

NEW A Level English Language

H069 and H469 replacing 3827 and 7827:

Information for OCR centres transferring to the **new specification for first teaching in 2008**

This document maps the current A Level English Language specification to the new specification for first teaching in September 2008. It includes information on the changes, support available and an outline of the new specification. It is intended to help ease the transition for Heads of Department and teachers involved in the teaching of English Language.

The full specification is available online along with a short questionnaire enabling you to share your comments on the specification and help shape the materials developed to support it. For more information including answers to frequently asked questions visit www.ocr.org.uk/14-19levels

Current specification – mapping the changes pages 2-3
Outline specification for first teaching September 2008 page 4

QCA have stipulated that:

- The number of units required to achieve GCE A Level is to be reduced from 6 to 4
- AS and A Level specifications should introduce concepts and methods of the discipline of linguistic study in relation to a range of spoken and written forms of English, including electronic and multimodal forms
- ‘Frameworks’ now referred to as ‘Key Constituents of Language’ and include ‘phonetics’, ‘phonology’, ‘lexis’, ‘morphology’, and ‘grammar’
- Reference to ‘semantics’ and ‘pragmatics’ is no longer a specific requirement
- Assessment Objectives reduced from seven to four
- All specifications must have internal assessment
- Stretch and Challenge style questions to be introduced into A2 assessment



H069 and H469 replacing 3827 and 7827.

Existing specification					
Current unit title	Unit code	What remains the same?	What is changing?	Why is it changing?	Guidance
AS Frameworks for the Description of English	2701 Mandatory 30% AS 15% A Level 1.25hr Exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus on speech, accent and dialect Written exam Exam includes set passage of speech transcript Testing of understanding of features characteristic of spoken English 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit called 'Dynamics of Speech' 2 hr written exam (60% AS, 30% A Level) Combines elements of 2701 'Frameworks for the Description of English' & 2702 'Variation in the Usage of English' Two topics 1) Speech and children, 2) Speech varieties and social groups New unit code F651 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In line with Subject Criteria requirements Unification of 2701 and 2702 in line with requirement to reduce number of units Exam length reflects weighting of 2 unit AS qualification Most popular elements of 3827 retained 	<p>Details on topic content and Assessment Objectives can be found in the full specification.</p> <p>Sample Assessment material can be accessed via the OCR website.</p>
AS Variation in the Usage of English	2702 Mandatory 40% AS 20% A Level 1.75 hr Exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus on language acquisition, formality and register including grammatical and lexical issues Continues to be assessed by written exam Exam includes elements of passage or data-based analysis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Combined in unit, titled 'Dynamics of Speech' Analysis of features of speech within the framework of mode and context. New unit code F651 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In line with Subject Criteria emphasis on the study of key constituents of language and the influence of mode and context Unification of 2701 and 2702 in line with requirement to reduce number of units 	<p>Details on topic content and Assessment Objectives can be found in the full specification.</p> <p>Sample Assessment material can be accessed via the OCR website.</p>
AS Experiments in Writing	2703 Mandatory 30% AS 15% A Level Coursework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coursework folder containing 2 items of work Adaptive writing and commentary task for specific audience and/or purpose. Maximum word limit 3,000 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit called 'Texts and Audiences' Coursework folder includes one creative task in adaptive writing and one analytical essay Adaptive writing task in any of the following modes; spoken, written, or multimodal Analytical essay focuses on discussion of linguistic and stylistic features of one written and one multimodal text 40% AS New unit code F652 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In line with Subject Criteria requirements Refreshed focus on tasks most suited to AS Level study 	<p>Details on coursework tasks and Assessment Objectives can be found in the full specification.</p> <p>Coursework guidance will be available for teachers.</p>

Existing specification						
Current unit title	Unit code	What remains the same?	What is changing?	Why is it changing?	Guidance	
A2	Language Contexts – Structural and Social	2704 15% A Level 2 hr Exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus on study of language and speech Assessed by 2 hr written exam Tests knowledge and understanding of key constituents of language (phonetics, phonology, lexis, morphology, and grammar) Section A remains compulsory 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit titled 'Culture, Language and Identity' Exam comprises of four sections Section A: Language and Speech (compulsory) Section B: The Language of Popular Written Texts Section C: Language and Cultural Production Section D: Language Power and Identity Frameworks referred to as key constituents of language 30% A Level Weighting Includes Stretch and Challenge style assessment New unit code F653 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In line with QCA Subject Criteria Most popular elements of 7827 retained Assessment tasks streamlined in order to distinguish assessment requirements 	<p>Details on topic content and Assessment Objectives can be found in the full specification.</p> <p>Sample Assessment material can be accessed via the OCR website.</p>
	Language Research Topic	2705 Mandatory 15% A Level Coursework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coursework assessment Linguistic analysis Maximum word limit 3,000 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit titled 'Media Language' Coursework folder contains two tasks 1) Analytical Essay 2) Original Writing and Commentary Essay requires candidates to compare and analyse generic linguistic and stylistic features of one written, one spoken, and one multimodal text. Candidates produce one item of original writing and accompanying commentary 20% A Level Weighting New unit code F654 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In line with QCA Subject Criteria To bring together knowledge and understanding across the specification as a whole and to make purposeful use of these in the assessment tasks To refresh the focus on tasks most appropriate to A Level study 	<p>Details on coursework tasks and Assessment Objectives can be found in the full specification.</p> <p>Coursework guidance will be available for teachers.</p>
	Exploring, Analysing and Evaluating English	2706 Mandatory 20% A Level 2 hr Exam + 15mins reading time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus on key features of language incorporated into F653 'Culture, Language and Identity' Synoptic Assessment incorporated into F653 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit removed and some elements incorporated into examined unit F653 'Culture, Language and Identity' New unit code F653 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In line with QCA requirement to reduce number of units Requirement to study texts specifically over time is no longer a part of the QCA subject Criteria 	

	New unit title	New unit code	Benefits to me and my learners	Support
AS	The Dynamics of Speech	F651 Mandatory 60 % AS 30% A Level 2hr Exam	<p>This unit focuses on analysis of speech through two topics;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speech and children • Speech varieties and social groups <p>Introduces candidates to concept of linguistic study, progressing learning from GCSE by exploring speech and children, and speech varieties and social groups.</p> <p>Unit provides candidates with the opportunity to study language use in two stimulating topics designed to captivate learner's interest by introducing the fascinating topic of language development and acquisition in children.</p> <p>Opportunity for candidates to explore and learn about language acquisition in children, different speech communities and consider attitudes to language and language use.</p>	<p>OCR is currently developing teacher support, programmes of INSET and working closely with publishers to deliver support to accompany the new specification. More information on support will appear after QCA accreditation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guidance with specification • Coursework Guidance • Schemes of Work • Lesson Plans • Sample Assessment Material
AS	Texts and Audiences	F652 Mandatory 40% AS 20% A Level Coursework 3,000 words maximum	<p>This unit requires candidates to complete a coursework folder of two tasks;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analytical essay • A piece of adaptive writing and commentary <p>Candidates are given the freedom to explore language creatively by adapting texts for different audiences and purposes.</p> <p>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.</p>	
A2	Culture, Language and Identity	F653 Mandatory 30% A Level 2hr Exam	<p>This unit examines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Language and speech • The language of popular written texts • Language and cultural production • Language, power and identity <p>Candidates can explore variations in written and spoken language use in a variety of different social and cultural contexts, gaining insights into meaning and interpretation.</p>	
A2	Language in Media	F654 Mandatory 20% A Level Coursework 3,000 words maximum	<p>This unit focuses on the study of texts in three modes; spoken, written, and multimodal.</p> <p>Candidates can study traditional media such as film or television alongside developing media, putting the development of language in the context of the modern world.</p>	