



CHATHAM & CLARENDON GRAMMAR SCHOOL



Guide To A-Level and Vocational Subjects in the Sixth Form 2024-2025





Introduction



This booklet provides a brief overview of the subjects we offer at Advanced Level and our Level 3 Vocational courses, for students joining the Sixth Form from September 2024. As the Sixth Form includes over 500 students it is usually possible for us to schedule the preferred combination of subjects for individual students in almost every case. Mr Lewis, Head of Sixth Form, and the Sixth Form staff can offer information, advice and guidance on post-16 choices, and we will make every effort to ensure students are placed in the most appropriate combination of courses.

Further information about the Sixth Form, including exam results and the destinations of Year 13 leavers, is included within the prospectus and can also be found on the School website: www.ccgrammarschool.co.uk

Individual enquiries can be emailed to Mr Lewis at clowis@ccgrammarschool.co.uk or by phoning him on 01843 591074, selecting the Sixth Form option from the menu.

The A Level Offer:

A levels are two year courses examined at the end of Year 13. We expect students to study 3 or 4 subjects and continue all of them until the end of Year 13.

Entrance Requirements

To study 3 or 4 Advanced Level subjects we require:

at least 5 grade 6 passes at GCSE

Qualifications other than GCSE or BTEC are not counted unless related directly to subjects selected at Advanced Level.

To study a double Level 3 Vocational course plus 1 or 2 A Level subjects we require:

at least 2 grade 6 and 3 grade 5 passes at GCSE (these grades are our minimum requirement for any combination of courses).

Vocational courses: BTEC Business Studies, CTEC Health and Social Care,
BTEC Information Technology, CTEC Sport Science, BTEC Travel and Tourism

(N.B. no candidate can be admitted without at least 5 GCSE, or equivalent, passes at grade 5 or above).

For either of the programmes above the following requirements apply:

- Grade 6 (or equivalent) must be achieved in those subjects being chosen, where relevant.
- To study an A-level in Biology, Chemistry or Physics, a grade 7 in the relevant subject, or 7,7 in Combined Science is required, a grade 6 in Mathematics is also required.
- To study A Level Mathematics a grade 7 is required at GCSE Higher Level.
- Any further recommendations are detailed in the individual subject descriptions.

How To Apply

- You must visit www.kentprospectus.co.uk and then follow the application process online. If you are unsure of the procedure please contact the Head of Year 11 or Careers Teacher in your school.
- Our deadline for applications is **February 9th 2024**. We may consider late applications after this date if numbers allow.
- Your application will be acknowledged and students from other schools may be invited to visit the school and discuss their application with Sixth Form staff.
- Students in Year 11 at Chatham and Clarendon Grammar School will be seen as a matter of course by Mrs Clements, the Guidance and Careers Manager.



Art & Design



(Awarding Body – AQA)

What is the course about?

This is a course that facilitates the student's development and understanding of the visual arts in the broadest sense. Students are encouraged to make personal and informed responses using a wide variety of media and, to this end, are taught the skills needed to express themselves.

The course is very wide ranging in its interpretation of Art and Design and can incorporate many disciplines. The first six weeks comprises a series of workshops on the expressive qualities of the formal elements and include an introduction to painting, printmaking, textiles and digital image manipulation. Students then go on to experience media such as ceramic, sculpture, collage, assemblage and graphic design as well as painting and drawing. As students gain confidence and increase their repertoire of skills they are encouraged to increase their levels of independence and design their own programme of study.

For whom is the course suitable?

This course gives students an excellent preparation for Art College Application and a path through to an Honours degree. However, it is also very suitable for those who do not want to take the subject beyond A level but do want to broaden their learning experiences, personal development and creative qualities sought after by universities.

Teaching Methods and Homework commitment:

Students will experience work shop sessions led by their teacher, tutorial sessions in which they explain the development of ideas to their tutor, and self directed sessions in which students pursue their own direction of study.

What could I go on to do at the end of the course?

Many students move on to a Foundation Course in Art and Design at Art College and then to a BA Hons in a Fine or Applied Art subject. They then progress to employment in a wide variety of creative professions including graphic design, interior design, fashion design, fashion buying, photography, animation, web design, product design etc.. Students can also enter other employment fields such as architecture or choose to study at a higher level such as for a Masters degree.

Method of Study and Assessment:

A Level Course

Students will submit Components 1 and 2 for the A Level Course at the end of Year 2

Component 1 – Course work – Personal Investigation

Internally assessed, moderated by AQA.

60% of A level

Component 2– Externally set assignment

Internally assessed, moderated by AQA.

40% of A level



Biology

(Awarding Body – AQA)



What is the course about?

AQA A-level Biology has been designed to progress naturally from GCSE and take recognisable topics a stage further. Some, such as Reflex Actions and Geotropisms, are studied in greater detail, while others use Mathematics so that the qualitative understanding becomes more quantitative.

For whom is the course suitable?

The course is aimed at interested students who have achieved at least a level 7 in Biology or 7,7 in GCSE Combined: Trilogy (Biology Component). A grade 6 in Maths is also a requirement.

Choose Biology if:

- You intend to follow a career for which Biological Sciences are highly relevant (e.g. nursing, medicine, etc.)
- You intend to study some aspect of Biological Science at university in conjunction with other areas (e.g. Chemistry, Physical Education, Environmental Science).
- You have enjoyed studying Biology, or wish to provide balance with Arts and Humanities subjects

Teaching Methods and Homework commitment:

A wide range of teaching methods are used, including formal delivery with note-taking, presentations, group discussions, group teaching, and many opportunities to conduct your own experiments. Students are expected to complete exercises and assignments in conjunction with their own note-taking from textbooks and write up practical assignments. Students will be expected to complete additional assignments, e.g. presentations on current events from information obtained from reading and research. Students will be required to record practical work in a folder stored at school. There will be a fieldwork component which students will need to contribute towards. There is a small fee involved for travel expenses which students are expected to pay.

What could I go on to do at the end of the course?

For most careers in Biology as a specialist activity, you will probably need one of the following combinations:

Bio/Chem/Phys; Bio/Chem/Maths; Bio/Chem.

Many other careers are open with these combinations:

Bio/Geog; Bio/PE; Bio/Maths/Phys

Example careers: Agriculture, Biochemistry, Biotechnology, Genetic Engineering, Dentistry, Environmental Health, Forensic Science, Laboratory Technician, Medicine, Nursing, Radiography, Teaching, Zoology.

Method of Study and Assessment:

Subject Content:

Year 1 Topics 1-4 — 1. Biological molecules 2. Cells 3. Organisms 4. Genetics

Year 2 Topics 5-8 — 5. Energy Transfer 6. Organisms responding to change
7. Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems 8. Control of gene expression

A Level Course

Paper 1 – Any content from 1-4 (including relevant practical skills)

Written exam – 2 hours 35% of A Level

Paper 2 – Any content from 5-8 (including relevant practical skills)

Written exam – 2 hours 35% of A Level

Paper 3 – Any content from 1-8 (including relevant practical skills)

Written exam – 2 hours 30% of A Level

Practical Assessment (15% of the marks in written papers will relate to practical work)

A rich diet of practical work is essential to develop students' manipulative skills and understanding of the process of scientific investigation. It also contributes to teaching and learning of the concepts within this specification. Questions in the papers have been written in the expectation that students have carried out at least six required practical activities

Mathematical requirements

In order to be able to develop their skills, knowledge and understanding of Biology, students need to have competence in the appropriate areas of mathematics. Overall 10% of the marks in assessments for Biology will require the use of mathematical skills. These skills will be applied in the context of Biology and will be at least the standard of higher tier GCSE mathematics.



Business Studies

(Awarding Body – EDEXCEL)



What is the course about?

The course aims to give students a sound understanding of the fast paced and vibrant world of business and the dynamic environments in which organisations exist. Throughout the course real life businesses are visited and researched, giving students a chance to consider different career paths and companies for which in the future they may wish to work. The course focuses on starting a business and the issues facing entrepreneurs when starting a new business venture, including financial planning and management and how to manage staff, operations, and marketing. The first year of the course develops key skills needed for Year 2 and is assessed by two written examination papers. In Year 13 the emphasis is on providing greater depth of understanding in each topic studied in Year 12 and developing a wider understanding of the global business environment. Topics studied include; finance, leadership, economics, politics, technology, sociology and ethics.

For whom is the course suitable?

The course will appeal to students interested in the world of business activity who would like to gain a greater understanding of how a business operates and how business problems occur along with possible solutions. Most subjects fit in well with Business Studies. The subjects where there is some curricular overlap with Business Studies include Government and Politics, Sociology, Geography, ICT, Mathematics/Statistics, Economics and Psychology. The course requires a good level of numerical ability.

Teaching Methods and Homework commitment:

A variety of approaches are used, including, industry visits, note-taking, practice of different types of questions, video, games, role-play exercises and carrying out research on different topic areas. Students are required to work independently, completing assignments, including presentations on research that they have collected independently from a variety of sources. Homework is centred on research, essay writing and revision for mock tests, which are held termly.

What could I go on to do at the end of the course?

Business Studies will prove particularly useful in many careers. Commerce, law, politics, banking, fashion, retail, insurance, journalism and management are just a few that appreciate some form of understanding of the working of the complicated business world. A knowledge and understanding of Business Studies will also help students embarking on degree courses in Economics, Marketing, Accountancy, Management, Fashion, Geography, Sociology, Law and Politics.

Method of Study and Assessment:

A Level Course

Paper 1 – Marketing, people and global business

Written Paper 2 hours - 35% of A level

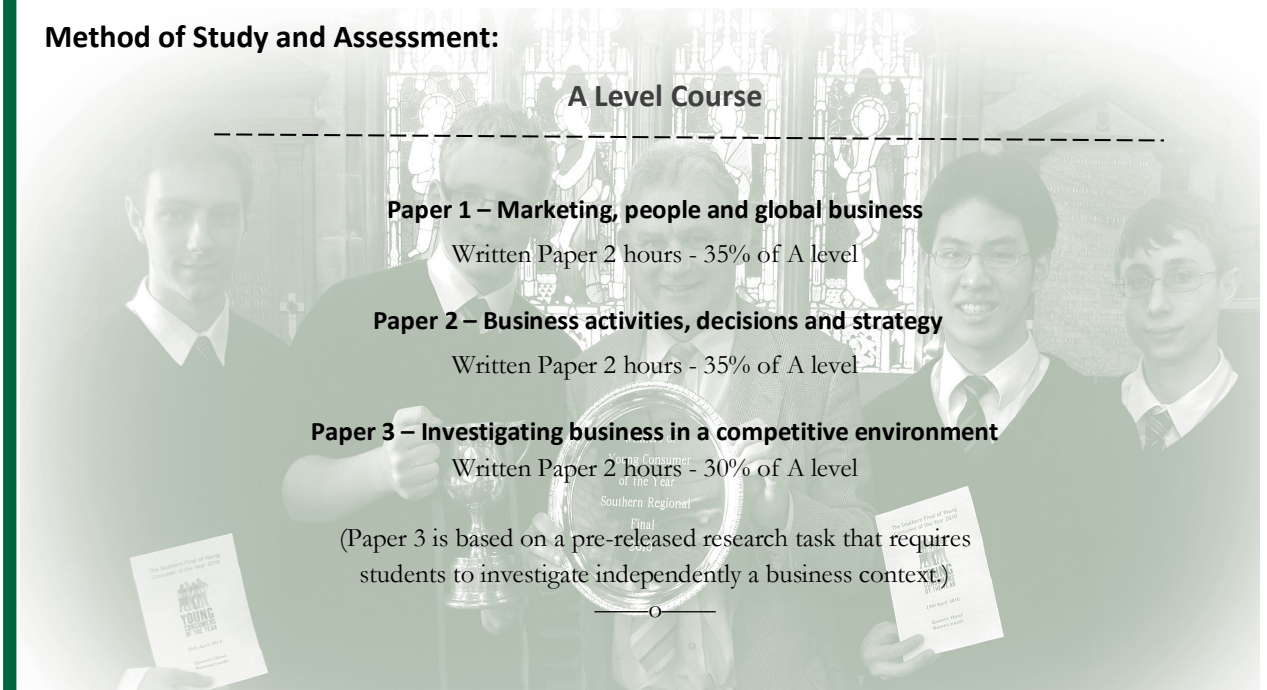
Paper 2 – Business activities, decisions and strategy

Written Paper 2 hours - 35% of A level

Paper 3 – Investigating business in a competitive environment

Written Paper 2 hours - 30% of A level

(Paper 3 is based on a pre-released research task that requires students to investigate independently a business context.)





BTEC Business

(Awarding Body – EDEXCEL)



What is the course about?

The Extended Certificate (one A Level Equivalent) course aims to give a broad overview of the business sector, forming part of a programme of study including other courses such as A Levels or BTECs. Throughout the four modules a variety of businesses from the real world are studied in the context of the assessed theory material forming a foundation of business knowledge. Materials covered in a more practical, hands on manner explore the internal workings of businesses as well as the external environments in which they exist.

For whom is the course suitable?

BTEC Business is suitable for anybody who has a keen interest in the subject. Students wanting to further their understanding of the sector must also have the desire to develop a range of associated skills from analytical and evaluative to presentation and creativity. The external exam in Year 13 is mathematical based and requires a high level of numerical ability.

Teaching Methods and Homework commitment:

A variety of approaches are used, including industry visits, note-taking, practicing different types of question, video, games, role-play exercises and carrying out research on different topic areas. Students are required to work independently, completing assignments, including presentations on research that they have collected independently from a variety of sources.

What could I go on to do at the end of the course?

Business is a highly useful and practical subject that will prove helpful to students choosing a whole manner of qualifications and career paths from the directly applicable degree courses to virtually any path that requires some understanding of the often complex world of business.

Method of Study and Assessment:

Course Content in Years 1 and 2

Unit 1 – Exploring Business

Series of internally assessed written assignments.

Unit 2 – Developing a Marketing Campaign

Students are provided with a case study two weeks before being assessed during a three hour supervised period.

Unit 3 – Personal & Business Finance

Written two hour externally assessed exam.

Unit 4 – Optional Unit

- A choice of one of five units
- 1/. Recruitment & Selection Process
 - 2/. Investigating Customer Service
 - 3/. Market Research
 - 4/. The English Legal System
 - 5/. Work Experience in Business



Chemistry

(Awarding Body – OCR)



What is the course about?

Chemistry is a dynamic and engaging subject taught through the OCR (A) Specification. This is a unique course with comprehensive coverage of all major chemical concepts that provides a strong foundation for future studies in a diverse range of scientific fields. The aim of the course is to introduce theory through relevant, context-based units and to promote the development of critical analysis, mathematical and practical laboratory skills.

For whom is the course suitable?

The course is aimed at interested students who have achieved at least a level 7 in Chemistry or 7,7 GCSE Combined: Trilogy.

To be able to develop their skills, knowledge and understanding of Chemistry, students need to have competence in the appropriate areas of Mathematics. It is therefore a requirement that students have at least a grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics.

Choose Chemistry if:

- You intend to pursue a career in a science or a career requiring analytical skills
- You have enjoyed studying Chemistry, even if you are not sure of taking it at tertiary level
- You wish to take a science subject to balance the Arts/Humanities choices you have made.
- You have the mathematical skills to cope with the quantitative elements

Teaching Methods and Homework commitment:

- Practical techniques to investigate the behaviour of materials
- Problem solving using mathematical techniques as well as non-mathematical concepts
- Studying the applications of Chemistry, together with their social, environmental and economic consequences.
- Students are expected to work for a minimum of 5 hours per week, outside lesson time. This will involve a wide variety of activities including problem solving, background reading and researching topics.

What could I go on to do at the end of the course?

A-level Chemistry is essential to anyone wishing to study Chemistry, Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Science, Pharmacy, Forensic Science, Environmental Science and Chemical Engineering. In addition, Chemistry is an ideal subject for students looking to widen their options prior to university.

Method of Study and Assessment:

Module 1—Development of practical skills

Module 2—Foundation of chemistry

Module 3—Periodic table & energy

Module 4—Core organic chemistry

Module 5—Physical chemistry & transition elements

Module 6—Organic chemistry & analysis

At A level—Paper 1 can assess content from Modules 1—5, Paper 2 Modules 1, 2, 4 -6 , Paper 3 Modules 1-6

A Level Course

Paper 1— Periodic Table, Elements & Physical Chemistry

Multiple choice & Structured questions

2 hours 15 mins— 37% of A Level

Paper 2—Synthesis & Analytical Techniques

Multiple choice & Structured questions

2 hours 15 mins— 37% of A Level

Paper 3 Unified Chemistry

Written Paper – 1 hour 30 minutes—26% of A Level



Computer Science

(Awarding Body – OCR)



What is the course about?

Computer Science is the study of how computers and computer systems work, and how they are constructed and programmed. Computer Science develops a particularly systematic and logical approach to thinking about complex problems, called computational thinking. Programming takes computational thinking skills and empowers students to take charge of computers and create new software of their own, rather than to consume things made by others. This ability unleashes enormous creativity, drives innovation, and opens up completely new horizons and possibilities.

For whom is the course suitable?

This course develops logical thinking skills as well as the ability to adapt to technology in an ever changing society. It is also an incredibly creative course, and therefore if your chosen career requires you to solve problems, develop or understand technology, be innovative or creative then this subject could be for you. It is also suitable for those wanting to develop transferable skills such as communication and leadership; commercial awareness; presenting reasoned arguments; numeracy and coping with rapid technological changes.

This course is recommended for those who wish to continue their education at degree level in Computer Science, or alternatively, those that may decide it will be a useful compliment to their other subjects. Computer Science sits well with almost any subject, but in particular with Mathematics and Science.

Students will be expected to have achieved a grade 6 or higher in GCSE Computer Science.

Teaching Methods and Homework commitment:

You will have access to a VLE specifically designed for the course, including the programming element. Teaching will use a range of approaches to suit your learning style and the course is also tailored to individual requirements. Private study is required to complete this course successfully, as is the ability to stick at a problem until it is solved!

What could I go on to do at the end of the course?

BSc(Hons) Computer Science at degree level or a related course. Careers are industry specific for example cyber security, software development or can be applied to other areas eg computational biology or forensics

Method of Study and Assessment:

A Level Course

01 – Computer Systems

The characteristics of contemporary processors, input, output and storage devices/software and software development/exchange data/data types, data structures and algorithms/legal, moral, ethical and cultural issues

Written Paper – 2 hour 30 minutes – 40% of A Level

02—Algorithms & Programming

Elements of computational thinking/problem solving and programming /algorithms
A practical approach is used to teach aspects of this module

Written Paper – 2 hour 30 minutes – 40% of A Level

03—Programming Project

Students select their own project to solve, from a range of programming languages:
•Python •C family of languages (for example C# C+ etc.) •Java •Visual Basic •PHP •Delphi

The project will also require the production of the following documentation:
analysis, design, development and evaluation.

Internally assessed—20% of A Level



Criminology

Level 3 (Vocational subject)

(WJEC—Applied Diploma)

What is the course about?

Criminology is a qualification with elements of psychology, law and sociology. Students of Criminology gain the chance to understand why a person becomes a criminal and the legal aspects of the criminal justice system. During the course you will gain an insight into deviancy and crime which you will apply to a wide range of contexts and example. As an area of social science, it encourages students to develop the important skills of advocacy and critical thinking.

For whom is the course suitable?

The course will appeal to students who are interested in the types of crime that take place within our society and the reasons why people commit crime. It looks at how the criminal justice system works and how social control is achieved within our society. If you are fascinated by the workings of crime and punishment, this course could be for you!

Teaching Methods and Homework commitment:

Teaching and learning in Criminology is a combination of written assessments and application activities. Within each of the lesson's students need to have the drive and determination to research specific cases of crime relevant to the course. In lesson, we will assess this learning through discussion, group work activities and essay work.

What could I go on to do at the end of the course?

Criminology can open the door to an array of career paths that require understanding of the criminal justice sector. These may include careers in the police force or in police support roles, the field of forensic psychology, social and probation work, or the prison services.

Method of Study and Assessment:

Students are expected to take the course for two years gaining enough credits in total to equate to 1 A level. Assessment will be through internally marked controlled assessments and external examinations. The weightings for assessment are 50% external, 50% internal. Students can achieve grades A – E on each unit. The final grade is an aggregate of all the unit grades to give an overall grade of A* - E.

Units covered:

YEAR ONE

UNIT ONE – Changing awareness of crime — Internally Assessed

In this unit students will look at crime and deviance. They will be expected to write a report about the different types of crimes, the complexity of crime and then design a campaign for change.

UNIT TWO—Criminological Theories—Externally Assessed

In this unit students will be looking at the wide range of theories which can be used to explain crime and deviance. They will be looking at biological, environmental, sociological and psychological explanations for crime.

YEAR TWO

UNIT THREE— Crime scene to courtroom—Internally Assessed

During this unit students will learn about crime scenes and court cases. In the unit we look at evidence collection and the processes that exists to prevent contamination. In addition, we look at the core processes involved in the court room, CPS and other legal agencies for criminal cases.

UNIT FOUR—Crime and Punishment—Externally Assessed

In this unit students will be looking at the wide range of explanations surrounding crime and punishment. This will focus on how laws are made and why they have been selected as core processes.



Design Technology

(Awarding Body – AQA)



What is the course about and for whom is it suitable?

This creative and thought-provoking qualification gives students the practical skills, theoretical knowledge and confidence to succeed in a number of careers and especially those in the creative industries. Students will investigate historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic influences on design and technology, whilst enjoying opportunities to put their learning into practice by creating products of their choice. Students will gain a real understanding of what it means to be a designer, alongside the knowledge and skills sought by higher education and employers.

Teaching Methods and Homework commitment:

Through theoretical lessons and designing and manufacturing tasks. Students are expected to utilise time outside contact lessons to complete homework and coursework tasks.

What could I go on to do at the end of the course?

Design Technology is recognised by many universities as being one of the most useful subjects available, due to the analytical and creative thinking elements that it focuses upon. The course enables students to be inspired, moved and challenged by following a broad, coherent, satisfying and worthwhile course of study, that also gives an insight into related sectors, such as manufacturing and engineering. The course is a 'springboard' into a wide variety of courses and careers. In the last few years our students have gone on to study: Industrial Design, Product Design, Engineering, Industrial Design and Engineering, Civil Engineering, Architecture, Mechanical Engineering, Automotive design, and Computer Illustration in some of the best universities in the country as well as taking on apprenticeships or employment using Computer Aided Design

Method of Study and Assessment:

A Level Course

The A level is split into three units. A coursework design and manufacture unit weighted at 50% of the A level and two examination units one 30% and one 20% of the qualification.

Unit 1

Core technical, designing and making principles, and additional specialist knowledge are assessed in the examination unit and questions are in multiple choice, short answer and extended response format.

30% of A Level
2 hours 30 minutes written paper

Unit 2

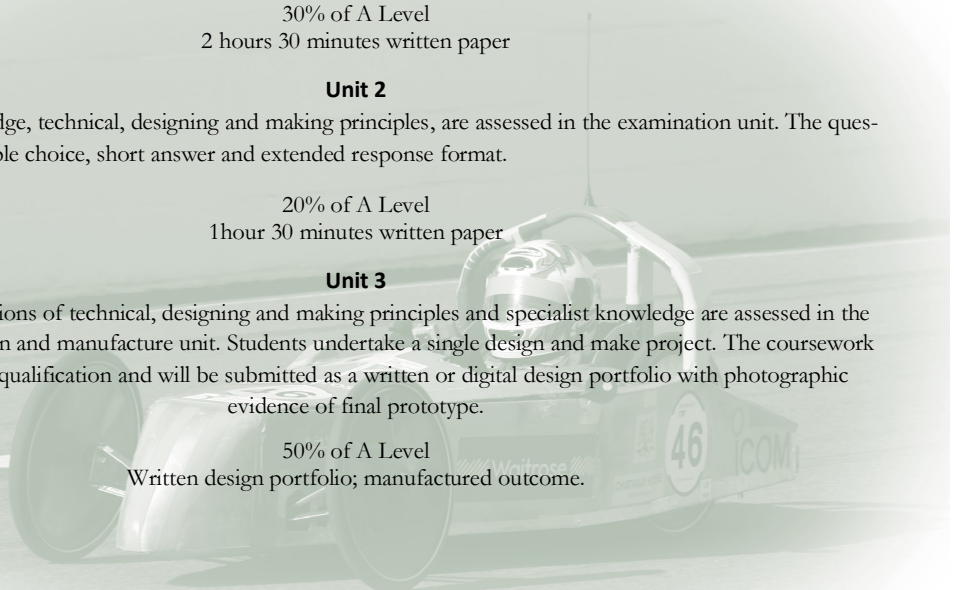
Specialist knowledge, technical, designing and making principles, are assessed in the examination unit. The questions are in multiple choice, short answer and extended response format.

20% of A Level
1 hour 30 minutes written paper

Unit 3

Practical applications of technical, designing and making principles and specialist knowledge are assessed in the coursework design and manufacture unit. Students undertake a single design and make project. The coursework is 50% of the qualification and will be submitted as a written or digital design portfolio with photographic evidence of final prototype.

50% of A Level
Written design portfolio; manufactured outcome.





Drama & Theatre

(Awarding Body – EDEXCEL)



What is the course about?

A challenging, academic, practical and creative A Level will give you the opportunity to develop your communication skills and confidence which are exceptionally valuable in the international, modern workplace. Drama and Theatre studies is widely recognised as a demanding, analytical, multi-skill based and character building course, which has applications in many careers.

For whom is the course suitable?

It is suitable for you if you are interested in Drama, if you enjoy reading plays, if you would like to go to watch plays regularly and learn more about societal and cultural heritage. If you want to be able to express yourself physically and verbally in a recognised academic arts discipline with a proven track record of success. If you want to develop your self confidence, or have the desire to go into a career where presentation and promotion of self is important or if you would like to feel confident when addressing groups of assembled people. If you want to develop critical and analytical skills in your written and practical work of the kind required for success in Higher Education. If you want to have the opportunity to support the development of other students within the Drama Department through House Drama competitions and Shakespeare for Schools festival and if you want to belong to a thriving, supportive community within the school.

Teaching Methods and Homework commitment:

The course is taught through creative practical explorations influenced by Theatre Practitioners alongside periods of focused study of set text plays and live performance that incorporate collaboration, discussion and debate. For scripted and devised theatre, students work inter-dependently to support each other in all aspects of their performance. Homework is regularly set and is written into Student Booklets; it consists of discussion notes, lesson evaluations, research projects and theatre reviews.

What could I go on to do at the end of the course?

This course is a valuable asset to any career involving presentational skills and generally will develop self confidence in an individual. Above all, this course is essential for those who wish to take their study of Drama, Theatre and Performing Arts further, either as a university course or at Drama School.

Method of Study and Assessment:

A Level Course

Component 1 – Devising (Practical and Written)

Devise and perform an original performance piece (20 marks)

Written Portfolio (3000 words) (60 marks)

Performer or designer routes available

80 marks in total—40% of A Level

This component is marked by teachers and moderated by EDEXCEL

Component 2 – Text in Performance (Practical)

A group performance/design realisation of one key extract from a performance text.

A monologue or duologue performance/design realization from one key extract from a different performance text.

60 marks in total—20% of A Level

This component is marked by an EDEXCEL Visiting Examiner

Component 3 – Theatre Makers in Practice (Written Exam)

Practical exploration and study of two full play texts, one in the light of a theatre practitioner.

Evaluation of Live Theatre performances.

Written Examination: 2 hours 30 minutes

80 marks in total—40% of A Level

Externally marked by EDEXCEL



Economics

(Awarding Body – AQA)



What is the course about?

The course aims to develop a thorough comprehension of how the UK and global economies operate so that students can analyse how current economic issues and problems affect our daily lives. In Year 1 students are introduced to both Microeconomics and Macroeconomics and topics studied include demand and supply, markets and market failure as well as UK economic policy in recent years. The course starts with the foundations and builds layer upon layer of understanding: every topic covered will have a distinct purpose and link to the examinations.

For whom is the course suitable?

The course will appeal to students who are interested in understanding how the global, European and UK economies operate. Students who enjoy analysing and evaluating economic problems and working with theoretical models and data benefit from the course. It will also provide a valuable insight into the world of politics and the environment in which the financial institutions and the business community operate. Much of the content is mathematical and students are recommended to have at least a grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics and also English due to the amount of essay writing. This is normally the minimum requirement for a student to fully access this course.

Teaching Methods and Homework commitment:

A variety of approaches will be used, including note-taking, the use of case studies and the evaluation of current media and global indicators. Students will be expected to complete additional assignments, including research projects on current economic issues using theories learned in class and up-to-date information and data from newspapers and magazines. Students will also learn how to structure and write effective, critical and intelligent essays under timed conditions.

What could I go on to do at the end of the course?

Economics is a challenging, progressive subject which can be useful for a wide variety of careers. Business, politics, law, banking, accountancy, insurance, journalism and management are just a few of the many areas that appreciate an understanding of economic policies, problems and issues. Knowledge of Economics will also help students embarking on degree courses in Business Studies, Accountancy, Geography, Mathematics, Sociology, Social Work, Politics and Law.

Method of Study and Assessment:

A Level Course

Unit 1 Microeconomics Markets and Market Failure

Written paper 2 hours
33.3% of A level

Unit 2 Macroeconomics The National and International Economy

Written paper 2 hours
33.3% of A level

Unit 3
Economic Principles & Issues
Multiple Choice & Written paper 2 hours
33.3% of A level



English Literature

(Awarding Body – AQA)



What is the course about?

The course will involve the study of eight to ten literary texts – poetry, drama and novels written during the past 700 years. Shakespeare is likely to be the most distant writer chronologically; in contrast, at least one text will have been written since 2000. English Literature is a subject that by its nature has always required candidates to consider individual, moral, ethical, social, political, cultural and contemporary issues but, unlike previous specifications, the new syllabus also includes ‘unseen’ material which tests the autonomous reading skills of students.

For whom is the course suitable?

Prospective students should have a genuine love of literature and a readiness to engage in the extensive independent reading that is built into the course. Students will broaden their critical and analytical skills and will be encouraged to present their own insights and develop their own judgements.

Teaching Methods and Homework commitment:

The teaching of English Literature centres around discussion and students are expected to take an active part in this. Lessons will take the form of teacher-led discussion, student-led discussion, presentations, essay writing skills and reading skills. Homework will be regular reading and wider independent reading along with preparing presentations and developing essay writing skills.

What could I go on to do at the end of the course?

Skills learnt in the study of English Literature are transferable to a wide range of subjects at degree level. As a core subject, English is a firm base on which to build most careers. You may decide to pursue careers in the teaching profession, publishing or the media. Yet other students use their generic skills to enter such diverse areas as government administration, law, finance and management.

Method of Study and Assessment:

A Level Course

Paper 1 – Love Through The Ages

Study of three texts: one poetry & one prose, of which one must be written pre 1900, & one Shakespeare play. The exam will include two unseen poems.

Written exam 3 hours – 40% of A Level

Paper 2– Texts in Shared contexts

Choice of two options:

- 1.-WW1 and its aftermath
- 2-Modern times: Literature from 1945 to present day

A study of three texts: one prose, one poetry and one drama, of which one must be written post 2000. The exam will include an unseen extract.

Written exam 2 hours 30 minutes 40% of A Level

Non-exam assessment:

Independent Critical Study :Texts across Time

Comparative critical study of two texts, at least one to have been written pre 1900

One extended essay (2500 words) and a bibliography
20% of A Level



Film Studies

(Awarding Body – OCR)

What is the course about?

Film Studies is primarily an academic, rather than practical subject in which the candidate will study and appreciate cinema on a number of levels: as an entertainment form, as an expressive art and as a powerful multi-million dollar industry. The study will focus on the formal properties of cinema (cinematography, editing, lighting etc), movie audiences, the film producers themselves as well as key movements/periods in cinema history. The subject is fun and exciting but also stimulating and demanding.

For whom is the course suitable?

There is no requirement for GCSE Media or Film Studies to study the course; however, it is recommended that candidates should have at least grade 6 in English Language or Literature if they are to cope with the academic demands of the specification.

Teaching Methods and Homework commitment:

The teaching of Film Studies centres around discussion and students are expected to take an active part in this. Lessons will take the form of teacher- led discussion, student- led discussion, presentations, essay writing skills and reading skills. Homework will be regular reading and wider independent reading along with preparing presentations and essays. Students will also be expected to watch and critique a wide range of films in their own time.

What could I go on to do at the end of the course?

As a broad Arts subject, Film Studies can often lead to a wide range of careers and degree courses. Some of these could include working in Film/TV production companies, Commercial Galleries, Craft & Design institutions, Advertising/Marketing Arts Organisations, Civil Service Departments and Universities/Colleges/Schools.

Method of Study and Assessment:

A Level Course

Unit 1 Film History

A study of 3 US films from a set list from the silent era to 1990.
Also a study of 2 set films from two major European film movements
2 hr paper 35% of A Level

Unit 2 Critical Approaches

A critical study of different types of film including contemporary British and American, documentary, non-European non-English language, English language (non US) and US independent
2 hr paper 35% of A Level

Unit 3 Coursework Making Short Film

Learners must study one compilation of short British fiction films. Learners have the opportunity to demonstrate knowledge, understanding and skills through:
the production of a 5 minute short film or 10 minute screenplay for a short film (incorporating a digitally photographed storyboard) and
an evaluative analysis of the production in relation to professionally produced set short films
30% of A Level



French

(Awarding Body – EDEXCEL)



What is the course about?

French is the language of love. It is also the language of our closest neighbour. More importantly it is an official language of many organisations, such as the International Olympic Committee and the United Nations. For this reason, studying French at A-level will leave you well placed to enter many careers and will equip you with a skill that is highly valued amongst employers (organisation such as the CBI report year after year that companies are struggling to recruit enough employees with language skills.)It has a range of cross-curricular elements which make it an ideal companion to many combinations of subject.

As a department our aim is to increase your fluency in the language and also to give you an understanding of the culture in which the language operates. We look at many varied topic areas such as music and education through to the second world war, always basing them in the French speaking world. At first you will notice a clear overlap between GCSE and A Level and this is done purposefully to ease you in to studying at advanced level. However, by the end of the Year 13 you will have the ability to communicate in a variety of situations, including unpredictable and spontaneous ones.

Studying French at A-level is challenging and requires dedication and hard work. It is also extremely rewarding and opens many doors for you in the future.

For whom is the course suitable?

In order to study A level French you will need to have an interest in the French speaking world and a desire to develop your language skills. You will need to be confident that you can develop the necessary independent study skills required at this level. You will also need to have achieved a grade 6 at GCSE.

Teaching Methods and Homework commitment:

The main emphasis throughout the two year course is on developing your fluency and accuracy. You will develop a deeper understanding of grammar and also extend your vocabulary. Some teaching is from the front to develop grammatical accuracy and broaden cultural understanding but there is also more emphasis placed on independent learning.

Students can expect to have about five hours homework a week. The assignments will range from vocabulary tests, reading or listening comprehensions, grammar exercises and written essays. Alongside set homework you will need to spend a good deal of time reading French articles, watching French films and listening to French music/radio.

Method of Study and Assessment:

A Level Course

Topic areas-

Changes in French Society:- Changes in attitudes towards marriage, The French Education System, The world of work – The right to strike, equality of sexes

French Culture:- Music, Media, Festivals and Traditions

French films and Literature

Exam

Paper 1

Listening, Reading, Translation

40% of A Level

Paper 2

Written response to works and Translation

30% of A Level

Paper 3

Speaking

30% of A Level



Geography

(Awarding Body – AQA)



What is the course about?

Geography is the study of the Earth's landscapes, people, places and environments. The course develops and extends the knowledge and skills required to be an active geographer. The course divides into physical and human geography but there is an increased focus on where these overlap.

For whom is the course suitable?

Geography combines well with both Humanities and Science subjects and can be an option for all students in the Sixth Form, following a GCSE Geography course and attaining at least a grade 6 in the geography GCSE. A good standard of English and Maths is required to manage the essay writing and statistical content of the course.

Teaching Methods and Homework commitment:

A residential fieldwork component is an essential part of the course and attendance by all students is compulsory, to gather data needed for the individual investigations. There is a cost involved in this which is usually subsidised by the school where possible. Students in receipt of a bursary will be entitled to help with this cost. Students are expected to keep up to date with their work, meet deadlines and to do up to five hours of independent study in addition to lessons.

What could I go on to do at the end of the course?

A geographical education develops knowledge and skills useful for careers in Administration, Computer Programming and Systems Analysis, Education, Finance, General Management, Librarianship, International Aid and Development Services, Landscape Architecture, Marketing and Sales and Personnel. Geography provides an ideal framework for relating to other fields of knowledge. It is not surprising that those trained as Geographers often contribute substantially to the applied management of resources and environments. Geography is a facilitating subject, allowing students to move on to a wide range of future choices.

Method of Study and Assessment:

A Level Course

Units Covered:

Physical Geography

Coastal systems and landscapes
Hazards
Water and carbon cycles

Human Geography

Changing places
Global systems and global governance
Population and the environment

Geography Fieldwork

Investigation skills
Geographical skills

Assessment

Physical Geography

Paper 1
Written exam
2 hours 30 minutes
40% of A level

Human Geography

Paper 2
Written exam
2 hours 30 minutes
40% of A level

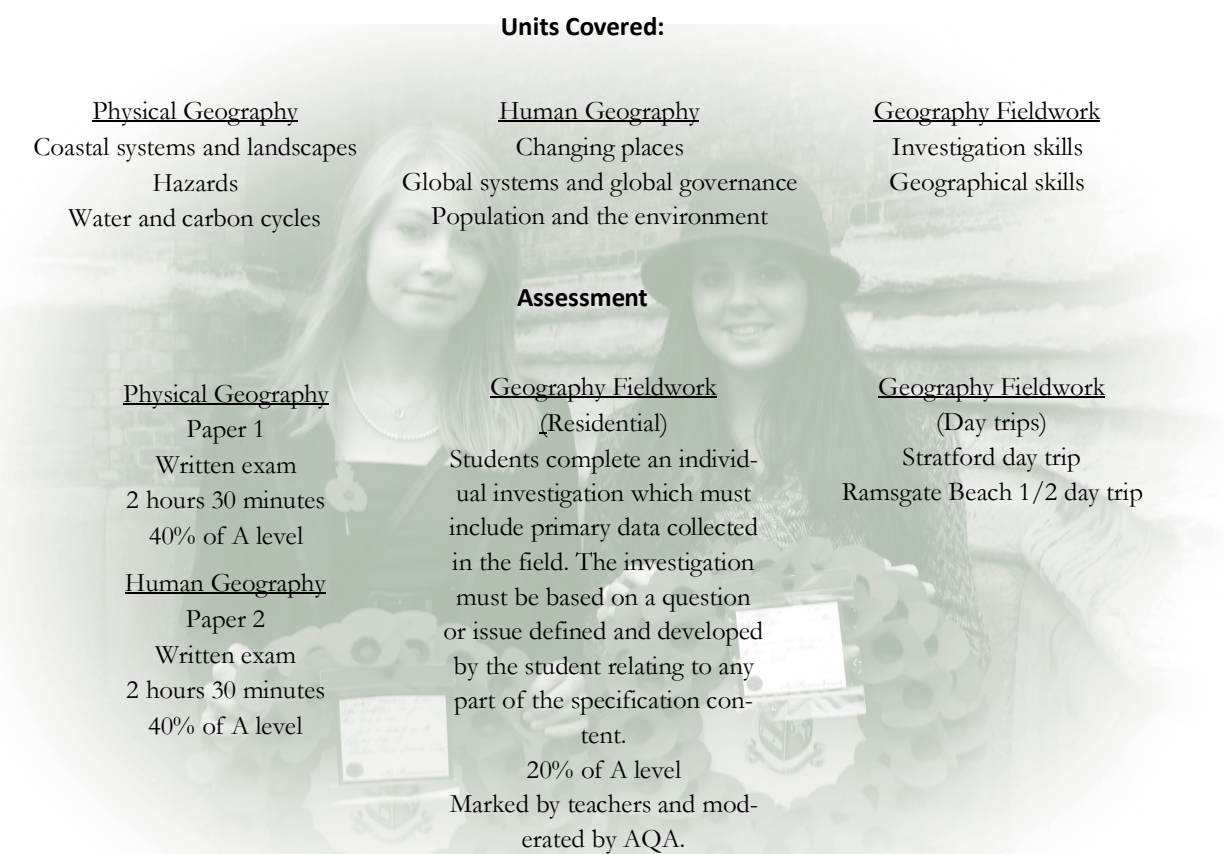
Geography Fieldwork

(Residential)
Students complete an individual investigation which must include primary data collected in the field. The investigation must be based on a question or issue defined and developed by the student relating to any part of the specification content.

20% of A level
Marked by teachers and moderated by AQA.

Geography Fieldwork

(Day trips)
Stratford day trip
Ramsgate Beach 1/2 day trip





Geology

(Awarding Body – OCR)



What is the course about?

Students will develop essential knowledge and understanding of different areas of geology and how they relate to each other, to include civil engineering, engineering geology, hydrogeology, mining and petroleum geology. They will understand how society makes decisions about geological issues and how it contributes to the success of the economy and society. Through critical practice, students will develop the skills, knowledge and understanding of scientific methods as applied in geology via the Practical Endorsement.

For whom is the course suitable?

The course is aimed at students who have achieved at least a grade 6 in any individual GCSE science or 6,6 in GCSE Combined science (Trilogy) or 6 in GCSE Geography.

Choose Geology if:

- You intend to follow a career in which Geology is highly relevant (e.g. Geologist, Petrologist)
- You intend to study some aspect of Geology at university, in conjunction with other areas (e.g. Geography, Chemistry, Environmental Science, Earth Sciences etc.).
- You have enjoyed studying Science or Geography but wish to provide balance with Arts or Humanities subjects

Teaching Methods and Homework commitment:

A wide range of teaching methods are used, including formal delivery with note-taking, presentations, group discussions or presentations and practical activities, including fieldwork. Students are expected to complete exercises and assignments to deadlines. Students will also be expected to carry out research on current events and present to the class. Students are required to record practical work in a folder retained at school which is subject to examination by OCR. There will be at least 4 field trip days which will incur travelling costs and potentially accommodation costs which the student must pay for.

What could I go on to do at the end of the course?

Most careers in Geology are in specialist areas and should be taken in various combinations with A Level Biology/Chemistry/Physics/and or Mathematics

Example careers: Volcanologist, Geological Engineer, Hydrogeologist, Seismologist, paleontologist, Planetary Research Scientist, Geochemist, Sedimentologist, Petrologist, Geophysicist, Mineralogist, Museum Curator

Method of Study and Assessment:

Subject Content:

Year 1 Modules 1-4— 1. Development of practical skills in Geology 2. Foundations in Geology 3. Global tectonics
4. Interpreting the past

Year 2 Modules 5-7— 5. Petrology and economic geology 6. Geohazards 7. Basin analysis

A Level Course

Paper 1 – Fundamentals in Geology

Written exam – 2 hr 15 mins 110 marks 41% of A Level

Paper 2– Scientific Literacy in Geology

Written exam – 2 hr 15 mins 100 marks 37% of A Level

Paper 3– Practical Skills in Geology

Written exam – 1 hr 30 mins 60 marks 22% of A Level

Practical Assessment

Students will complete a series of 12 practical activities. Each learner will keep an accurate record of their practical work, including their assessed practical activities. written in the expectation that students have carried out at least six required practical activities. These skills are also assessed in the exams and will contribute a minimum of 15% towards exams.

Mathematical requirements

In order to develop their skills, knowledge and understanding in Geology, students need to show competence in appropriate areas of mathematics. Overall a minimum of 10% of marks in Geology assessments will require the use of mathematical skills. These skills will be applied in Geological context and will be at least the standard of GCSE Higher Tier Mathematics.



Health & Social Care



(Level 3)

(Awarding Body – OCR CTEC Extended Certificate/Diploma in Health & Social Care—2016 Suite)

What is the course about?

The course gives students a sound understanding about the Health and Social Care sector, including Mental Health awareness, Behavioural Psychology and Care Quality practice. Students will gain understanding about current legislation and policy relating to the Health and Social Care sector as well as having a ‘hands on’ experience in both fields when completing the work experience programme. There are also opportunities to gain an additional qualification in First Aid awareness courses, trips out to linked H&SC placements and conferences. There are very strong links with volunteer groups within the care and education services—for example, Ageless Thanet and Macmillan Crossroads.

For whom is the course suitable?

The course will appeal to empathic students who are interested in working in the Health and Social Care sector, including education, social work and work within the NHS. Lessons will include class discussions relating to current legislation, policies and issues so students who enjoy current affairs will be most suitable. Students would be expected to manage their time effectively, have a good work ethic, good examination techniques combined with sound written skills and the ability to develop independent learning skills.

For the single award (Extended Certificate—360 Guided Learning Hours) 6 units are taken, 4 of which are from the mandatory section. For the double award (Diploma—720 GLH) 12 units are taken, 7 of which are from the mandatory section.

Teaching Methods and Homework commitment:

Teaching methods include class discussions, group research and practical tasks to enhance learning. Students are expected to take class notes and need to make sure that they keep on task as homework is essential to the successful completion of the course. The coursework units for the Single/Double award are split into a series of tasks. The emphasis in this course is on independent learning. Students work with tutors who guide them through the course and set deadlines for assignments which must be met. Examination work will be mainly tutor lead, with strong links to practical application.

What could I go on to do at the end of the course?

This course is recognised by many universities and can score equivalent UCAS points to other regular A levels. Students can use this course to continue to learn about Health, Social Care or Early Years in a range of degrees and courses or directly enter employment with training leading to a variety of careers including Social Worker, Nursery Nurse, Medical secretary, Nurse, Midwife, Care Assistant, Primary School Teaching Assistant, Charity Worker and Counsellor. The Health and Social Care course enables students to learn about a range of topics and can help to identify a more specific sector in which students might wish to work within the Health, Social Care and Early Years fields.

Method of Study and Assessment:

Mandatory Section	Optional Units selected
<p>This includes units such as:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Building positive relationships in health and social care 2 Equality, diversity and rights in health and social care (Exam) 3 Health, safety and security in health and social care (Exam) 4 Anatomy and physiology (Exam) 5 Infection control in health and social care 6 Personalisation and a person-centered approach to care (Exam) 	<p>Specialist unit -students work on either 60 or 120 Guided Learning Hours over the 2nd year which could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit 24—Public Health Unit 23—Sociological perspective on HSC Unit 22—Psychological perspective on HSC Unit 15—Promoting Health and Wellbeing Unit 14—Impact of long term physiological conditions Unit 10—Nutrition for health Unit 9 — Supporting people with Learning Disabilities Unit 8—Creativity and activity for children & young people <p><i>All these units where not indicated are coursework units and are internally assessed and OCR moderated.</i></p>



History

(Awarding Body – EDEXCEL)



What is the course about?

The A-Level syllabus is an engaging and relevant course which covers a range of topics from 19th and 20th Century British, European and World History. Year 12 will focus on 20th Century German and Italian history.

Year 13 will focus on a broad investigation exploring political, social and economic developments in Britain from 1780-1928. Students will complete a coursework assignment exploring an historical controversy of their choice.

For whom is the course suitable?

The course is suitable for any student who has interest in the past and/or who likes to engage with complex, controversial and emotive issues. The key entrance requirements that students need are a Grade 6 in GCSE History as well as enthusiasm, a good work ethic and an enquiring mind. A number of candidates have picked up history in Year 12 despite not having a GCSE and have performed very well at A-Level. We recommend these students have a Grade 6, or above, in English Literature.

Teaching Methods and Homework commitment:

All lessons focus on key examination related questions. In lessons students will be expected to complete written, reading and discussion based tasks and assignments. Whilst teacher input is paramount the students are encouraged to develop their independent study skills. Core homework assignments will consist of exam-style essays, research and reading tasks.

What could I go on to do at the end of the course?

History is one of the most respected academic subjects amongst universities enabling you to study any subject at university including Law, Philosophy, English and even Medicine and its associated sciences, as well as History itself. Career opportunities associated with a history degree are varied such as Law, Media, Banking and Business sectors. For some professions it is the actual study of the past which is deemed important, for others it is the method of study, breath of outlook, ability to handle and analyse evidence, understanding of motives, cause and effect which make the historian an attractive asset in the job market.

Method of Study and Assessment:

A Level Course

Paper 1 – Germany & West Germany 1918-1989

Political changes, opposition, economic and social shifts in the period engaging with the historical controversy 'How far was Hitler's foreign policy responsible for the Second World War?'

Paper 2 – The Rise & Fall of Fascism in Italy 1911-1946

Examining the collapse of liberal Italy and the rise and dictatorship of Mussolini

Paper 3 – Protest, Agitation & Parliamentary

Reform in Britain 1780-1928

Examining specific aspects of British political, economic and social history culminating in 'depth' investigations.

Coursework

An investigation which examines, explains and analyses conflicting historical interpretations of a topic of the student's choice.

Examination

Paper 1: Germany (2hrs 15 min – 30% of 'A' Level)

Paper 2: Italy (1 hr 30 min – 20% of 'A' Level)

Paper 3: Britain (2hrs 15 min – 30% of 'A' Level)

Coursework: (20% of 'A' Level)



BTEC Information Technology



National Certificate in Information Technology

National Extended Certificate in Information Technology

What is the course about?

As well as gaining an appreciation of Information Technology in the workplace, this qualification is primarily a coursework based programme. BTEC Nationals are equivalent to A-levels and are highly valued by universities, further education colleges and employers alike.

For whom is the course suitable?

This qualification is designed for learners who are interested in an introduction to the study of creating IT systems to manage and share information, alongside other fields of study, with a view to progressing to a wide range of higher education courses, not necessarily in IT. Learners will develop a common core of IT knowledge and study areas such as the relationship between hardware and software that form an IT system, managing and processing data to support business and using IT to communicate and share information.

Teaching Methods and Homework commitment:

Units are delivered in terms of assignment tasks and by examination. You will need to pass each unit and be well organised in terms of completing assignments, ensuring that tasks are completed carefully and that you prepare thoroughly for examinations.

What could I go on to do at the end of the course?

The options which IT supports are wide and varied. For example the qualification supports entry to:

- BA (Hons) in Computer Arts
- BSc (Hons) in Fashion Buying Management
- BSc (Hons) in Software Development for Animation
- BA (Hons) in Accounting and Finance

Method of Study and Assessment:

For the Certificate:

Creating Systems to Manage Information

Design, create, test and evaluate a relational database system to manage information.

Assessed through set tasks based over 5 hours and arranged over 2 sessions

Using Social Media in Business

How businesses use social media to promote their products and services. Learners also implement social media activities in a business to meet requirements.

Assessed through 2 assignments.

For the Extended Certificate:

Information Technology Systems

The role of computer systems and the implications of their use in personal and professional situations.

Assessed through a 2hr written exam which is based upon a scenario.

Website Development

An in depth investigation into the design and usage of websites across all platforms. You will investigate a variety of web development principles and use HTML5 and CSS to create a website to meet the requirements for a business of your choice.

Assessed through 2 assignments



Mathematics

(Awarding Body – EDEXCEL)



What is the course about?

The Mathematics course provides a good foundation for either the Science or Humanities based Mathematicians or for students who enjoy Mathematics in its own right just as much as we do. All students will study Pure Maths, Mechanics and Statistics modules for their A level. The Pure maths covers areas such as Algebra, Co-ordinate Geometry, Trigonometry and Calculus. There are a number of areas on the Pure papers which relate to the GCSE Higher paper: factorisation, inequalities, sketching and transformation of graphs, trigonometry and surds will seem quite familiar.

Mechanics and Statistics include Statistical sampling, Data presentation and interpretation, Probability, Statistical distributions, Statistical hypothesis testing, Kinematics and Forces and Newton's laws.

This new specification has 100% prescribed content and therefore students do not have a choice of topics.

For whom is the course suitable?

The course is suitable for students who have achieved at least a grade 7 in the GCSE course. An algebra booklet is issued to prospective students during Induction week and is expected to be completed over the summer. A test on GCSE Algebra skills will be administered during the first week in September so that students can make an informed decision whether the mathematics course is for them. Weekly after-school algebra workshops are available throughout Term 1. An enjoyment of problem solving, particularly involving algebraic techniques is very useful.

Teaching Methods and Homework commitment:

A variety of approaches are used, including note-taking, practice of different types of questions and use of computer software and graphical calculators. Emphasis is placed on a two-way approach to learning i.e. the student should consult staff in the department when further assistance is needed in understanding a topic and will be encouraged to read around the subject by studying the textbook which includes numerous back-up examples. Homework will largely be a series of problems from the textbook or past papers and will be set every lesson. Classwork exercises need to be completed in addition to the homework set.

What could I go on to do at the end of the course?

Mathematics can lead you into many different fields. Mathematics is the Queen of Sciences (Gauss). Areas to explore are Mathematics, Engineering, Economics, Maths and Finance, Maths and Philosophy and Management as well as the usual Accountancy, Actuarial science and Banking.

Method of Study and Assessment:

A Level Course

Both Pure exams are 2 hours long and account for 66.7% of the A level course.
The Mechanics and Statistics exams is 1 hour long and accounts for 33.3% of the A Level course.

Paper 1 and 2—Pure Maths

Algebra and functions, Co-ordinate geometry, Trigonometry, Calculus, Series, Vectors, proof and exponentials and logarithms

Paper 3 Statistics and Mechanics

Statistical sampling, Data presentation and interpretation, Probability, Statistical distributions, Statistical hypothesis testing, Kinematics and Forces and Newton's laws, moments and hypothesis testing



Further Mathematics



(Awarding Body – EDEXCEL)

What is the course about?

The Accelerated Mathematics route is the full A Level Mathematics course taken in Year 12 which, if completed successfully (grade B or above), leads to the studying of GCE Further Mathematics in year 13. The new A2 Mathematics course is completed in 1 year with the students studying 2 Pure Maths elements and 1 Mechanics and Statistics element. In Year 13 students study the Further Maths specification of two Further Pure elements and two Further Maths options of mechanics, statistics or decision maths.

For whom is the course suitable?

The Accelerated Mathematics course is suitable for the most able students that achieve grade 8 or 9 at GCSE, and are able to work at pace and independently.

Teaching Methods and Homework commitment:

Our Further Mathematicians must show serious commitment to the course and work at a fast pace whilst being proactive in consulting a member of the department to help with any problem areas. Students can take advantage of maths trips to popular mathematics lectures which motivate further study and increase enjoyment of the subject. They are expected to read about mathematics including popular books about maths to enrich their mathematical life. Homework will largely be a series of problems from the textbook or past papers and will be set every lesson. Classwork exercises need to be completed in addition to the homework set.

What could I go on to do at the end of the course?

Mathematics can lead you into many different fields. “Without mathematics there’s nothing you can do. Everything around you is mathematics” (Shakuntala Devi). With Further Maths you can choose to do anything. Areas to consider are Mathematics, Engineering, Economics, Maths and Finance, Maths and Philosophy, Operational research, Actuarial science, Accountancy and Banking.

Method of Study and Assessment:

Accelerated Mathematics (Year 12 Course)	Further Mathematics (Year 13 Course)
The method of assessment is via three examinations. Each paper is 2 hours long and accounts for 33.3% of the A level course.	The method of assessment of Further Mathematics is via four examinations. Each paper is of 1½ hours duration and account for 25% of the A-level.
<p>Paper 1 Pure Maths Algebra and functions, Co-ordinate geometry, Trigonometry and exponentials and logarithms</p>	<p>Paper 1 – Further Pure Proof, Complex numbers, Matrices, Further algebra and functions, calculus, vectors</p>
<p>Paper 2 Pure Maths Calculus, Series, Vectors, proof and numerical methods</p>	<p>Paper 2– Further Pure Complex numbers, Further calculus, Polar coordinates, Hyperbolic functions, Differential equations</p>
<p>Paper 3 Statistics and Mechanics Statistical sampling, Data presentation and interpretation, Probability, Statistical distributions, Statistical hypothesis testing, Kinematics and Forces, Newton’s laws, moments and hypothesis testing</p>	<p>Paper 3–Further Statistics Hypothesis testing, Chi squared tests</p>
	<p>Paper 4-Further Mechanics Elastic strings and springs Linear programming, critical path analysis</p>



Media Studies

(Awarding Body – OCR)



What is the course about?

Media Studies is the systematic study and analysis of the mass media through the Key Concepts of Narrative, Representation, Audience, Ideology, Media Language and Institutions. We aim to equip you with a critical understanding of the way that media texts communicate, studying anything from computer games, to broadsheet newspapers, to Postmodern TV and cinema and music videos. In addition to the theoretical element, the course is 30% practical and you will learn about print and film/video production, including lighting and composition in photography and cinematography, and editing using DTP and video editing

For whom is the course suitable?

Contrary to popular belief, Media Studies is a very dense and complex subject with a great deal of critical theory to absorb and use. To do well, you will need to be enthusiastic, motivated, thoughtful and well organised. It is not essential to have taken Media Studies GCSE, but a good grade in English Language (grade 6 or above) is a strong indicator that you will be able to cope with the essay-writing requirements.

Teaching Methods and Homework commitment:

The course is split up into practical work and theory. Theory lessons are conventionally teacher led, but you may be called upon to make presentations and lead sessions when discussing your own research. Practical work will be taught through a series of shorter assigned tasks that build confidence in the use of equipment, giving you the independence to produce work individually. You should expect at least one written assignment and one learning assignment per week unless you are working on practical assignments.

What could I go on to do at the end of the course?

Media Studies carries the same number of UCAS points as any other A Level subject and is accepted by all universities. The method of study lends itself to both practical/creative subjects and academic/research based subjects. In addition to the more conventional university courses, many institutions now offer practical courses that provide a good springboard into media industries, and OCR Media Studies is well respected by these institutions.

Method of Study and Assessment:

A Level Course

Component 1 Media Messages

Students study news and online, social and participatory media in depth and learn how media language is used to construct representations and meaning in a variety of set media products. There are two sections:

Section A—News and online media—students carry out two in-depth studies that focus on contemporary news in the UK, requiring students to explore how and why newspapers and their online counterparts are evolving as media products and the relationship between both online and offline news.

Section B—Media Language and Representation—Students focus on media language and representation and consider how meanings are constructed across different media forms. This covers advertising and marketing, magazines and music videos.

Written paper—35% of A level

Component 2 Evolving Media

Section A—Media Industries and Audiences—Students explore media industries through film, video games and radio and audiences through video games and radio.

Section B—Long Form Television Drama

Students carry out an in-depth study focusing on contemporary long form television dramas, one English and one European (non-English language)

Written paper—35% of A level

Component 3 Creating Media

Students create a cross-media product for an intended audience in response to a set brief. This gives the opportunity to work independently and develop expertise built from components 1 and 2.

Non-exam assessment—30% of A level



Music



(Awarding Body – EDUQAS)

What is the course about?

This course teaches performance, composition and understanding of music at an advanced level and lessons explore western classical music, as well as a variety of modern musical genres and styles.

For whom is the course suitable?

This course would be suitable for you if:

- You have a love of many different kinds of music and are willing to explore and expand on this throughout the course
- You are about Grade 5 (or equivalent) or above on an instrument or voice.
- You have a basic knowledge of music theory (Grade 5 Theory is not necessary but useful) or have taken Music GCSE

Teaching Methods and Homework commitment:

The course is taught using a variety of media, such as scores, CD's and the internet. The main software used is Sibelius. Homework is varied and could be essay based, composition or acquiring listening skills.

What could I go on to do at the end of the course?

This course could lead to a music, or other degree, or to employment with a musical slant.

Method of Study and Assessment:

A Level Course

Unit 1 – Performing

- A performance, in front of a visiting examiner, of three or more pieces, performed as a recital.
 - Performance can be playing or singing solo, or in an ensemble.
- The total performance time across all pieces must be a minimum of 8 minutes.
Candidate must perform at Grade 6 (or equivalent) or above in Year 13
35% of A Level

Unit 2 – Composition

- Total of two compositions, one to a brief set by Eduqas and one other free composition or from a list of briefs assessing compositional technique and harmony. One must be in a classical style.
25% of A Level

Unit 3 – Developing Musical Understanding

This unit focuses on listening to familiar and unfamiliar music and understanding how it works.

- Two questions related to the set works (audio and skeleton score provided).
 - One short melody/rhythm completion exercise.
 - One essay question – worth 15 marks

The set works and topic areas studied are as follows:

Hayden's Symphony 104

Debussy's Nuages

Poulenc's Trio Sonata

An overview of the development of the symphony

Music Theatre and its development

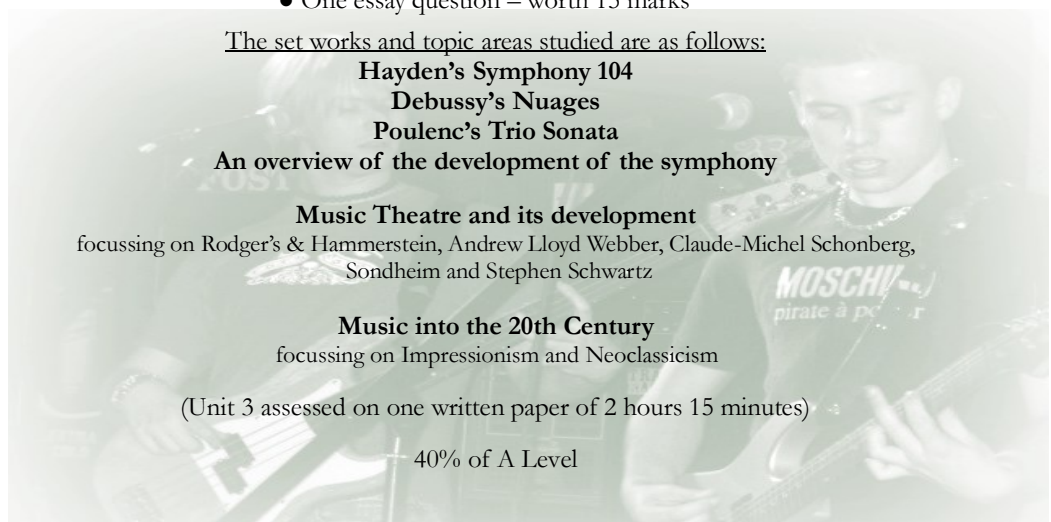
focussing on Rodger's & Hammerstein, Andrew Lloyd Webber, Claude-Michel Schonberg, Sondheim and Stephen Schwartz

Music into the 20th Century

focussing on Impressionism and Neoclassicism

(Unit 3 assessed on one written paper of 2 hours 15 minutes)

40% of A Level





Music Technology

(Awarding Body – EDEXCEL)



What is the course about?

This course covers the areas of real world recording, production and computer based music creation

For whom is the course suitable?

This course would be suitable for you if:

- You have a love of many different kinds of popular music (including jazz) and are willing to explore and expand on this throughout the course
- You want to study music but do not wish to perform as part of the course (or are not at a Grade 5 level on your first instrument). You **will** need keyboard skills to access the course.
- You have studied music at KS4. If you have a basic knowledge of music theory due to having instrumental lessons please confirm with staff at Open Evening or Induction Week that your knowledge is sufficient.

Teaching Methods and Homework commitment:

You will use current and industry standard music software and a digital twenty four track recording studio to complete coursework. Homework is generally research based tasks.

All theories and topics are covered via teacher led lessons and are then supported by practical exercises and experimentation to develop the candidates' skills and knowledge.

What could I go on to do at the end of the course?

This course could lead to eventual careers within the following areas – Music Production, Studio Engineering, Live Sound Engineering, Sound Effects and Foley work.

Method of Study and Assessment:

A Level Course

2 Coursework Components

Externally Assessed

Component 1 – Recording

3 minute close-mic studio recording of a commercially available song. Choice of 10 songs or artists as prescribed by the exam board

Component 2 – Technology Based Composition

3 minute composition utilizing technology in its creation. Choice of one brief, from a set of three, provided by the exam board covering music to film, music to lyrics or sampling

2 Exam Components

Externally Assessed

Component 3 – Critical Listening Paper

Written exam requiring the student to analyse, critique and compare a range of unheard material. You will be expected to comment on sound production techniques, production errors/limitations and possible solutions

Component 4 – Analysing and Producing Paper

Practical exam that requires the student to identify and correct musical and/or production errors across a range of audio tracks provided. The final task in the exam is to mix the tracks into one final stereo master, for submission with their exam paper



Physics

(Awarding Body – OCR)



What is the course about?

Physics will teach you how to communicate effectively and how to research and think critically about problems. A level Physics takes some of the topics you studied at GCSE into more depth, so that it builds upon previous knowledge. Also it introduces new topics such as quantum phenomena, where sub-atomic particles seem to behave rather oddly. You will carry out practical investigations as you did at GCSE, to help your understanding.

For whom is the course suitable?

The course is aimed at interested students who have achieved at least a grade 7 in GCSE Physics or 7,7 in GCSE Combined: Trilogy (Physics Component)

A grade 7 in Mathematics at GCSE is also recommended to show the ability to cope with the high mathematical content.

Choose Physics if:

- You are an able and confident mathematician
- You intend to pursue a career or further studies in Physics, engineering or another science related field
- You have enjoyed studying Physics, even if you are not sure of taking it at tertiary level

Teaching Methods and Homework commitment:

A wide variety of teaching and learning styles are used. These will involve students in:

- Using practical techniques to carry out investigations
- Solving problems using mathematical techniques as well as non mathematical concepts
- Studying the applications of Physics

Students are expected to spend a minimum of 5 hours a week, outside lesson time. This will involve a wide variety of activities including problem solving, background reading and researching topics.

What could I go on to do at the end of the course?

You will acquire skills and knowledge that will be useful for any occupation. In particular, your problem solving skills will be sought after by universities and companies. Many physicists have careers in engineering or research where they investigate the latest theories at the cutting edge of technology.

Method of Study and Assessment:

Module 1—Development of practical skills

Module 2—Foundation of physics

Module 3—Forces & motion

Module 4—Electrons, waves & photons

Module 5—Newtonian world & astrophysics

Module 6—Particles & medical physics

At A level—Paper 1 can assess content from Modules 1, 3 & 5,

Paper 2 Modules 1, 2, 4 & 6 plus any material appropriately flagged within specification from Modules 1-6

Paper 3 content from Modules 1-6

A Level Course

Paper 1—Modelling Physics

Multiple choice & Structured questions

2 hours 15 mins— 37% of A Level

Paper 2—Exploring Physics

Multiple choice & Structured questions

2 hours 15 mins— 37% of A Level

Paper 3 Unified Physics

Written Paper – 1 hour 30 minutes—26% of A Level



Politics

(Awarding Body – AQA)



What is the course about?

Year 12 focuses on British Government (national, local, devolved and EU), the British Constitution, voting behaviour, political participation, pressure groups, political parties, media and political concepts & ideologies. Political Ideologies will be taught in preparation for the Unit 3 Ideologies paper. The main focus of the 2nd part of the course is the Government and Politics of the USA and comparative government. Ideologies will then be revisited in more detail. Annually, trips are arranged to a sixth form student politics conference, the EU in Brussels and the Houses of Parliament where students meet MPs. Most subjects fit well with Government & Politics but the subjects where there can be some curricular overlap include History, Sociology, Business Studies, Economics, Media Studies and Geography

For whom is the course suitable?

The course aims to give students a grounding in, and understanding of, the working of both the British and American political systems together with an appreciation of traditional and more contemporary political ideologies'. The course will appeal to students enthusiastic about politics and current affairs and who want to know more about how decisions are reached in government and the extent to which the electorate can influence these decisions. Students also learn about their rights and responsibilities as citizens and will develop a critical awareness of political events and issues in both the UK and the USA. Good essay writing skills are the main means of assessment.

Teaching Methods and Homework commitment:

Throughout the course students are taught each of the topics they are required to know using a range of methods. Students are encouraged to actively participate in class discussion through formal and informal debates. Political traditions are interrogated and challenged in an open and respectful manner. Students work independently and in close collaboration with the class teacher and each other. Extended reading and 'flipped learning' tasks and activities are built into the scheme of learning. Students receive homework tasks and reading each week and regularly complete summative assessments in line with the all the examination requirements of each of the different types of questions they will be examined on.

What could I go on to do at the end of the course?

Many degree courses, apart from a degree in Politics itself, have strong politics content such as Sociology, Modern History, Law, Economics, International Relations, Geography, Public Administration, Business Studies, Social Work, Social Policy and Industrial Relations. Successful completion of A-level Government & Politics gives students a very good foundation to their degree courses and will be of great value for careers in law, journalism, local government, the civil service, social work, media, public relations, management and secretarial work. It also serves as a useful grounding for those wanting to be involved in local politics, community affairs, trade unions and governing bodies of schools/hospitals/professional associations or simply for those who just want to have a greater understanding of the way decisions are made. Students of politics have even followed an accountancy training route because of the analytical skills they have developed.

Method of Study and Assessment: 100% examination

A Level Course

Unit 1 - Government and Politics of the UK

Written Paper – 2 hours
33.3% of A-level

Unit 2 – Government and Politics of the USA and Comparative Politics

Written Paper – 2 hours
33.3% of A-level

Unit 3 – Political Ideas

Written Paper – 2 hours
33.3% of A-level



Psychology



(Awarding Body – AQA)

What is the course about?

Psychology is the scientific study of mind and behaviour. You will learn a variety of skills including analytical thinking, improved communication, problem solving and many more that will prepare you for an exciting future with the possibility of a range of fantastic careers

For whom is the course suitable?

The course will appeal to students who are fascinated by human and animal behaviour as well as learning about what makes people tick. Successful students need to be self-disciplined in completing written investigative work and enjoy reading texts about research and theories, which require scientific analysis. Most subjects fit in well with Psychology but the subjects complementing Psychology include Sociology, Mathematics (especially Statistics), Biology, English, Theatre Studies, Sports Studies, Philosophy and Business Studies.

Teaching Methods and Homework commitment:

A wide range of teaching methods are used, including formal deliveries, student presentations, role plays, group discussions, group teaching, as well as opportunities for students to conduct their own experiments. Students must also be prepared to practice writing essays under timed conditions.

What could I go on to do at the end of the course?

A-level Psychology gives students a very good foundation in a variety of degree courses. According to bestcourse4me.com, the top seven degree courses taken by students who have an A-level in Psychology are: Psychology, English, Sociology, Business, Teaching, Sport and Exercise Science and Law. Studying psychology at university can give you a whole host of exciting career options, including : Marketing, Business development, Accountancy, Human resources, Forensic psychology, Occupational therapy, Clinical psychology, Nursing & Teaching.

A Level Course

Paper 1

Introductory topics in Psychology

Memory, Social influence, Attachment, Psychopathology

Written Paper—2 hours

33.3% of A Level

Paper 2

Psychology in Context

Approaches in Psychology, Biopsychology,
Research methods

Written Paper - 2 hours

33.3% of A Level

Paper 3

Issues & debates in Psychology & Options in Psychology

Gender, Aggression, Schizophrenia, Issues and Debates

Written Paper - 2 hours

33.3% of A Level



Religion & Philosophy



(Awarding Body – OCR)

What is the course about?

The course encourages learners to adopt an enquiring, critical approach to the study of religion, philosophy and ethics.

The A Level should prove an excellent addition to your completed A Level profile, whether you are following a Humanities, Arts or Science based course

For whom is the course suitable?

If you have an interest in asking questions about the existence of God, human existence, ethics or values; if you have an interest in religion in general or if you wish to follow a philosophical and ethical approach to study, then this course will provide you with the opportunity to study those areas of interest.

Teaching Methods and Homework commitment:

Students will learn through a variety of teaching methods so that all may benefit from the course. There will be opportunities to visit places of interest such as churches during the course. Students are assessed regularly through essay assignments and mock examinations. Extra revision classes, textbooks and other course materials also support the learning.

What could I go on to do at the end of the course?

Successful completion of this A Level will give access to a range of possible career and educational opportunities. Employers and universities value the range of transferable skills acquired by the students throughout their A Level which include synthesising, interpreting and evaluating information from a variety of scholarly sources and the need for research to be effectively communicated. Students who have completed this course have gone on to study a host of disciplines including medicine, sciences, journalism, business studies, philosophy and theology, anthropology, archaeology, robotics and engineering.

Method of Study and Assessment:

The A Level Course

Component 1 – Philosophy of religion

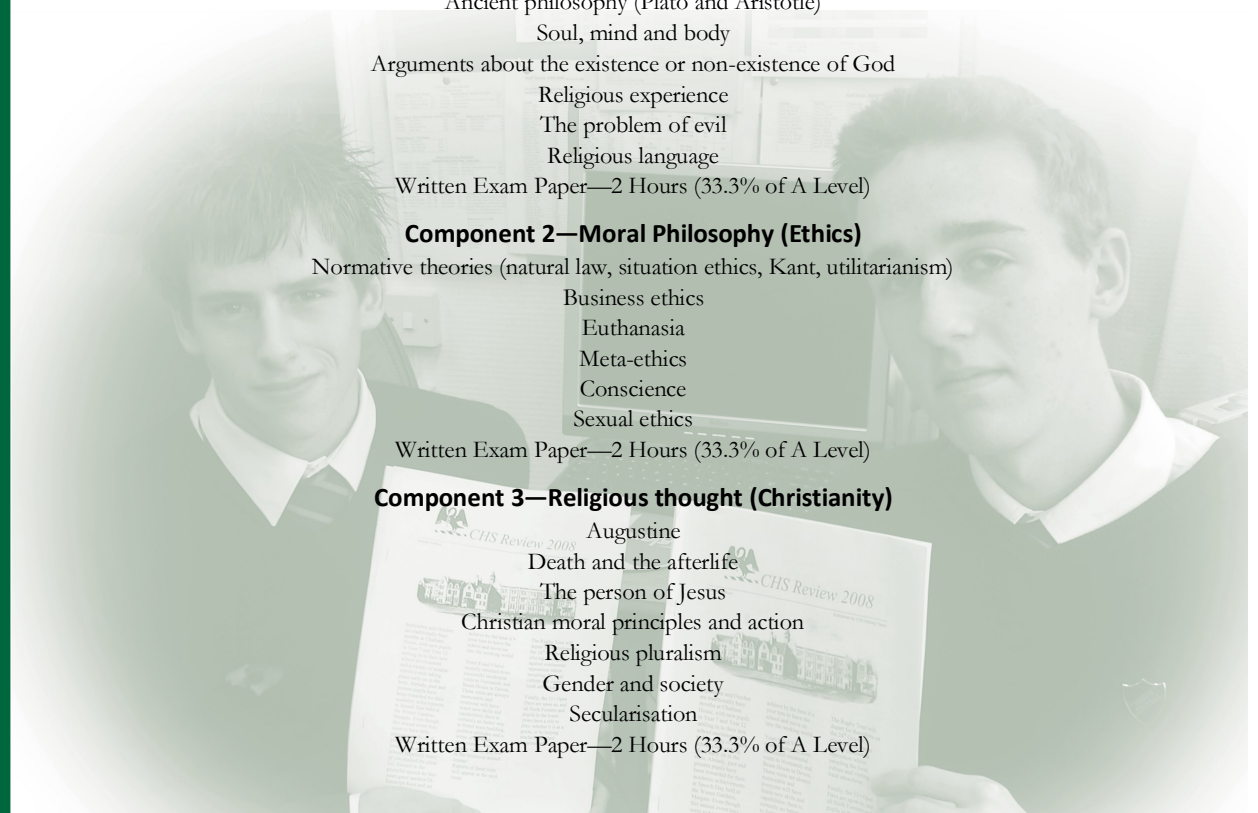
Ancient philosophy (Plato and Aristotle)
Soul, mind and body
Arguments about the existence or non-existence of God
Religious experience
The problem of evil
Religious language
Written Exam Paper—2 Hours (33.3% of A Level)

Component 2—Moral Philosophy (Ethics)

Normative theories (natural law, situation ethics, Kant, utilitarianism)
Business ethics
Euthanasia
Meta-ethics
Conscience
Sexual ethics
Written Exam Paper—2 Hours (33.3% of A Level)

Component 3—Religious thought (Christianity)

Augustine
Death and the afterlife
The person of Jesus
Christian moral principles and action
Religious pluralism
Gender and society
Secularisation
Written Exam Paper—2 Hours (33.3% of A Level)





Sociology

(Awarding Body – AQA)

What is the course about?

The course aims to give students a sound understanding of current sociological ideas, concepts and knowledge. Students will also gain an understanding of sociological methods of research and will develop skills to enable them to participate effectively in adult life. The main topics studied in year 12 are family, education and sociological methods of research. In the second year of the course students study sociological theories, methods of research, the mass media and crime and deviance. Assessment is by examination only.

For whom is the course suitable?

The course will appeal to students who are interested in social issues and enjoy class discussions. Students also need to enjoy reading and keeping up-to-date with current affairs and issues. Most subjects fit in well with Sociology. The subjects where there is some curricular overlap with Sociology include Government & Politics, History, Geography, Economics, Business Studies, Religious Studies, Sports Studies, Media Studies and Psychology.

Teaching Methods and Homework commitment:

Throughout the course, topics are discussed in class and students are expected to take class-notes. As ongoing homework, students are expected to supplement their class-notes with their own note-taking from textbooks and articles as well as keeping up-to-date with relevant news items. In class there is plenty of opportunity for discussion and questions. Once a topic has been covered, there will be regular timed “mock” tests and examination papers in class.

What could I go on to do at the end of the course?

Many degree courses have a strong Sociology content – Anthropology, Politics, Law, Social Studies, Economics, International Relations, Public Administration, Business Studies, Social Work, Media Studies, Religious Studies, Statistics... to name a few. Successful completion of an A level course in Sociology gives students a very good foundation to their degree courses. In addition, some professional courses, for example nursing, have a Sociology component. Studying Sociology will be of great value to those entering social work, journalism, market research, public relations, teaching, nursing, the paramedic professions, the civil service, law, politics, the media, management and medical secretarial work. It will also be of benefit to any student who simply wants to have a greater understanding about the world in which we live.

Method of Study and Assessment:

A Level Course

Paper 1 – Education with Methods in Context and Theory and Method

Written Paper – 2 hours
33.3% of A level

Paper 2 – Families & Households and Mass Media

Written Paper - 2 hours
33.3% of A level

Paper 3 – Crime & Deviance and Theory & Method

Written Paper - 2 hours
33.3% of A level



Spanish

(Awarding Body – AQA)



What is the course about?

Spanish is spoken widely throughout the world, not just in Europe but in the Americas too, and sits in third place after English and Mandarin Chinese as the world's most spoken language. It is also an official language of many international organisations. If you have an A level in Spanish you will have a highly sought after qualification that will make you one of the forerunners in the job market. You will also develop a number of skills that will benefit your other subjects, making it an excellent partner for many different combinations of A-levels.

Our aim is to increase fluency in the language whilst giving you an understanding of the culture in which the language operates. We look at varied topic areas such as the Spanish Civil War to Hispanic films and literature always basing them in the Spanish speaking world. Having developed an understanding of the basics at GCSE, you will now acquire a more refined understanding of Spanish grammar and a broader vocabulary. By the end of Year 13 you will be in a position to communicate quite fluently and more importantly be able to continue your language skills independently, or at university. Spanish at A-level is challenging, requiring dedication and hard-work. It is also extremely rewarding and opens many doors in the future.

For whom is the course suitable?

In order to study Spanish at A-level you will need to have achieved at least Grade 6 at GCSE. You will need to have an interest in the Spanish speaking world and a desire to develop your language skills. You will also need to be confident that you can develop the necessary independent study skills required at this level.

Teaching Methods and Homework commitment:

The main emphasis throughout the two year course is on developing your fluency and accuracy. You will develop a deeper understanding of grammar and also extend your vocabulary. Some teaching is from the front to develop grammatical accuracy and develop cultural understanding but there is also more emphasis placed on independent learning. Students can expect to have about five hours homework a week with assignments ranging from vocabulary tests, grammar exercises and written essays. You will also need to spend a good deal of time reading Spanish articles, watching Spanish films and listening to Spanish music/radio.

Method of Study and Assessment:

Aspects of Hispanic Society

including family, equal rights and cyberspace

Artistic Culture in the Hispanic World

including modern day idols and Spanish regional identity

Multiculturalism in Hispanic Society

including immigration and racism

Aspects of Political Life in the Hispanic Society

including dictatorship and monarchies

Spanish Film and Literature

Assessment:

Paper 1: Listening, Reading and Writing— 50% of A level

Paper 2: Writing— 20% of A level

Paper 3: Speaking—30% of A level



Sport & Physical Activity



Level 3 (Vocational subject)

(Awarding Body – OCR CTEC Extended Certificate/Diploma in Sport & Physical Activity)

What is the course about?

The Level 3 Sport course has an engaging, practical approach to learning and assessment. The emphasis is on Independent Learning. You will work with tutors who will guide you through the course and set deadlines for assignments which must be met. The course covers a range of topics to provide knowledge and understanding of sporting activities and environments. It is designed to provide career related skills allowing you to enter a range of jobs within the sports industry. You will study the structure and function of sectors including, retail, coaching, professional sport and sports tourism, and the general economic impact of sport.

For whom is the course suitable?

This course will suit anyone interested in sports, those wanting a career in the sports industry or those wishing to continue their sports studies at University. No sporting background is required to complete the course but whilst it is not essential, GCSE PE is advantageous as directly relates to the exam content.

Teaching Methods and Homework commitment:

A variety of approaches are used, including note-taking, presentations, video, computer based research, teacher-led sessions and practical sporting activities. Students are required to work independently, completing each assignment, including a teaching module and practical sports skills modules.

What could I go on to do at the end of the course?

The CTEC sport courses are a great choice for students wishing to develop sports industry skills alongside academic qualifications. Progression routes include Physiotherapy, sports coaching, teaching, sports marketing, strength and conditioning, personal training, the armed forces and public services.

Method of Study and Assessment:

Students have the two options when choosing Sport at KS5.

Single Award – (1 A-Level, 5hrs pw): 2 exam units and 3 coursework units

Double Award – (2 A-Level, 10hrs pw): 3 exam units and 9 coursework units.

The course takes two years to complete with students being offered the chance to re-sit the exam if they wish to improve.

Examples of Mandatory Units

Body systems and the effects of physical activity

Sports coaching and activity leadership

Working safely in sport, exercise, health and leisure

Examples of Other Units

Sport and Exercise Psychology

Performance Analysis in Sport and Exercise

Organisation of Sports Events





Travel and Tourism BTEC

Level 3 (Vocational subject)

(Pearson - Extended certificate)

What is the course about?

The travel and tourism course is designed to support learners who are interested in learning about the travel and leisure industry. There is a wide array of assessments which ensure that a variety of skills are developed. You will work with staff who will guide you through the course and set deadlines for assignments which must be met. The course covers a range of topics to provide a thorough understanding of the travel and tourism sector. You will study the importance of tourism on the global economy, the roles associated with the industry, what are the global hot spots for tourism and changing trends. There is an emphasis on synoptic links between the units where students can draw upon all their learning and apply it to realistic contexts. This course is being delivered by the geography department.

For whom is the course suitable?

There is a minimum requirement for a grade 5 in GCSE Geography and/or Business Studies. An interest in tourism, travel and the world around us is essential. The ability to work independently, as well as in small/large groups is important. Organisation to complete coursework and meet deadlines is needed. Whilst there are no requirements for English Language it should be understood that coursework is extended writing. In addition, it will benefit anyone interested in studying a subject that is relevant to their own lives and experience. Suited for people that want to develop the skills and confidence to progress into a vibrant, exciting career in one of the world's largest industries.

Teaching Methods and Homework commitment:

A variety of approaches are used, including notetaking, presentations, video, computer-based research and teacher-led sessions. Students are required to work independently, completing assignments on time, and ensuring all work is up to date. Homework is set on a weekly basis and directly supports the unit studied.

What could I go on to do at the end of the course?

This qualification is designed to prepare you for further education or employment at trainee level within a wide range of travel and tourism sectors. The aims of the course are to develop skills, knowledge and understanding required to enable progression to further qualifications in travel and tourism or related subjects. This course will develop transferable skills including research independence, organisation and presenting; all of which are desirable from employers from a whole array of sectors.

Method of Study and Assessment:

Students are expected to take the course for two years gaining enough credits in total to equate to 1 A level.

This subject will be assessed by 40% coursework and 60% examination

Units covered:

The world of Travel and Tourism – *Exploring the key components and scale of the industry. This module acts as a foundation for the rest of the course.*

Global Destinations – *This module looks at the appeal of global destinations travel planning and factors and trends which impact the industry.*

Principles of Marketing in Travel and Tourism – *Students will investigate the use of marketing and how to meet customers' expectations to inform a promotional campaign of their own.*

Visitor Attractions – *Students will investigate the nature and role of built and natural visitor attractions alongside their success and appeal.*



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