



AS/A Level English Language

(Available for teaching from September 2008)

This new specification aims to deepen learners' interest and enjoyment in the use of English. Learners will develop and apply their understanding of the concepts and methods appropriate for the analysis and study of language; undertake some independent investigative work; engage creatively and independently with a varied programme for the study of English from past to present day and develop their skills as producers and interpreters of language.



What are the benefits to me and my students of delivering this OCR specification?

- A four unit format equally split between external and internal assessment. The fewer examined units reduces the burden of assessment for learners.
- The inclusion of new units on popular and accessible topics such as 'Media Language'.
- Encourages candidates to undertake independent investigative projects.
- Good foundation for a variety of subjects at Higher Education level as well as careers involving creativity in text production.
- There is a refreshed approach to previously popular topics in response to centre feedback.

AS Level

Mandatory/Optional?	Unit title and description	Assessment method and weighting
Mandatory	F651: The Dynamics of Speech The focus of this unit is the analysis of spoken and written English, scripted and unscripted, by children and among different groups such as friends, families, and national and local communities, leading to a greater understanding of language acquisition and social context.	2 hour exam AS Level – 60% A Level – 30%
Mandatory	F652: Texts and Audiences Learners produce coursework for internal assessment on the themes of audience and purpose; taking into account cultural contexts in which texts are produced. The unit provides candidates with the opportunity to undertake a sustained study of their own looking at language use, context and effect across different modes.	Coursework – 3000 words maximum AS Level – 40% A Level – 20%

A2 Level

Mandatory/Optional?	Unit title and description	Assessment method and weighting
Mandatory	F653: Culture, Language and Identity This unit explores issues surrounding dialect, culture, power and identity and enables a deeper understanding of stylistic variation.	2 hour exam A Level – 30%
Mandatory	F654: Media Language This unit gives learners the opportunity to compare and analyse texts from three different modes – spoken, written and multimodal. Learners undertake a sustained study of language analysis and create their own writing.	Coursework – 3000 words maximum A Level – 20%

How is this qualification assessed?

AS Level

The Dynamics of Speech – externally-assessed written paper
Texts and Audiences – internally-assessed coursework

A Level

Culture, Language and Identity – externally-assessed written paper
Media Language – internally-assessed coursework

Dates of first examinations

AS

First examination will be available in January 2009.

A2

First examination will be available in January 2010.

What support will I receive?

Training

A series of OCR courses to introduce the new specification will be available as well as an annual INSET programme to support teachers and provide feedback on recent examinations.

Publishers

Developed in close consultation with OCR, Oxford University Press is publishing materials for the 2008 English Language A Level specification.

Resources

You will be able to download all the following resources from the OCR website – www.ocr.org.uk.

- Schemes of Work
- Sample Assessment Materials.

For more information please contact the OCR Customer Contact Centre on **01223 553998**, or visit www.ocr.org.uk to join the English e-community.