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URSULINE HIGH SCHOOL  
& WIMBLEDON COLLEGE  
SIXTH FORM

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# ENGLISH LANGUAGE

at Ursuline High School

A Level

EXAMINATION BOARD: EDEXCEL

SPECIFICATION NUMBERS: 9ENO

SEPTEMBER 2021

URSULINE HIGH SCHOOL  
CRESCENT ROAD  
WIMBLEDON

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**Deputy Headteacher and Assistant Headteacher Key Stage 5:  
Mr Didier Adam & Mr Ben Barton**

## **WHAT WILL I STUDY IN THIS SUBJECT?**

### A Level

This course covers language variation: how 21<sup>st</sup> century language varies according to identity and use, and how language has changed over time from 1550 to the present day. Students study how children between the ages of 0 and 8 learn to speak and write. Later in the course they submit a creative writing folder choosing between fiction or journalism genres, together with a reflective commentary. Finally they select a specialist language topic such as English dialects or language and power, and conduct their own linguistic investigation in preparation for examination.

## **WHAT SKILLS AND INTERESTS DO I NEED FOR THIS SUBJECT?**

You should have an interest in:

- à analysing language,
- à how language operates in society,
- à writing in different styles.

### Course Fundamentals:

- Extend GCSE skills, comparing how writers convey identity considering different genres, purposes and audiences
- Learn specific linguistic terminology to identify, label, sort and analyse language
- Link to History, Geography and foreign languages by understanding how English has developed over time
- Cross-over with Psychology and Sociology in the research, data gathering and experimental nature of a real language investigation, as well as the psycho-social reasons for using specific types of language.
- Develop their own creative writing.

## **FIELDWORK/TRIPS**

Trips to relevant places of interest, e.g. The Guardian Newspaper offices, Samuel Johnson's House and The British Library, as well as opportunities such as writing workshops, primary school observations and theatre trips are offered during the two-year course.

## HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Unit	Mode	Assessment	Weighting
1	Examination – 2 hours 15 mins	Language Variation: A) Individual variation B) Variation over time	35%
2	Examination – 1 hour	Child Language	20%
3	Examination – 1 hour 45 mins	Investigating Language (based on pre-released topics and own research)	25%
4	Coursework	Crafting Language Folder of two creative writing pieces plus linguistic commentary	20%

## WHAT OTHER SUBJECTS COMBINE WELL WITH THIS SUBJECT?

All subjects, although there are particular links with English Literature, Psychology, Sociology, History, Theology and Modern Foreign Languages.

## TO WHAT FURTHER OR HIGHER EDUCATION COURSES COULD THIS SUBJECT LEAD?

English, English Language, Linguistics, Politics, Philosophy, Journalism, Law, Media Studies, Communication Studies.

## WHAT CAREERS COULD THIS SUBJECT LEAD TO?

Many careers including:

Journalism or Publishing

Teaching

Law

Advertising

Television and Media

Telecommunications technology industry

## RECOMMENDED READING:

Sara Thorne, 'Mastering A Level English'

David Crystal, 'The Cambridge Encyclopaedia of the English Language'

Amanda Coultas, 'Language and Social Contexts'

Radio: 'Word of Mouth', BBC Radio 4.

Quality newspapers – particularly editorial / feature sections

Short stories of various kinds (including radio).

**USEFUL LINKS:**

<http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/english-language-2015.html>

**ENTRY CRITERIA**

Please refer to the Entry Criteria Insert to understand the Pathway requirements.

The entry criteria for this subject is: Grade 6 in English Language OR English Literature