

English Language – Student Guide for Advanced Subsidiary/Advanced GCE Specifications

This course aims to develop your interest in the use of English: you will undertake a varied programme of reading, and develop your listening skills, as you learn about its structures and functions. It will give you a wider view of the cultural variations in the language and teach you to analyse its structure and express yourself clearly and accurately, both in speaking and writing.

Before you start this course

You should either have taken GCSE English and achieved Grade C or higher, or you should have studied English to a level equivalent to Key Stage 4 of the National Curriculum. The course emphasises, at AS, progression from GCSE and, at A2, progression towards study in higher education.

English is at the centre of the Arts, and English Language can be complemented by many other subjects. History and Modern Languages are particularly suitable partners. As an Advanced Subsidiary GCE, English Language can also be a valuable contrast to scientific, technological and economics-based subjects, enabling you to demonstrate the breadth of your interests.

To get a certificate for Advanced Subsidiary GCE, you will need to have studied for and been assessed on your performance in 3 AS units.

To get a certificate for Advanced GCE, you will need to have studied for and been assessed on your performance in 3 AS units, together with 3 A2 units.

The assessment units for AS are:

Unit 2701 Frameworks for the Description of English

In preparing for this unit you will learn about the forms and structures of spoken English and how it is presented in transcribed formats. There will be one question requiring a detailed technical analysis of a transcribed passage of speech.

Unit 2702 Variation in the Usage of English

In preparing for this unit, you will learn about the variations in modern written English. This will be addressed in one compulsory essay question in Section A. In Section B, you will have the option of either (i) writing a detailed analysis of the formality and register in a set passage(s) or (ii) analysing a transcription of child language with emphasis upon acquisitional skills

Unit 2703 Experiments in Writing

For this unit, you will produce a folder containing two original pieces of writing for which you will choose different and contrasting modes. They should total 1,500–2,000 words. You will also have to write a commentary on your work, explaining your choices and evaluating the different styles of language used. This folder will be assessed by your teacher/tutor and moderated by OCR.

These 3 units form the Advanced Subsidiary GCE qualification.

The assessment units in A2 are:

Unit 2704 Language Contexts – Structural and Social

In preparing for this unit you will learn about language and speech sounds, word and sentence structure, meaning, contemporary influences on language, historical changes, and the effect on language of the changing role of women in society. You will take a written examination with two sections, Section A on Structures and Section B on Social Contexts. In each section you will answer one passage-based question from a choice of three.

Unit 2705 Language Research Topic

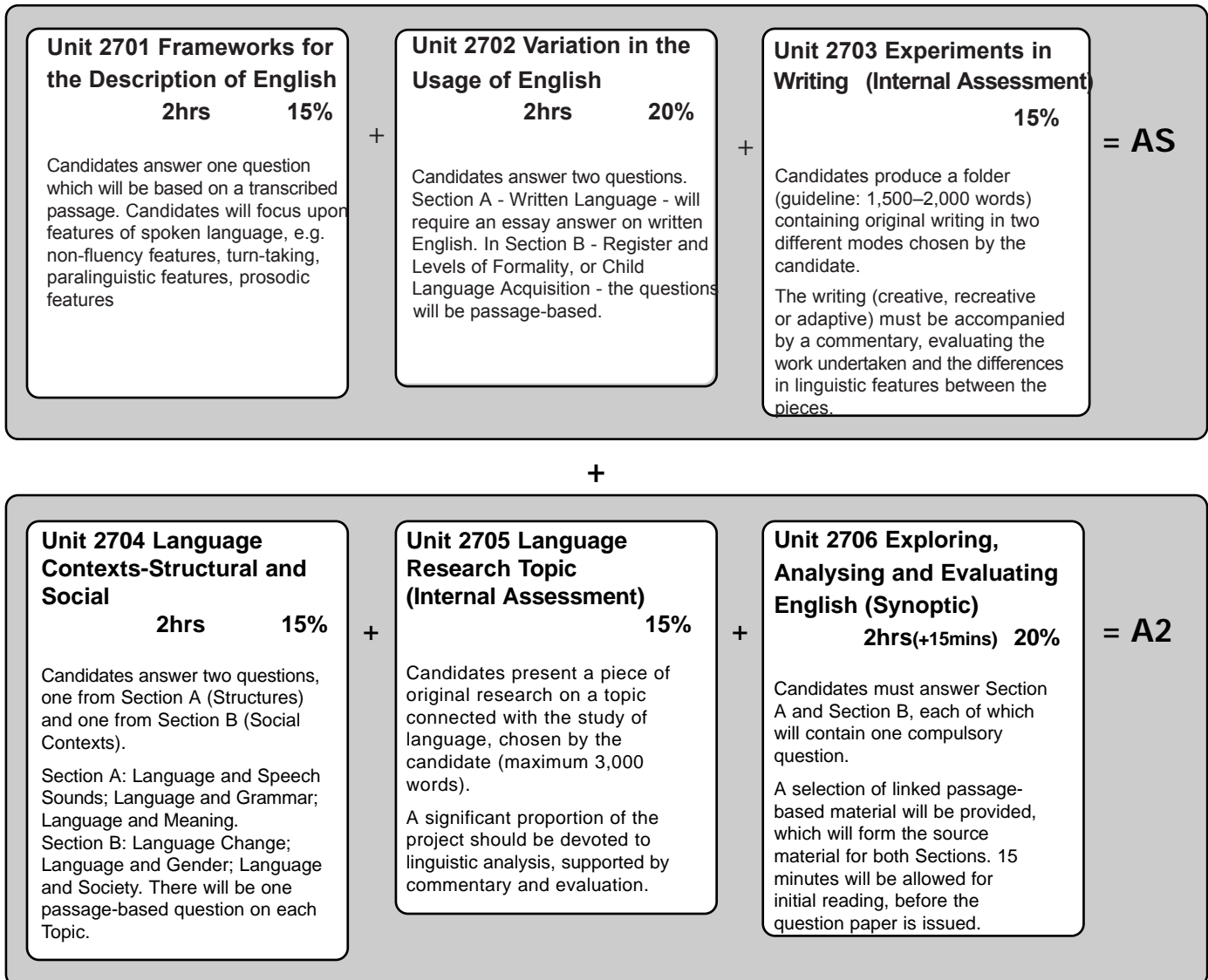
For this unit, you will conduct a piece of original research connected with the study of language. You will choose the subject yourself, and produce a piece of work no more than 3,000 words long. This work will be assessed by your teacher/tutor and moderated by OCR.

Unit 2706 Exploring, Analysing and Evaluating English

For this unit you will take a written examination with two compulsory questions, one in Section A and one in Section B. At the beginning of the examination you will be given a selection of linked passage-based material as source material for both sections of the examination and after 15 minutes, reading time you will base your answers on this material.

These 3 units complete the Advanced GCE qualification.

The assessment structure for English Language is:



For more information, please view the OCR website: www.ocr.org.uk

or contact OCR Information Bureau 01223 553998 at OCR Head Office, 1 Hills Road, Cambridge CB1 2EU.