

# OxfordAQA

## International AS/A-level

### English Language (9670)

## Switching guide

Switching from Pearson Edexcel or Cambridge International to OxfordAQA  
International Qualifications

## Switching to OxfordAQA International AS/A-level English Language (9670)

This International AS and A-level English Language specification introduces the study of English in its various forms and contexts, with the concepts and methods appropriate for the analysis of language underpinning all elements of the course.

The variety of assessment styles used, such as data analysis, discursive essays, directed writing, original writing and research-based investigative writing, allows students to develop a wide range of skills. These include critical reading, data analysis, evaluation, the ability to develop and sustain arguments and a number of different writing skills which are invaluable for both further study and future employment.

Our language topics have been chosen to cater for the needs of teachers and students in all educational contexts. The topics are highly relevant to modern life and work, supporting both the requirements of 21st century workplaces as well as representing core areas of research at university level. The specification takes an applied approach to the study of English language, developing knowledge and skills that are both practically useful and academically accessible.

OxfordAQA International AS/A-level English Language (9670)	Cambridge International AS/A-level English Language (9093)	Pearson Edexcel International AS-level English Language (XEN01) / A-level English Language (YEN01)
<b>Assessment structure</b>		
<p>This is a modular AS/A-level qualification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Units 1 + 2 = AS-level</li> <li>Units 3 + 4 = A2</li> </ul> <p>AS + A2 = A-level</p> <p><b>AS UNITS</b></p> <p><b>Unit 1: Language and context</b> Written exam: 2 hours 50 marks 50% of International AS-level 20% of International A-level</p> <p><i>Section A: Understanding texts (25 marks)</i> Students carry out one compulsory analysis of two texts linked by a common theme.</p> <p><i>Section B: Directed writing (25 marks)</i> One writing task, from a choice of two questions.</p> <p><b>Unit 2: Language and society</b> Written exam: 2 hours 50 marks 50% of International AS-level 20% of International A-level</p> <p><i>Section A: Language and social groups: texts</i></p>	<p>Students can take this qualification either as an AS-level or full A-level:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Papers 1 + 2 = AS-level</li> <li>Papers 1, 2, 3 + 4 = A-level</li> </ul> <p><b>AS UNITS</b></p> <p><b>Paper 1: Reading</b> Written exam: 2 hours 15 minutes 50 marks 50% of International AS-level 25% of International A-level</p> <p>Candidates answer two compulsory questions: Question 1 in Section A, and Question 2 in Section B.</p> <p><b>Paper 2: Writing</b> Written exam: 2 hours 50 marks 50% of International AS-level 25% of International A-level</p> <p>Candidates answer two questions: one compulsory question from Section A, and one question from a choice of three in Section B.</p>	<p>This is a modular AS/A-level qualification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Units 1 + 2 = AS-level</li> <li>Units 3 + 4 = A2</li> </ul> <p>AS + A2 = A-level</p> <p><b>AS UNITS</b></p> <p><b>Unit 1AS: Language: Context and identity</b> Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes 50 marks 50% of International AS-level 25% of International A-level</p> <p>Students answer two compulsory questions: one question from Section A and one question from Section B.</p> <p><i>Section A: Context and Identity (35 marks)</i> Students answer a comparative question based on two unseen texts selected from 20th and 21st century sources.</p> <p>The question focusses on the presentation of identity and how this shaped by various factors.</p> <p>The two texts are presented in a Source Booklet for students.</p>

<p>(25 marks) Students carry out one compulsory text analysis task.</p> <p><i>Section B: Language and social groups: writing</i> (25 marks) Students carry out one compulsory writing task.</p> <p><b>A2 UNITS</b></p> <p><b>Unit 3: Language variation</b> Written exam: 2 hours 50 marks 30% of International A-level</p> <p><i>Section A: Learning language (25 marks)</i> Students answer one question, from a choice of two.</p> <p><i>Section B: International English (25 marks)</i> Students answer one question, from a choice of two</p> <p><b>Unit 4 has two options</b></p> <p><b>Unit 4a: Language exploration (exam)</b> Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes 50 marks 30% of International A-level</p>	<p><b>Paper 3: Language analysis</b> Written exam: 2 hours 15 minutes 50 marks 25% of International A-level</p> <p>Candidates answer two compulsory questions: Question 1 in Section A, and Question 2 in Section B.</p> <p><b>Paper 4: Language topics</b> Written exam: 2 hours 15 minutes 50 marks 25% of International A-level</p> <p>Candidates answer two compulsory questions each on a separate topic area: Question 1 in Section A, and Question 2 in Section B.</p>	<p><i>Section B: The Creation of Voice (15 marks)</i> Students create a new text for a specified audience, drawing on their own ideas and on at least one of the unseen texts from Section A.</p> <p><b>Unit 2AS: Language in transition</b> Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes 50 marks 50% of International AS-level 25% of International A-level Open book</p> <p>Students answer two compulsory questions: one question from Section A and one question from Section B based on unseen transcripts. The unseen transcripts are presented in a Source Booklet for students.</p> <p><i>Section A: Spoken language Today 25 marks</i> Students answer one question on an unseen transcript of spoken English of the 21st century.</p> <p><i>Section B: Written Language of the 19th–20th Century (25 marks)</i> Students answer one discussion question using unseen transcripts and their own knowledge that look at the issue highlighted in Section A from a wider perspective.</p>
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<p>Students investigate the data provided which will be linked by a common theme or topic.</p> <p>Students plan and carry out an analysis and write up their results in the form of a report.</p> <p><b>Unit 4b: Language exploration (non-exam assessment)</b> Teacher assessed and OxfordAQA moderated 50 marks 30% of International A-level</p> <p>Students carry out a language investigation of 2,500–3,000 words by collecting their own data and analysing it.</p> <p>Any topic is acceptable providing that its central focus is on an aspect of language</p>		<p><b>A2 UNITS</b></p> <p><b>Unit 1A2: Crafting Language (writing)</b> Written exam: 2 hours 50 marks 25% of International A-level Open book</p> <p><i>Section A: Creating text (20 marks)</i> Students create their own texts based on unseen source texts linked to a single topic. Students are given a genre and then choose their own audience, purpose and context.</p> <p>The source texts will be taken from a wide range of genres (not only from those listed for study) and each source text will be taken from a different genre.</p> <p><i>Section B: Commentary (30 marks)</i> Students produce a commentary reflecting on the writing process done in Section A.</p> <p>The commentary focuses on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• analysis and evaluation the language choices made</li><li>• the re-shaping of the source texts to meet the genre, audience, purpose and context</li><li>• how contextual factors have influenced language choices.</li></ul> <p><b>Unit 2A2: Investigating Language</b> 2 hours</p>
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		<p>50 marks 25% of International A-level Open book</p> <p><i>Section A: Unseen Data Analysis (20 marks)</i> Students answer one question on the subtopic that they have researched using unseen data given in a Source Booklet.</p> <p><i>Section B: Extended Response (30 marks)</i> Students produce one extended response to an evaluative question.</p> <p>Students must answer the question on the subtopic that they have researched and must make connections with data from their investigation.</p>
<b>Grading</b>		
<p>AS-level: A-E A-level: A*-E</p>	<p>AS-level: A-E A-level: A*-E</p>	<p>AS-level: A-E A-level: A*-E</p>
<b>Course content</b>		
<p>The approach to language is underpinned by the study of the methods of language analysis that have formed the basis of much modern linguistics, thereby establishing strong continuity with higher education study. These are often termed 'language levels' because the aspects of language they focus on are of different sizes. The levels are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Phonetics and phonology</b> – how speech sounds and effects are articulated and analysed</li> </ul>	<p><b>AS Level content (Paper 1 and Paper 2)</b></p> <p>In Paper 1, candidates are primarily assessed on skills and techniques related to reading.</p> <p>In Paper 2, candidates are primarily assessed on skills and techniques related to writing.</p> <p><b>A Level content (Paper 3 and Paper 4)</b></p> <p>At A Level, candidates are required to build upon the knowledge and understanding</p>	<p><b>AS UNITS</b></p> <p><b>Unit 1AS: Language: Context and identity</b> Students will study:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the range of contexts in which language is produced and received</li> <li>• how the contexts of production and reception affect language choices</li> <li>• how writers/speakers present themselves to their audience in a variety of modes</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Lexis and semantics</b> – meaning at word and phrase level</li><li>• <b>Grammar</b> – the structural patterns and shapes of English at sentence, clause, phrase and word level</li><li>• <b>Pragmatics</b> – contextual aspects of language use such as inference and assumed meaning</li><li>• <b>Discourse</b> – extended stretches of communication occurring in different genres, modes and context</li><li>• <b>Graphology</b> – the visual aspects of textual design and appearance</li></ul> <p>More detail on the specific content of the course can be found in the course specification document.</p>	<p>established at AS Level, and to concentrate their study on four specialised subject areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• language change</li><li>• child language acquisition</li><li>• English in the world</li><li>• language and the self</li></ul> <p>Similarly, the skills and techniques required at A-Level expand upon those required at AS Level: Paper 3 primarily focuses on skills and techniques related to analytical reading, while the emphasis in Paper 4 is on discursive writing.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• how writers/speakers choose language to reflect and construct their identity or identities</li><li>• how writers create texts for different forms, purposes, audiences, and contexts.</li></ul> <p><b>Unit 2AS: Language in transition</b> Students will study:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• the influence of other languages on the development of English</li><li>• pidgins and creoles</li><li>• the development of English outside the British Isles.</li></ul> <p>Students will explore the ways in which languages change, with a focus on English in a global context.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Students will need to know about the mechanisms of language change but they will not need to study the historical development of English.</li></ul> <p><b>A2 UNITS</b></p> <p><b>Unit 1A2: Crafting Language (writing)</b> Students will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• study a range of specified writing genres and appropriate style models</li><li>• demonstrate their skills as writers in re-creating texts for different context, purpose and audience.</li></ul>
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<p><b>Assessment Objectives</b></p>		
<p><b>AO1:</b> Demonstrate understanding of methods, terminology, concepts and issues in English language.</p> <p><b>AO2:</b> Analyse how meanings are shaped in a range of texts and data.</p> <p><b>AO3:</b> Demonstrate ability to use English in different ways.</p>	<p><b>AO1:</b> Read and demonstrate understanding of a wide variety of texts.</p> <p><b>AO2:</b> Write effectively, creatively, accurately and appropriately, for a range of audiences and purposes.</p> <p><b>AO3:</b> Analyse the ways in which writers’ and speakers’ choices of form, structure and language produce meaning and style.</p> <p><b>AO4:</b> Demonstrate understanding of linguistic issues, concepts, methods and approaches.</p>	<p><b>AO1:</b> Apply appropriate methods of language analysis, using associated terminology and coherent written expression.</p> <p><b>AO2:</b> Demonstrate critical understanding of concepts and issues relevant to language use.</p> <p><b>AO3:</b> Analyse and evaluate how contextual factors and language features are associated with the construction of meaning.</p> <p><b>AO4:</b> Explore connections across texts, informed by linguistic concepts and methods.</p>

	<b>AO5:</b> Analyse and synthesise language data from a variety of sources.	<b>AO5:</b> Demonstrate expertise and creativity in the use of English to communicate in different ways.
<b>Assessment Objective weightings</b>		
<b>International AS grade:</b> AO1: 35% AO2: 30% AO3: 35%  <b>International A-level grade:</b> AO1: 41% AO2: 33% AO3: 26%	<b>International AS grade:</b> AO1: 15% AO2: 45% AO3: 40% AO4: 0% AO5: 0%  <b>International A-level grade:</b> AO1: 20% AO2: 30% AO3: 20% AO4: 20% AO5: 10%	<b>International AS grade:</b> AO1: 25% AO2: 22.5% AO3: 22.5% AO4: 15% AO5: 15%  <b>International A-level grade:</b> AO1: 20% AO2: 23.8% AO3: 23.8% AO4: 15% AO5: 17.5%