam assessment: Independent Language Research (20%)

#### What's assessed?

- Language investigation
- Academic poster

#### How is it assessed?

- Assessed by teachers
- Moderated by OCR

## Other Learning Opportunities:

You can develop your leadership skills by supporting KS4 students with GCSE studies and teach A Level taster sessions with KS4 students. You will also develop your ability to conduct investigative research and your ability to deliver presentations to others.

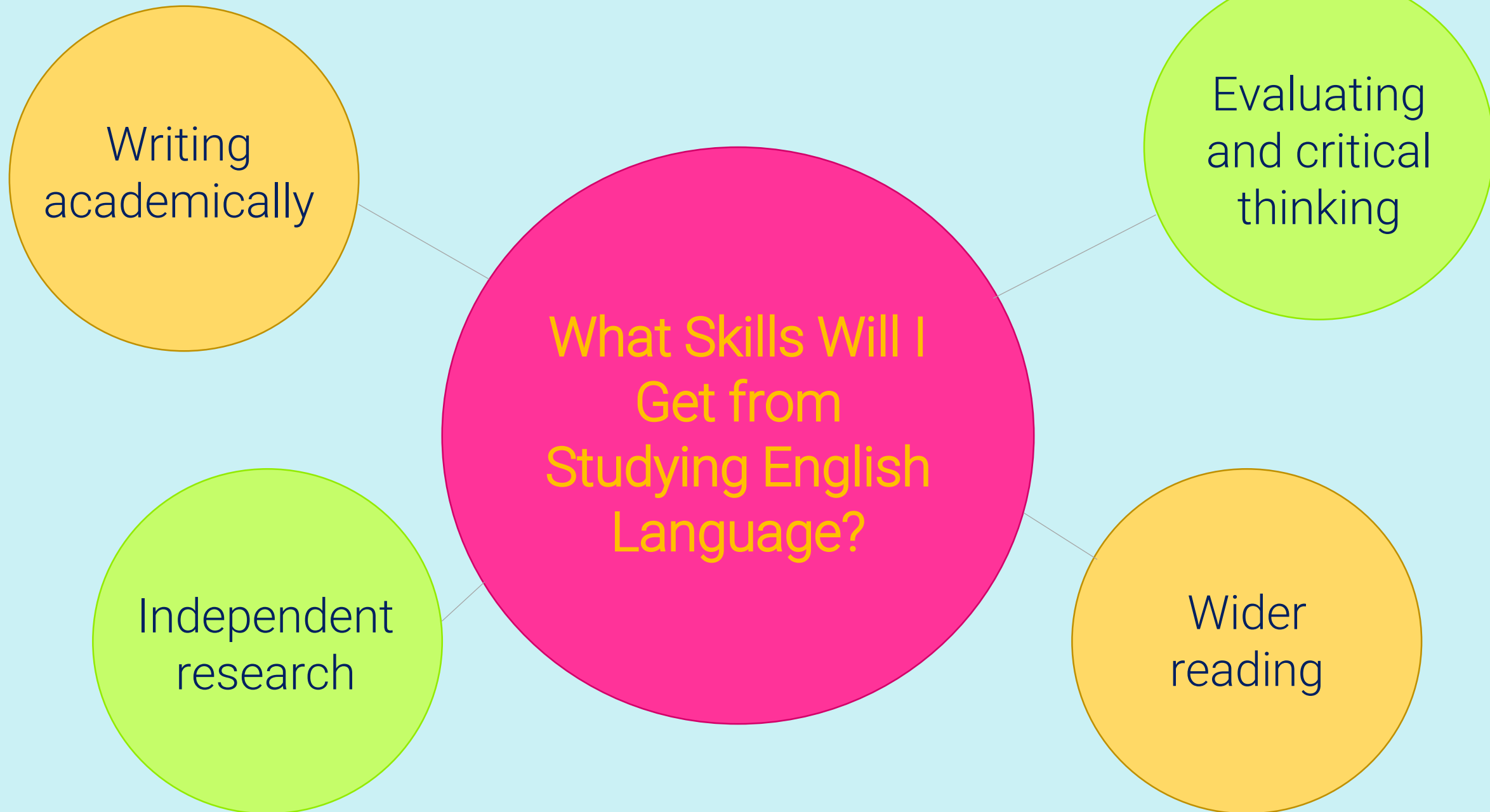
## Where next with this course?

A Level English Language is a highly prized A Level and offers a clear link to a wide range of first degree courses and career opportunities. Critical reading, data analysis, evaluation, the ability to develop and sustain arguments and a number of different writing skills are invaluable for both further study and future employment. Students could go on to take a specialist degree in English language, language and communications or linguistics, or other courses such as law, drama, education, history or any of the social sciences. Career possibilities include journalism, publishing, teaching and speech and language therapy.

## FAQs

How can I  
achieve a high  
grade in this  
subject?

The key to success in any  
A level is the work outside  
the classroom.  
In short, you must read to  
succeed!



Does your use of language give you a sense of belonging?

Does your use of language affect who you are as a person?

Why do we communicate in writing so differently to the way that we speak?

How do children learn to speak?

Has technology and social media had a positive impact on the English language?

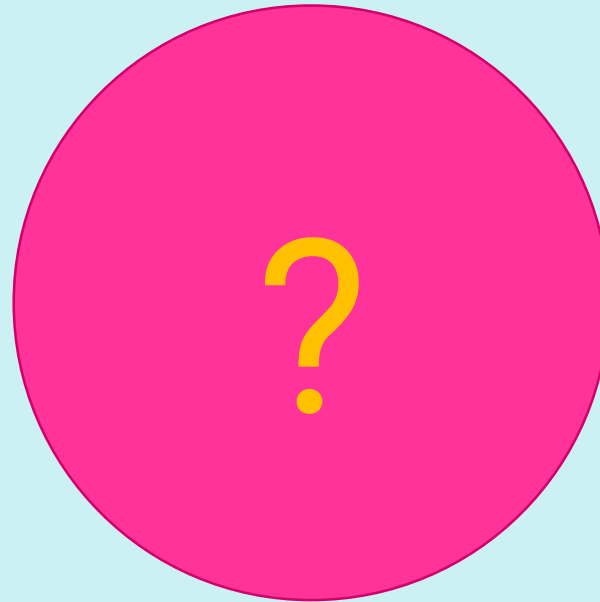
Is there a correct way to speak?

Will the English language ever stop changing?

What has been the biggest influence on the English language over the past 100 years?

Does your gender affect the way that you communicate or how others interact with you?

How is power established in speech?





For more information about  
courses that are available at  
Higham Lane Sixth Form,  
please visit our website

