
GCE AS/A level English Language 2015

AS and A level co-teachability

The AS and A level Language courses have been designed to be entirely co-teachable, with **the same teaching topics** at both AS and A level. Please note that AS and A level content will be assessed to a different standard, appropriate to the level of study.

Students who sit the AS examination and then continue to the full A level will be assessed on their AS content again, at the end of their course of study, at the A level standard.

Please see the Sample Assessment Materials for examples of the different question structures.

Teachers who will not be entering students for the AS examination are welcome to approach the course content in any order.

Example of content for the delivery of a co-taught AS and A level cohort

Year 1	Year 2
Language in Context Language and Identity Child Language Acquisition	Historical Variation Research and investigation skills Crafting Language coursework
Teachers may wish to begin preparation for the coursework with A level 2-year students towards the end of year 1, whilst the AS students prepare for their AS examinations.	

Co-teaching FAQs

Q: If students sit their AS exams, do their results carry forward to their final A level grade?

A: No. AS and A level are separate qualifications, so the AS results do not contribute to the A level grades.

Q: Can students sit AS exams and then continue into the second year and sit A level exams too?

A: Yes. The students would be assessed at the end of Year 1, at AS standard, on the AS content. They would then be assessed at the end of the second year at A level standard, on the full A level content. This means that they would be assessed on the content they had already covered in their AS exams, only to a higher standard. For example, students would study the Language and Identity content and sit AS Paper 1 at the end of Year 1. They would then sit A level Paper 1 at the end of Year 2 on the same content, as well as their A level-only content. (For the differences in the question structures, please refer to the SAMs.)

Q: Can students decide to continue to A level study after receiving their AS results?

A: Yes. However, bear in mind that results are not known until August and the AS exams will be in May/June. Students may need to continue with the course until the end of the academic year so that, in the event that they want to continue into Year 2 following their results, they have not missed out on any post-AS exam taught content or summer holiday work.

Q: Can all of the students be entered for AS as a progress check or as an indicator of their abilities for university applications purposes, for example?

A: Yes, you can choose to enter all students for the AS examinations as a matter of course, and then return to their AS content in Year 2 to review and bring them to the required A level standard.

Q: Can we ignore AS altogether and just focus on a two-year linear A level course?

A: Yes. If you do not wish to make entries for AS level, you can then teach the course content in any order.

Q: Can we decide halfway through the first year that some students will sit the AS after all?

A: Yes, but remember that if you have not organised the course to put AS content into Year 1 then the students may not have covered all the AS exam content. If you think that you might want students to decide during the course, you should follow a course planner for a co-taught AS and A level cohort. That way, you ensure you have covered the AS content regardless of whether or not you end up having students sit the AS.