

Today's Learners, Tomorrow's Leaders



Senior Leadership Team



Mrs Fiona Cottam
Principal



Mr Paul Ryan
Head of Secondary



Mr Gareth Brown
Assistant Headteacher - Student Pathways



Ms Elizabeth Penn
Assistant Headteacher - Student Achievement




Mrs Natalie Herbert
Assistant Headteacher - Student Culture

Sixth Form Options Process

To support students through this process, a series of opportunities and information sessions will take place. These include:

- Focused subject specific assemblies and presentations
- Peer guidance and support from our current KS5 students
- One-to-one careers appointments with Mrs Sheedy and/or a member of the Senior Leadership Team
- An informative Options Evening for parents and students
- Parent Teacher Consultations

Following all of this, students will submit their options form and will be asked to electronically select their Sixth Form option choices. This will allow us to get a full idea of the subjects that can be made available and have further discussions if needed.



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ARABIC

COURSE: A-level Arabic Language (9AA0)

EXAM BOARD: Edexcel

SUBJECT LEADER: Mrs Gamal

DIRECTOR OF ARABIC AND ISLAMIC: Mrs Ramadan



SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Students will be accepted onto the course following discussions with the head of Arabic.

WHY STUDY THIS COURSE?

The new Edexcel Level 3 Advanced GCE in Arabic (listening, reading and writing) has been developed to inspire all students to have an appreciation of the language, literature, film and culture of the Arabic-speaking world. The course will enable students to develop advanced level knowledge and understanding of the Arabic language, the culture of the Arabic-speaking world, as well as practical and valuable language and transferable study skills. This course will help to prepare students for higher education and enhance their employability profile.

WHAT DOES THIS COURSE INVOLVE?

The course involves and encourages the enjoyment of texts which will be analysed, discussed and scrutinised. This study of writing will develop the analytical and evaluation skills of students whilst also helping their understanding of how to communicate their ideas with accuracy and precision.

HOW IS THE COURSE ASSESSED?

Examination Paper 1	Examination Paper 2	Examination Paper 3
Externally marked examination	Externally marked examination	Externally marked examination
2 hours and 30 minutes	2 hours and 40 minutes	2 hours and 15 minutes
40%	30%	30%
80 marks.	110 marks.	60 marks
Translation into English, reading comprehension and writing (research question) in Arabic	Translation into Arabic and written response to works	Listening, reading and writing in Arabic

WHY IS THIS A USEFUL QUALIFICATION?

Learning Arabic at A-level will support when meeting people from different countries and finding out more about them. More common career paths include jobs within the editorial work, international translation, research-based jobs, broadcasting, HR and recruitment. Furthermore, many students who study Arabic may later go on to study conversion courses allowing them to access careers as translator

ART AND DESIGN: FINE ART

COURSE: A-level Art & Design: Fine Art (9FA0)

EXAM BOARD: Edexcel

SUBJECT LEADER: Ms Jackson



SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Consultation with head of art. A portfolio is required.

WHY STUDY THIS COURSE?

In A-level Fine Art, the focus is on delving into a more profound exploration and analysis of aesthetic and intellectual concepts. This will use traditional and/or digital media, materials, techniques, and processes. Students are encouraged to engage with complex themes and ideas, aiming to convey profound messages about various aspects of human experience, identity, society, visual language, and technology. Studying Fine Art at this level offers a platform for deep reflection on personal and collective perspectives, inviting students to critically ponder their position in the world as individuals and as part of a broader community.

WHAT DOES THIS COURSE INVOLVE?

Students will be required to work in one or more of the disciplines to communicate their ideas. By working across disciplines, they will extend their understanding of the scope of Fine Art and gain a deeper understanding of specific processes within Fine Art. Students are expected to develop knowledge and understanding of artistic and creative processes and will have more autonomy in their creative processes, project and portfolio building. Students will be taught a variety of recording techniques, these will include dry point mediums such as chalk and charcoal, as well as more advanced materials such as gouache and oil painting. The course will also include print-based techniques such as dry point etching such as Lino printing. Work in Fine Art should form a means of personal enquiry and expression, involving the selection and development of visual materials. Students are required to record work sequentially from a given starting point towards a conclusion. They will be expected to employ creative approaches which go beyond mere observation and recording, covering all four assessment objectives.

HOW IS THE COURSE ASSESSED?

Component 1	Component 2
Unit 1 Coursework	Unit 2 Externally set assignment
60%	40%
This component incorporates three major elements: supporting studies, practical work and a personal study of a minimum 1000 words of continuous prose	Students will receive an exam paper and will have several weeks to complete the preparatory work before they sit a 15-hour exam, which is held over the course of three days

WHY IS THIS A USEFUL QUALIFICATION?

Through the A-level Art and Design course you will develop transferable skills, such as problem solving, communication and critical thinking skills, which will prepare you for further study or the world of work, regardless of the subject or career you wish to pursue. Related careers include areas such as:

- Photography (commercial, fashion, portrait, documentary)
- Film, Media, and Animation, Content Creation, Marketing, and Digital Media
- Graphic Design and Illustration, Architecture, Product & 3D Design
- Fashion, Textiles, and Interior Design, Theatre, Set & Exhibition Design

ART AND DESIGN: PHOTOGRAPHY

COURSE: A-level Art & Design: Photography (9PY0)

EXAM BOARD: Edexcel

SUBJECT LEADER: Ms Jackson



SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Consultation with head of art. A portfolio is required.

WHY STUDY THIS COURSE?

In A-level Fine Art, the focus is on delving into a more profound exploration and analysis of aesthetic and intellectual concepts. This will use traditional and/or digital media, materials, techniques, and processes. Students are encouraged to engage with complex themes and ideas, aiming to convey profound messages about various aspects of human experience, identity, society, visual language, and technology. Studying Fine Art at this level offers a platform for deep reflection on personal and collective perspectives, inviting students to critically ponder their position in the world as individuals and as part of a broader community.

WHAT DOES THIS COURSE INVOLVE?

Students will be required to work in one or more of the disciplines to communicate their ideas. By working across disciplines, they will extend their understanding of the scope of Fine Art and gain a deeper understanding of specific processes within Fine Art. Students are expected to develop knowledge and understanding of artistic and creative processes and will have more autonomy of their creative processes, project and portfolio building. Students will be taught a variety of recording techniques, these will include dry point mediums such as chalk and charcoal, as well as more advanced materials such as gouache and oil painting. The course will also include print-based techniques such as dry point etching such as Lino printing. Work in Fine Art should form a means of personal enquiry and expression, involving the selection and development of visual materials. Students are required to record work sequentially from a given starting point towards a conclusion. They will be expected to employ creative approaches which go beyond mere observation and recording, covering all four assessment objectives.

HOW IS THE COURSE ASSESSED?

Component 1	Component 2
Unit 1 Coursework	Unit 2 Externally set assignment
60%	40%
This component incorporates three major elements: supporting studies, practical work and a personal study of a minimum 1000 words of continuous prose	Students will receive an exam paper and will have several weeks to complete the preparatory work before they sit a 15-hour exam, which is held over the course of three days

WHY IS THIS A USEFUL QUALIFICATION?

Through the Photography course you will develop transferable skills, such as problem solving, communication and critical thinking skills, which will prepare you for further study or the world of work, regardless of the subject or career you wish to pursue. Related careers include areas such as:

- Photography (commercial, fashion, portrait, documentary)
- Film, Media, and Animation, Content Creation, Marketing, and Digital Media
- Graphic Design and Illustration, Architecture, Product & 3D Design
- Fashion, Textiles, and Interior Design, Theatre, Set & Exhibition Design

ART AND DESIGN: TEXTILES DESIGN

COURSE: A-level Art & Design: Textile Design (7204)

EXAM BOARD: AQA

SUBJECT LEADER: Ms McDonagh



SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

This Grade 6 or above in I/GCSE textiles or design and technology.

WHY STUDY THIS COURSE?

This course is a very creative and practical course, giving students an awareness of the elements of textile design, such as shape, line, scale, colour, texture and pattern. Students will build an awareness of their intended audience or purpose for a chosen area of textile design. The course will give the students the ability to respond to an issue, concept or idea working to a brief or answering a need in the chosen area of textile design. Students will learn to understand the relationship of form and function and, where applicable, the constraints of working to a brief.

WHAT DOES THIS COURSE INVOLVE?

Throughout this course students will have the opportunity to develop their skills and understanding of fashion design, research other designers, learn how to pattern cut garments and explore and develop their own style of fashion illustration. These skills can then be transferred into costume design when students develop their ideas for film, television or stage. During textiles design students will work with different materials and components, trialing a variety of surface and dyeing techniques, these ideas can be developed into textiles art or textiles products, such as home furnishings or clothing. In digital textiles students will learn how to transfer their artwork into a digital format, looking at scale and colour while producing repeat patterns which can then be printed onto fabric for further development. This course is a chance to be extremely creative, having the time to develop and explore many areas of fashion and textiles design and manufacture.

HOW IS THE COURSE ASSESSED?

Component 1	Component 2
Personal Investigation	Externally set assignment 40%
60%	40%
96 marks (scaled 3 times to 288)	96 marks (scaled 2 times to 192)
A coursework-based project.	This unit is given by the exam board with preparation completed before the exam, ending in a final practical examination.

WHY IS THIS A USEFUL QUALIFICATION?

Textiles design is a qualification that can help build the skills and the portfolio to gain a place on a creative foundation degree or bachelor's degree in areas such as fashion design, textiles design, visual merchandising, interior design and other fashion and art-based areas.

BIOLOGY

COURSE: A-level Biology (7402)

EXAM BOARD: AQA

SUBJECT LEADER: Mrs Roberts



SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade 7 or above in separate I/GCSE biology.

Grade 8 or above in I/GCSE combined science.

Grade 6 or above in I/GCSE mathematics.

WHY STUDY THIS COURSE?

This A-level Biology explores the theories and principles involved in living systems. You will gain an understanding of how society makes decisions about scientific issues, as well as some of the ways in which the scientific community contributes to the success of the economy and society. If you are interested in recent developments in genetic engineering or disease prevention, understanding how we evolved, tracking down natural resources, the true impact of pollution on the natural world, or animal care and conservation programmes, to name a few, then this is your subject.

WHAT DOES THIS COURSE INVOLVE?

Topics you will learn about include lifestyle, transport, genes and health, development, plants and the environment, the natural environment and species survival, energy, exercise and co-ordination, as well as practical biology and research skills. By the end of the course, you will know about the principles of genetics, molecules, taxonomy, natural selection, evolutionary theory, global warming, bacteria and viruses, and more. The AQA course requires all students to undertake at least one day's field work so there is an additional cost involved.

HOW IS THE COURSE ASSESSED?

Examination Paper 1	Examination Paper 2	Examination Paper 3
Externally marked examinations	Externally marked examinations	Externally marked examinations
2 hours	2 hours	2 hours
35%	35%	35%
91 marks	91 marks	91 marks
Biological molecules, cells, organisms exchange substances with their environment, genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms.	Energy transfers in and between organisms, organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments, genetics, populations, evolution and eco systems. The control of gene expression.	A synopsis examination paper on all content, with a 25-mark synopsis essay at the end.

WHY IS THIS A USEFUL QUALIFICATION?

With A-level Biology, you can go on to study a range of related university courses including audiology, biological sciences, biochemistry, biomedical sciences, dentistry, environmental sciences, evolutionary biology, forensics, healthcare, medicine, medical science, microbiology, neuroscience, nursing, optometry, pharmacy, pharmacology, physiotherapy, podiatry, psychology, radiotherapy, sports science, teaching, veterinary science and zoology. Many students have gone on to careers in medicine, care work, biomedical science, the emergency of uniformed services, healthcare, laboratories and medical administration.

BUSINESS

COURSE: International A-level Business (YBS11)

EXAM BOARD: Edexcel

SUBJECT LEADER: Mr Heffernan



SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade 6 or above in I/GCSE business or economics.

Grade 6 or above in I/GCSE English and mathematics if I/GCSE business or economics was not studied.

WHY STUDY THIS COURSE?

A-level Business provides students with a broad understanding of business operations, strategies and concepts. This course covers a range of topics such as marketing, management, finance, economic influences on business, and human resources, providing students with an in-depth understanding of how businesses operate. This knowledge is essential for students who are interested in pursuing a career in business or entrepreneurship. Additionally, the course enhances critical thinking, analytical, and problem-solving skills, which are valuable in any career path.

WHAT DOES THIS COURSE INVOLVE?

A-level Business is split into four separate units. These units cover four broad categories of study: marketing and people, managing business activities, business decisions and strategy and finally, global business. Throughout these units, students will cover a variety of key topics such as the marketing mix, motivation theory and leadership, entrepreneurship, financial and business plans, production and quality management, competition, business growth and corporate culture. When studying business there is a requirement to work comfortably with graphs and mathematics as well as a need for excellent written skills to evaluate business concepts and theories through essay writing.

HOW IS THE COURSE ASSESSED?

Examination Paper 1	Examination Paper 2	Examination Paper 3	Examination Paper 4
Externally marked examinations: 2 hours	Externally marked examinations: 2 hours	Externally marked examinations: 2 hours	Externally marked examinations: 2 hours
25%	25%	25%	25%
80 marks	80 marks	80 marks	80 marks
Unit 1: Marketing & People	Unit 2: Managing Business Activities	Unit 3: Business Decisions & Strategy	Unit 4: Global business

WHY IS THIS A USEFUL QUALIFICATION?

Business A-level is a highly respected course and provides students with the opportunity to develop a broad skillset and it opens up many potential university and career pathways. Students who have completed the A-level Business course are not only well versed for continuing to study business at university, but it equally gives students a solid knowledge base which can support them should they choose to study economics, finance or ICT at university. Some of the most common career paths for students of business include financial analyst, marketing manager, business development, accountant, data analyst, public relations officer and insurance broker/executive. Additionally, any career path chosen in the future would benefit from an understanding of business, as no matter what profession one chooses, they will be part of a business, e.g. if you wish to be a doctor, even a hospital operates as a business, seeking to generate revenue and cut costs. Understanding how businesses work can support career progression.

CHEMISTRY

COURSE: A-level Chemistry (7405)

EXAM BOARD: AQA

SUBJECT LEADER: Mrs Chowdhury



SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade 7 or above in separate I/GCSE chemistry.

Grade 8 or above in I/GCSE combined science.

Grade 6 or above in I/GCSE mathematics.

WHY STUDY THIS COURSE?

A-level Chemistry is a key subject that connects biology, physics and other sciences, offering a comprehensive understanding of the natural world. It develops critical thinking, problem-solving, and analytical skills, which are highly valued in fields like medicine, engineering, and environmental science. Chemistry also plays a crucial role in tackling global challenges such as climate change, sustainable energy, and healthcare. By linking various scientific disciplines, it prepares students to apply their knowledge in real-world contexts and make informed, impactful contributions.

WHAT DOES THIS COURSE INVOLVE?

A-level Chemistry covers a wide variety of fundamental concepts, including the structure of the atom, the interaction of matter and energy, controlling reactions, patterns in the Periodic Table, and understanding carbon-based molecules. In these topics, you will not only learn facts and build a body of knowledge but also understand and apply key ideas. Many topics involve calculations, so you should feel comfortable rearranging equations and working with numbers. Importantly, chemistry is a hands-on science, and you will regularly conduct experiments. These practical activities will consolidate your theoretical understanding while giving you the chance to use new apparatus, build your skills, and gain confidence in completing safe and accurate practical work.

HOW IS THE COURSE ASSESSED?

Examination Paper 1	Examination Paper 2	Examination Paper 3
Externally marked examinations	Externally marked examinations	Externally marked examinations
2 hours	2 hours	2 hours
35%	35%	30%
105 marks	105 marks	90 marks
A-level Physical and Inorganic chemistry and practical skills	Physical and Organic chemistry and practical skills	All course content and practical skills

WHY IS THIS A USEFUL QUALIFICATION?

Chemistry A-level is highly respected for its broad range of tested skills, making it an excellent choice for many degrees and careers. Often called the 'central science', chemistry is commonly combined with physics or biology. It is a compulsory subject for those pursuing medicine, dentistry, veterinary science, and chemistry-based degrees like pharmacy, pharmacology, and biochemistry. Other careers that value this subject include chemical engineering, forensic science and nanotechnology, pharmacology, toxicology, civil service fast-stream roles, environmental consultancy, and nuclear engineering.

COMPUTER SCIENCE

COURSE: A-level Computer Science (7517)

EXAM BOARD: AQA

SUBJECT LEADER: Mr Kearney



SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade 7 or above in I/GCSE computer science and mathematics.

WHY STUDY THIS COURSE?

Computers have become ubiquitous in 21st Century life. Every industry, both large and small, depends on the technology of yesteryear's science fiction to integrate effectively into modern economies. Computer Science continues to revolutionise global business and our personal lives at every level. Studying Computer Science will give students a fascinating and deeper insight into how technology works, whilst developing their analytical, logical thinking and problem-solving skills.

WHAT DOES THIS COURSE INVOLVE?

The course is intended to give students the opportunity to develop their interest in different aspects of Computer Science, including networking and communication, CPU architecture, algorithm efficiency, object-oriented programming and computer game design. A key component will be the development of advanced programming methods and through this, students will develop their computational thinking skills and learn how to use a high-level programming language such as Python.

HOW IS THE COURSE ASSESSED?

The course comprises three units: Two examination papers and one non-examined assessment

Examination Paper 1	Examination Paper 2	Non-Exam Assessment (NEA)
Externally marked onscreen examination	Externally marked onscreen examination	Independent Programming Project
2 hours 30 minutes	2 hours 30 minutes	
40%	40%	20%
100 marks	100 marks	75 marks
Computational Thinking, Algorithms and Problem Solving	Computer System Theory	

WHY IS THIS A USEFUL QUALIFICATION?

Computer Science is a broad subject that encompasses many niche specialisms. It is also one of the most popular career paths, and, given its level of challenge, tends to be one of the best paid. Should a student decide to pursue the subject at university and beyond, they will have the opportunity to specialise in many areas. Some of the most popular career paths include software engineer, hardware engineer, or systems analyst. However, computer science is a well-respected A-level and can be combined with other subjects for entry to any general degree pathway and course, for example in the fields of research, mathematics physics, design technology, art and other creative design areas.

DESIGN and TECHNOLOGY Product Design

COURSE: A-level Product Design (9DT0)

EXAM BOARD: Edexcel

SUBJECT LEADER: Mr Miller



SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade 6 or above in I/GCSE design and technology.

WHY STUDY THIS COURSE?

This course has been designed to encourage students to take a broad view of design and technology, to develop their capacity to design and make products and to appreciate the complex relations between design, materials, manufacture and marketing. The subject demands a creative, experimental and industrious approach. Innovation and creativity are central hallmarks of the course.

WHAT DOES THIS COURSE INVOLVE?

The course will give students the knowledge and skills to design in different ways, using different strategies and produce products in a variety of materials. Students will investigate areas related to the historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic influences on design and technology. In Year 13 students have the opportunity to put their learning into practice by producing a product or prototype of their choice. They will also gain a real understanding of what it means to be a designer, alongside the knowledge and skills sought by higher education institutions and employers.

HOW IS THE COURSE ASSESSED?

There are 2 components: one examination paper and one non-exam assessment

Examination Paper 1	Non-Exam Assessment (NEA)
Externally marked onscreen examination: 2 hours 30 minutes	A substantial 'design and make' project to be completed over a number of months.
50%	50%
120 marks	
Principles of Design and Technology	

WHY IS THIS A USEFUL QUALIFICATION?

This course is a prime qualification for careers such as product design, industrial design, mechanical engineering, transportation design, architecture, interior design, design consultancy, marketing and advertising. There has been a rising trend of students taking A-level Design and Technology along with Mathematics and Physics for university degree courses in mechanical or similar types of engineering. A combination of Art with Design and Technology, along with Mathematics, also provides a good foundation for those aspiring to architecture and other design-related careers. Aside from career choices, the course will also provide students with a range of problem-solving approaches that can be applied to many of life's day-to-day challenges.

DRAMA and THEATRE

COURSE: A-level Drama and Theatre (9DR0)

EXAM BOARD: Edexcel

SUBJECT LEADER: Mrs Ansell



SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

No prior drama specific learning is required, however, entry to the course is dependent on a consultation with the Head of Department and a Grade 6 or above in I/GCSE English.

WHY STUDY THIS COURSE?

In this course, students pursue their interest in drama and theatre and develop their performance, production and directing skills. Creative thinking, critical evaluation, teamwork, research, analysis and presentation skills will all be extended, as well as learning to evaluate objectively and develop a sound understanding of the influence of social, cultural and historical contexts on theatre.

WHAT DOES THIS COURSE INVOLVE?

Students are expected to explore play texts, devise unique performance pieces and experiment with genres and practitioners. They will become theatre makers and critics, with practical learning and live theatre at the heart of everything we do. The written coursework and examined elements of this course add academic rigour, whilst the coursework-based practical allows students to have control and spread the assessed examination workload across the two years.

HOW IS THE COURSE ASSESSED?

Component 1	Component 2	Component 2
Devising	Theatre Text in Performance	Externally marked examination:
Students devise an original performance piece of theatre, from given stimuli	This unit offers students the chance to demonstrate skills in a performance environment	Theatre Makers in Practice: live theatre evaluation and practical exploration and study of a complete text.
40%	20%	40%

WHY IS THIS A USEFUL QUALIFICATION?

Career path possibilities stemming from A-level Drama and Theatre are broad and varied. Natural progression to theatre school, drama courses and university courses that relate directly to drama and theatre, the Arts and media related courses. However, successful drama students make ideal candidates for university courses that will benefit from the transferable skills acquired. A wide range of courses and careers, including, law, human resources, sociology, media, English, teaching, business and politics, all rely on the core elements of confidence, presentation, leadership, creativity and decision making that are intrinsic to the Drama and Theatre course

ECONOMICS

COURSE: International A-level Economics (YEC11)

EXAM BOARD: Edexcel

SUBJECT LEADER: Mr Heffernan



SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade 6 or above in I/GCSE economics or business.

Grade 6 or above in I/GCSE English and mathematics.

WHY STUDY THIS COURSE?

A-level Economics studies how the world uses its scarce resources. It enables students to develop a strong understanding of the theories and issues of the economic world. These factors influence our everyday lives in a multitude of ways. Throughout the course, students are encouraged to use an enquiring, critical and thoughtful approach to the study of economics. This will help students to understand economic behaviour which can be studied to succeed in today's changing world.

WHAT DOES THIS COURSE INVOLVE?

A-level Economics is split into four separate units. These units cover four broad categories of economic study: microeconomic analysis of markets, macroeconomic performance and policy, economics of business behaviour and developments in the global economy. Throughout these units, students will cover a variety of key topics such as supply and demand, elasticity, inflation, GDP, fiscal and monetary policy, cost and revenue curves, government intervention and economic growth. When studying economics there is a requirement to work comfortably with graphs and mathematics as well as a need for excellent written skills to evaluate economic theories through essay writing.

HOW IS THE COURSE ASSESSED?

Examination Paper 1	Examination Paper 2	Examination Paper 3	Examination Paper 4
Externally marked examination	Externally marked examination	Externally marked examination	Externally marked examination
1 hour 45 minutes	1 hour 45 minutes	2 hours	2 hours
25%	25%	25%	25%
80 marks	80 marks	80 marks	80 marks
Microeconomic analysis of markets	Macroeconomic performance and policy	Business behaviour	Developments in the global economy

WHY IS THIS A USEFUL QUALIFICATION?

Economics A-level is a highly respected course and provides students with the opportunity to develop a broad skillset and opens up many potential university and career pathways. Economics has many cross-curricular areas with business and means that students who have completed the A-level Economics course are not only well versed for continuing to study economics at university, but it equally gives students a solid knowledge base which can support them should they choose to study a business-related field at university. Some of the most common career paths for students of economics include economists, financial analyst, statistician, policy analyst, actuary, accountant and investment analyst. Additionally, as economics is a study of how our world economies work, it can be combined with other subjects and give students a pathway into many other areas of study.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

COURSE: A-level English Language (7707)

EXAM BOARD: AQA

SUBJECT LEADER: Mrs Ralph



SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

The Grade 6 or above in I/GCSE English language and literature.

WHY STUDY THIS COURSE?

A level English Language offers the opportunity to develop expertise by engaging creatively and critically with a wide range of texts and discourses. Students will create texts and reflect critically on their own processes of production, while analysing the texts produced by others. The course explores the study of the English Language both as a medium of communication and as a topic, with the emphasis on the lines of enquiry, debate different views and work independently to research aspects of language in use. Language is seen as a creative tool for expression and social connection, as well as for individual cognition. The study of language as a symbolic system used to assert power in society is also fundamental to this course. The methods of analysis appropriate to the fields of English language and linguistics underpin all the components of the course. The non-examined assessment offers students to opportunity to explore their own creative writing and investigate an area of language use they are interested in.

WHAT DOES THIS COURSE INVOLVE?

The topics and titles of the subject content include 'language, the individual and society' focusing on individual and immediate social contexts for language, and 'language diversity and change' working outwards to consider larger scale public discourses about change and variety, drawing on regional, ethnic, national and global. Questions such as 'Is the English language racist?' and 'Is the English language sexist?' are explored with the links to social context, theoretical debates and emerging discourses. For the non-examined assessment element of the course, 'Language in Action', students will investigate sociolinguists and discourse in action, such as in specific professions or social groups. Creative, discursive and transactional writing as a component of the non-examined assessment also allows students to develop their own voices.

HOW IS THE COURSE ASSESSED?

Examination Paper 1	Examination Paper 2	Non-Exam Assessment (NEA)
Externally marked examination	Externally marked examination	Internally assessed, externally moderated.
2 hours 30 minutes	2 hours 30 minutes	3500 words
40%	40%	20%
100 marks	100 marks	100 marks
Language, the Individual and Society	Language, Diversity and Change	

WHY IS THIS A USEFUL QUALIFICATION?

The study of language, linguistics, human communication and expression is directly related to fields of employment including journalism, marketing, writing, international translation, research-based jobs, broadcasting, HR and recruitment, sociolinguistics, psychology, sociology, media studies and public discourses such as feminism, post colonialism and Marxism.

ENGLISH LITERATURE

COURSE: A-level English Literature (9ET0)

EXAM BOARD: Edexcel

SUBJECT LEADER: Miss Connell



SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

The Grade 6 or above in I/GCSE English language and literature.

WHY STUDY THIS COURSE?

The study of English Literature at A-level is an exciting and immersive course which enables the development of a range of transferable skills whilst also nurturing a love of Literature. The scope of study includes, but is not confined to, modern drama, social critiques and poetry. Through these studies, students will develop the ability to analyse and offer perceptive interpretations of literature to communicate effectively both orally and in writing and finally, to engage with the ever-changing world around them through the accounts of wide and varied writers in history. The course will undoubtedly encourage discussion and passion whilst facilitating a variety of different career paths and opportunities for further education.

WHAT DOES THIS COURSE INVOLVE?

The course involves and encourages the enjoyment of texts from a range of time periods and cultures. Through the course study, texts will be analysed, discussed and scrutinised in line with critical writing and articles surrounding the texts and its publication. Students will develop their analytical and evaluation skills whilst also understanding how to communicate their ideas with accuracy and precision. The course opens a range of pathways for further education and study, both in the field of English and other professions such as law and the media.

HOW IS THE COURSE ASSESSED?

Examination Paper 1	Examination Paper 2	Non-Exam Assessment (NEA)
Externally marked examination	Externally marked examination	Internally marked and externally moderated
75 marks	75 marks	50 marks
40%	40%	20%
3 hours	2 hours 30 minutes	No set time
Love through the Ages	Texts in Shared Contexts	Comparative Study

WHY IS THIS A USEFUL QUALIFICATION?

The transferable skills developed when studying Literature means that there are very few careers that are off limits in the future. More common career paths include jobs within the journalism sector, teaching, editorial work, international translation, research-based jobs, broadcasting, HR and recruitment. Furthermore, many students who study English may later go on to study conversion courses allowing them to access careers in law, medicine or dentistry.

FRENCH

COURSE: A-level French (8658)

EXAM BOARD: AQA

SUBJECT LEADER: Mr Evans



SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Languages Grade 6 or above in I/GCSE French of fluent and native speaker in target language.

WHY STUDY THIS COURSE?

Languages enable you to enrich your global cultural knowledge, but they can also improve your comprehension and critical thinking skills. In languages, we focus on developing the four main skills, speaking, listening, reading and writing. Being able to speak a second language will enable you to communicate with native speakers on a conversational level. You will also be given presentations and speeches in a professional context. Studying a language will expose you to different speaking styles, accents and dialects, and help you understand a second language when spoken at speed. Your comprehension skills will be improved through reading in different languages. Learning a language at A-level will expand your vocabulary and improve your written style in your target language as well as your native language. You will develop the ability to write in many different formats.

WHAT DOES THIS COURSE INVOLVE?

This course builds on the knowledge, understanding and skills gained at GCSE. It constitutes an integrated study with a focus on language, culture and society. It fosters a range of transferable skills including communication, critical thinking, research skills and creativity, which are valuable to the individual and society. The content is suitable for students who wish to progress to employment or further study, including a modern languages degree.

HOW IS THE COURSE ASSESSED?

Examination Paper 1	Examination Paper 2	Examination Paper 3
Externally marked examination	Externally marked examination	Internally marked and externally moderated
40%	30%	30%
Listening, Reading and Translation	Two essays about a chosen book and film studied in lessons	An assessment on expression of topics studied in lessons and a presentation of a chosen research project

WHY IS THIS A USEFUL QUALIFICATION?

Languages if you have a talent for learning languages, then you might want to consider studying French at A-level. You will find that career prospects are enhanced by the possessions of an additional language. Many degree courses can also be studied jointly with French. But more than that, French, as with any other language, provides a skill that you will take with you beyond A-level and university. It will provide you with an array of new opportunities and will develop your ability to engage with an understanding of other cultures.

FURTHER MATHEMATICS

COURSE: A-level Further Mathematics (9FM0)

EXAM BOARD: Edexcel

SUBJECT LEADER: Mr MacBlain



SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade 8 or above in I/GCSE mathematics.

WHY STUDY THIS COURSE?

Further Mathematics is a separate A-level which can be particularly useful to students who wish to study mathematically based courses in higher education. Students wishing to take A-level Further Mathematics must do so alongside A-level Mathematics, thereby using two option blocks.

WHAT DOES THIS COURSE INVOLVE?

The course is comprised of four modules, two of which are in Core Pure Mathematics covering topics such as proof, complex numbers, matrices, further algebra and functions, further calculus, further vectors, polar coordinates, hyperbolic functions and differential equations. The remaining half is comprised of 2 other optional modules including Further Pure Mathematics 1 and 2, Further Statistics 1 and 2, Further Mechanics 1 and 2 and Decision Mathematics 1 and 2. A selection of combinations will be offered to cater for the cohort.

HOW IS THE COURSE ASSESSED?

Students will sit four written examinations at the end of their second year of study.

Examination Paper 1	Examination Paper 2	Examination Paper 3 and 4
Externally marked examination	Externally marked examination	Externally marked examination
1 hour 30 minutes	1 hour 30 minutes	1 hour 30 minutes
25%	25%	25%
75 marks	75 marks	75 marks
Further Pure Mathematics 1 (9FM0/01)	Further Pure Mathematics 2 (9FM0/02)	Two options offered for this examination (9FM0/3A-D and 4A-G)

WHY IS THIS A USEFUL QUALIFICATION?

If you have a particular talent and enjoy mathematics, then you should consider studying Further Mathematics. You will extend the knowledge you already have gained through studying the A-level course and encounter new areas of mathematics. The mathematics covered will be helpful not just to students intending to study mathematics at degree level but also to any potential physicists, engineers or computer scientists. Advanced GCE Mathematics is required by degree subjects as diverse as architecture and medicine. Many of the leading universities also specify that students should have studied Further Mathematics to at least some degree to study a mathematics related course. Therefore, students should research the requirements for their preferred universities early to ensure entry requirements are met.

GEOGRAPHY

COURSE: A-level Geography (9GEO)

EXAM BOARD: Edexcel

SUBJECT LEADER: Mrs Keeley



SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade 6 or above in I/GCSE geography.

Grade 6 or above in I/GCSE combined science and mathematics.

WHY STUDY THIS COURSE?

Geography gives you the opportunity to further develop your understanding and interpretation of issues affecting people, places, and environments, and change both spatially and temporally. A-level Geography learners will develop an understanding of the principal processes operating within physical geography and human geography and an understanding of the causes and effects of change on natural and human environments. In addition, they will develop an awareness of how to use geographical analysis to understand and solve contemporary human and environmental problems and will be able to handle and evaluate different types of sources of information. The skills to think logically and to present an ordered and coherent argument in a variety of ways is integral to the course.

WHAT DOES THIS COURSE INVOLVE?

Geographical skills and practical work are embedded throughout the course. This approach provides opportunities for developing skills in using and interpreting geographical data but also increases the appeal of the course, the enjoyment of the subject. Practical work helps you to acquire a secure understanding of the syllabus topics and to appreciate the interdependent nature of physical and human systems. Geography by its nature is a practical subject. You will develop your practical skills by carrying out fieldwork and geographical investigations throughout the course. The Edexcel course requires all students to undertake at least four days' fieldwork, so there is an additional cost involved.

HOW IS THE COURSE ASSESSED?

Examination Paper 1	Examination Paper 2	Examination Paper 3	Non-Exam Assessment (NEA)
Externally marked examination	Externally marked examination	Externally marked examination	Non-examination assessment
30%	30%	20%	20%
Core Physical Geography	Core Human Geography	Synoptic Themes within the compulsory content area	Independent Investigation (minimum of four days fieldwork carried out in relation to processes in physical and human geography)

WHY IS THIS A USEFUL QUALIFICATION?

Geography is well known as a subject that links to all other subjects in the curriculum, so an A-level in Geography is a stepping-stone to a wide range of future opportunities. A-level Geography provides an excellent foundation for studies in further or higher education. Employment opportunities include journalism, media, engineering, ICT, travel and tourism, environmental management, geology, marketing, business management and teaching. Geographers are everywhere.

GERMAN

COURSE: A-level German (7662)

EXAM BOARD: AQA

SUBJECT LEADER: Mr Evans



SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade 6 or above in I/GCSE German or fluent and native speaker in target language.

WHY STUDY THIS COURSE?

The academic benefits of learning a language at A-level are just as important as the professional benefits. Languages enable you to enrich your global cultural knowledge, but they can also improve your comprehension and critical thinking skills. In languages, we focus on developing the four main skills, speaking, listening, reading and writing. Being able to speak a second language will enable you to communicate with native speakers on a conversational level. You will also be able to give presentations and speeches in a professional context. Studying a language will expose you to different speaking styles, accents, and dialects, not to mention helping you understand a second language when spoken at speed. Your comprehension skills will be improved through reading in different languages. You will be able to read new books and understand newspapers and online news sites in another language. Learning a language at A-level will expand your vocabulary and improve your written style in your target language as well as your native language. You will develop the ability to write in many different formats, for example, emails, texts, essays and you will be able to understand signs, alerts and public notices.

WHAT DOES THIS COURSE INVOLVE?

This course builds on the knowledge, understanding and skills gained at GCSE. It constitutes an integrated study with a focus on language, culture and society. It fosters a range of transferable skills including communication, critical thinking, research skills and creativity, which are valuable to the individual and society. The content is suitable for students who wish to progress to employment or further study, including a modern languages degree.

HOW IS THE COURSE ASSESSED?

Examination Paper 1	Examination Paper 2	Examination Paper 3
Externally marked examination	Externally marked examination	Externally marked examination
1 hour and 45 minutes	1 hour and 45 minutes	1 hour and 45 minutes
40%	30%	30%
It includes listening, reading and translation	Two essays about a chosen book and film studied in lessons	An assessment on expression of topics studied in lessons and a presentation of a chosen research project

WHY IS THIS A USEFUL QUALIFICATION?

If you have a talent for learning languages, then you might want to consider studying German at A-level. You will find that career prospects are enhanced by the possession of an additional language. Many degree courses can also be studied jointly with German. But more than that, German, as with any other language, provides a skill that you will take with you beyond A-levels and university. It will provide you with an array of new opportunities and will develop your ability to engage with and understand other cultures.

HISTORY

COURSE: A-level History (7041, 7042)

EXAM BOARD: AQA

SUBJECT LEADER: Mr Hatcher



SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade 6 or above in I/GCSE history.

If I/GCSE history has not been studied, admission to the course is still possible for candidates who have a keen interest following a discussion with the Head of Department.

WHY STUDY THIS COURSE?

The History A-level course will appeal to students who have an interest in the past, enjoy investigation, discovery and debate and putting forward a well-argued case. Students should want to improve their analytical skills, want to study a subject which encourages the formulation of opinions and want to broaden their studies to include a humanities subject whilst keeping their options open for the future. The course also enables students to develop key skills in the areas of communication, research (particularly the plethora of online resources now available), problem solving, working with others and improving own learning and performance. The course is well supported by an extensive range of varied resources, and the teaching strategies focus on student involvement and motivation.

WHAT DOES THIS COURSE INVOLVE?

Unit studies in this course include:

- The Tudors: England 1485 – 1603
- Democracy, and Nazism: Germany 1918-45
- The Civil Rights Movement 1861-1965

HOW IS THE COURSE ASSESSED?

There are three components: Two examination papers and one non-exam assessment.

Examination Paper 1	Examination Paper 2	Non-Exam Assessment (NEA)
Externally marked examination	Externally marked examination	Internally marked and externally moderated
2 hours 30 minutes	2 hours 30 minutes	
40%	40%	20%

WHY IS THIS A USEFUL QUALIFICATION?

Students who study History at this level will have access to a wide range of career and higher education opportunities. By the end of the course, students will have learned how to evaluate and analyse information, how to weigh up evidence and how to communicate complex ideas effectively. History continues to be a highly regarded subject, and these skills are recognised and valued by employers, universities and colleges. History combines well with Mathematics and Science subjects to create an attractive portfolio of qualifications, as well as with English and Modern Foreign Languages. History provides an excellent foundation for a number of popular careers including journalism, law and business.

MATHEMATICS

COURSE: A-level Mathematics (9MA0)

EXAM BOARD: Edexcel

SUBJECT LEADER: Mr MacBlain



SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade 7 or above in I/GCSE in mathematics.

WHY STUDY THIS COURSE?

Although traditionally seen as complementing the sciences, mathematics forms a compatible combination with many other subjects and is very popular with employers. The statistics element of the course may be particularly helpful with geography, economics, biology and psychology while the mechanics units are helpful for students who hope to study physics or engineering. The course will enable students to extend their range of mathematical skills and use them in more difficult, unstructured problems. They will also begin to recognise how real-world problems can be represented mathematically and how models can be applied and refined. Students will develop an awareness of the relevance of mathematics to other fields of study, to the world of work and to society in general.

WHAT DOES THIS COURSE INVOLVE?

The Advanced GCE course in Mathematics aims to build on students' knowledge from IGCSE Mathematics. The course further develops a student's understanding of Mathematics and mathematical processes, helping them to form logical arguments and construct mathematical proofs. Pure Mathematics, Mechanics and Statistics are studied. In Pure Mathematics the topics include proof, algebra and trigonometry together with differentiation and integration. The Statistics unit includes probability, handling of data, correlation, the binomial and normal distributions and hypothesis testing. The Mechanics unit covers kinematics, the application of Newton's Laws and moments.

HOW IS THE COURSE ASSESSED?

Examination Paper 1	Examination Paper 2	Examination Paper 3
Externally marked examination	Externally marked examination	Externally marked examination
2 hours	2 hours	2 hours
33.3%	33.3%	33.3%
100 marks	100 marks	100 marks
Pure Mathematics 1 (9MA0/01)	Pure Mathematics 2 (9MA0/02)	Statistics and Mechanics (9MA0/03)

WHY IS THIS A USEFUL QUALIFICATION?

Mathematics is welcomed by Higher Education for admission to degrees in the sciences, geography, economics and business studies, as well as being an essential requirement for engineering degree courses and careers related to these fields.

MEDIA STUDIES

COURSE: A-level Media Studies (7572)

EXAM BOARD: AQA

SUBJECT LEADER: Mrs Boulis-Smith



SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade 7 or above in I/GCSE English language and literature.

Grade 6 or above in I/GCSE media studies is preferable (or a similar humanities-based subject).

WHY STUDY THIS COURSE?

A Level Media Studies develops analytical, evaluative and creative skills. You will learn to write extended essays that combine theory, history, culture and politics with detailed analysis of media products. Alongside this academic focus, you will gain practical experience producing your own media work aiming for industry standard.

WHAT DOES THIS COURSE INVOLVE?

You will study a wide range of media forms including print, radio, TV, film, magazines, newspapers, advertising, video games and online/social media.

The course requires:

- Strong extended writing and analysis skills.
- Learning and applying key media theories.
- Awareness of British media history, culture and politics.
- Practical production work linked to theory.

It is both creative and demanding, ideal for students who enjoy debate, writing and critical thinking.

HOW IS THE COURSE ASSESSED?

Examination Paper 1	Examination Paper 2	Non-Exam Assessment (NEA)
Externally marked examination	Externally marked examination	Internally assessed, externally moderated.
35%	35%	30%
Media One Close Study Products (CSP's) and one unseen media product.	Media Two Close Study Products (CSP's) and one unseen media product.	Creative Media project based on a brief from AQA with a written statement of intent

WHY IS THIS A USEFUL QUALIFICATION?

Media Studies combines creativity with academic rigour. It builds skills in critical thinking, extended writing, research and cultural awareness, as well as media production. These are valuable for careers in journalism, marketing, advertising, content creation, broadcasting, law, politics and business.

MUSIC

COURSE: A-level Music (9MU0)

EXAM BOARD: Edexcel

SUBJECT LEADER: Mr Ansell



SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade 7 or above in I/GCSE music or equivalent qualification. Grade 5 or above in at least one instrument.

WHY STUDY THIS COURSE?

A-level Music is a rigorous academic course which tests many different areas of a student's abilities and sets them up well for university. Several studies have shown that music benefits learning by activating all brain areas: auditory (sound processing); motor (rhythm processing) and limbic (emotions). Music also encourages and nurtures many transferable skills, such as independent learning, teamwork, performance and presentation skills, dedication, and time management to name a few. These skills will aid all students, no matter what their chosen career path. Students will also improve their listening and analysis skills, learning how to become both constructive and critical about both their own work and others.

WHAT DOES THIS COURSE INVOLVE?

The course is split into three components. The performing component is worth 30% of the overall grade and involves an eight-minute recital on your chosen instrument(s). The composing component is worth 30% of the overall grade and involves a 'free' composition based on the students' interests as well as a composition exercise based on a Bach Chorale. These components take place throughout the course and are submitted in for marking in May of Year 13. The appraising takes the form of a 2 hour-10-minute exam at the end of Year 13 where students are tested on their knowledge of the set works they have been studying. These are pieces taken from 400 years of music history and include pieces by JS Bach, Igor Stravinsky, The Beatles, and Kate Bush. Students are taught to analyse these pieces and answer a range of questions about them.

HOW IS THE COURSE ASSESSED?

The course comprises of three units: Two examination papers and one non-exam assessment.

Component 1	Component 2	Component 2
Performing	Composition	Externally marked examination: 2 hour 10 minutes
30%	30%	40%
Consists of an 8-minute recital of pieces learned throughout the course	Consists of two compositions in 6 minutes	Appraising – an examination based of six areas of study and eighteen set works

WHY IS THIS A USEFUL QUALIFICATION?

Studying music teaches many important skills, and the dedication and concentration skills that music develops are transferable to any profession, however the creativity that is nurtured and encouraged through Music A-level can aid and assist in many other areas. It is not uncommon to see music students go on to study medicine or law at university because of the core skills music has taught them over their formative years.

PHYSICS

COURSE: A-level Physics (7408)

EXAM BOARD: AQA

SUBJECT LEADER: Mrs Rogers



SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade 7 or above in separate I/GCSE physics or a grade 8 or above in I/GCSE combined science. Grade 7 or above in I/GCSE mathematics.

WHY STUDY THIS COURSE?

This subject combines practical skills with theoretical ideas to develop descriptions of the physical universe. You will learn about everything from kinematics to cosmology and many recent developments in fascinating topics, such as particle physics. If you are interested in the limits of space, the beginning of time and everything in between, this is the subject for you. Physics is more than a subject – it trains your brain to think beyond boundaries. One day a physicist will discover something that will change the way in which we see the world today. Discoveries in physics have formed the foundation of countless technological advances, which are used throughout many scientific areas such as quantum computing, medicine and nanotechnology. Physics will play a huge future role in solving many global problems such as energy demands, global warming and public health.

WHAT DOES THIS COURSE INVOLVE?

A-level Physics will introduce new concepts such as cosmology, quarks and quantum physics. Topics covered include Mechanics, Waves, Fields, Electricity, Thermal and Nuclear Physics. Lots of these topics have been introduced in the GCSE course but at A-level, students will get a more in-depth knowledge of kinematics, dynamics and materials science, which will broaden the students' horizons into the diversity of physics careers. A-level Physics is a mixture of highly conceptual thinking and very practical applications. You need to be able to think about abstract ideas such as fields, but be able to apply those ideas to how, for instance, electric motors work. Getting accurate results from experiments requires practice and competence in the use of lab equipment. Physics students need a strong head for numbers. Calculations are an important part of A-level Physics, and you need to be comfortable with algebra and rearranging equations.

HOW IS THE COURSE ASSESSED?

Examination Paper 1	Examination Paper 2	Examination Paper 3
Externally marked examination	Externally marked examination	Externally marked examination
2 hours	2 hours	2 hours
34%	34%	32%
85 marks	85 marks	80 marks
Periodic Motion	Thermal Physics	Practical skills and data analysis and one optional topic from Astrophysics, Medical Physics, Engineering Physics, Turning Points in Physics and Electronics

WHY IS THIS A USEFUL QUALIFICATION?

An A-level Physics qualification is very sought after with employers and is vital for many university courses and careers. A good grade in A-level Physics demonstrates to an employer that you have analytical and mathematical skills that you can apply to real life situations. There are many possible career paths taking this course will create for you, for example: engineering, medicine, forensic science, astronomy, cosmology, electronics, power generation, finance and many more.

POLITICS

COURSE: A-level Politics (7152)

EXAM BOARD: AQA

SUBJECT LEADER: Mr Hatcher



SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade 6 or above in I/GCSE in history or geography.

If neither have been studied at I/GCSE, admission to the course is still possible for candidates who have a keen interest following a discussion with the Head of Department.

WHY STUDY THIS COURSE?

A-level Politics offers an engaging and relevant course that gives students a thorough understanding of how government and politics work in both the UK and the USA. Students study various institutions and systems of government in both countries, as well as key political ideologies that shaped the modern world, including liberalism, conservatism, socialism and nationalism. The course develops skills in analysis, debate and written arguments, and helps students to form and express their views with confidence. Politics is an ideal preparation for university study and careers in law, government, journalism and business.

WHAT DOES THIS COURSE INVOLVE?

Topics for this course include:

- The government and politics of the UK
- The government and politics of the USA
- Comparative Politics and Political Ideas

HOW IS THE COURSE ASSESSED?

Examination Paper 1	Examination Paper 2	Examination Paper 3
Externally marked examination	Externally marked examination	Externally marked examination
2 hours	2 hours	2 hours
33%	33%	33%
The government and politics of the UK	The government and politics of the USA	Comparative Politics and Political Ideas

WHY IS THIS A USEFUL QUALIFICATION?

This subject is well suited to students considering careers in international relations, politics, journalism, business or law. It is also highly regarded in professions such as the media, the civil service, government agencies and international development, where an understanding of how nations interact and how they manage interdependence is essential.

PSYCHOLOGY

COURSE: A-level Psychology (7182)

EXAM BOARD: AQA

SUBJECT LEADER: Mr Rogers



SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade 6 or above in two I/GCSE science subjects.

WHY STUDY THIS COURSE?

A-level Psychology will appeal to a cross section of students, regardless of whether they have studied the subject before. It builds on skills developed in the sciences and humanities and enables progression into a wide range of other subjects.

WHAT DOES THIS COURSE INVOLVE?

Psychology enables students to look at the world through different eyes from different perspectives. It helps improve teamwork and interpersonal and communication skills. Students' ability to plan and conduct scientific investigations will also improve, as well as research skills. Throughout the course students will also find that their analytical skills are enhanced, and they will learn to interpret information in a more effective manner. Although not a facilitating subject, it has a core focus and overlaps with elements of Mathematics and Science.

HOW IS THE COURSE ASSESSED?

Three examination papers worth 33% of each of the final grade. At least 10% of the overall assessment of Psychology will contain mathematical skills equivalent to Level 2 or above. At least 25-30% of the overall assessment will assess skills, knowledge and understanding in relation to research methods.

Examination Paper 1	Examination Paper 2	Examination Paper 3
Externally marked examination	Externally marked examination	Externally marked examination
2 hours	2 hours	2 hours
33%	33%	33%
Introductory Topics in Psychology	Psychology in Context	Issues and Options in Psychology

WHY IS THIS A USEFUL QUALIFICATION?

A-level Psychology links directly to the following fields and indirectly with many more: childhood studies, physiotherapy, speech therapy, sociology, sports science. Studying A-level Psychology can be beneficial to most careers, in particular careers as a psychologist, therapist and mental health worker. It is also very useful for careers in business, management and social work, as the course will help you to understand the mindset of your clients.

SOCIOLOGY

COURSE: A-level Sociology (7192)

EXAM BOARD: AQA

SUBJECT LEADER: Ms Cunningham



SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade 6 or above in I/GCSE English language, English literature, or a humanities subject such as history or geography.

WHY STUDY THIS COURSE?

A-level Sociology offers the opportunity to explore society in depth by examining how it functions, how it changes, and how inequalities based on class, gender, ethnicity, age and power affect individuals and communities. Students will investigate key social structures and processes, considering the influence of institutions such as education, the family, the media, and the criminal justice system.

The course encourages students to think critically, evaluate arguments, and understand multiple perspectives, from Marxism and Feminism to Postmodernism. You'll learn to develop evidence-based arguments and articulate your views confidently through written and verbal communication.

WHAT DOES THIS COURSE INVOLVE?

The course is structured around key topics and themes including:

- Education, Families and Households, Media, and Crime and Deviance
- Theoretical approaches including functionalism, Marxism, feminism, interactionism, and postmodernism
- Research methods used in Sociology, including their design, strengths, and limitations
- A focus on contemporary UK society with global comparisons
- Understanding of key concepts such as consensus, conflict, social structure, and social action
- Students are expected to draw connections across topic areas and consider how sociological theories apply in real-world contexts.

HOW IS THE COURSE ASSESSED?

Examination Paper 1	Examination Paper 2	Examination Paper 3
Education with Theory and Methods	Topics in Sociology	Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods
2 hour written exam	2 hour written exam	2 hour written exam
33%	33%	33%
80 marks	80 marks	80 marks
Introductory Topics in Psychology	Psychology in Context	Issues and Options in Psychology

WHY IS THIS A USEFUL QUALIFICATION?

Sociology is ideal for students interested in understanding people and society. It supports careers in areas such as social research, education, government, law, criminal justice, politics, and journalism. The ability to analyse complex issues and understand different perspectives is highly valued in both higher education and the workplace.

SPANISH

COURSE: A-level Spanish (7692)

EXAM BOARD: AQA

SUBJECT LEADER: Mr Evans



SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade 6 or above in I/GCSE Spanish or fluent and a native speaker in the target language.

WHY STUDY THIS COURSE?

Languages enable you to enrich your global cultural knowledge, but they can also improve your comprehension and critical thinking skills. In languages, we focus on developing the four main skills, speaking, listening, reading and writing. Being able to speak a second language will enable you to communicate with native speakers at conversational level. You will also be able to give presentations and speeches in a professional context. Studying a language will expose you to different speaking styles, accents and dialects, and help you understand a second language when spoken at speed. Your comprehension skills will be improved through reading in different languages. Learning a language at A-level will expand your vocabulary and improve your written style in your target language as well as your native language. You will develop the ability to write in many different formats.

WHAT DOES THIS COURSE INVOLVE?

This course builds on the knowledge, understanding and skills gained at GCSE. It constitutes an integrated study with a focus on language, culture and society. It fosters a range of transferable skills including communication, critical thinking, research skills and creativity, which are valuable to the individual and society. The content is suitable for students who wish to progress to employment or further study, including a modern languages degree.

HOW IS THE COURSE ASSESSED?

Assessment is through examinations at the end of the 2-year course.

Examination Paper 1	Examination Paper 2	Examination Paper 3
Externally marked examination	Externally marked examination	Externally marked examination
40%	30%	30%
Listening, Reading and Translation	Two essays about a chosen book and film studied in lessons	An assessment on expression of topics studied in lessons and a presentation of a chosen research project

WHY IS THIS A USEFUL QUALIFICATION?

If you have a talent for learning languages, then you might want to consider studying Spanish at A-level. You will find that career prospects are enhanced by the possession of an additional language. Many degree courses can also be studied jointly with Spanish. But more than that, Spanish, as with any other language, provides a skill that you will take with you beyond A-levels and university. It will provide you with an array of new opportunities and will develop your ability to engage with and understand other cultures.



BTEC SUBJECT COURSE GUIDE

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As we are writing this booklet, we are also considering the option of offering BTEC International Level 3 Hospitality

BUSINESS

COURSE: BTEC International Level 3 in Business

EXAM BOARD: Edexcel

SUBJECT LEADER: Mr Heffernan



SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade 5 or above in IGCSE business.

If not studied, Grade 5 or above in I/GCSE mathematics and English, plus discussion with the head of department.

WHY STUDY THIS COURSE?

The Pearson BTEC International Level 3 in Business is a two-year qualification designed for any student who prefers a more practical-based learning. The qualification aims to provide a wide-ranging study of the Business sector and support students who wish to pursue a career in business, primarily via higher education. BTEC courses enable students to develop a broad range of skills through conducting primary and secondary research, report writing, referencing and presenting, among others.

WHAT DOES THIS COURSE INVOLVE?

BTEC International Level 3 Diploma in Business (Double – 720GLH). The course is assessed over 720 guided learning hours, which is the equivalent in size to two International A-levels. As part of the course, 5 mandatory units will be studied. These are: exploring business, research and planning a marketing campaign, business finance, managing an event, and business decision making. In addition, learners take one optional unit.

BTEC International Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma in Business (Single – 360GLH). The course is assessed over 360 guided learning hours, which is equivalent in size to one International A-level. As part of the course, 2 mandatory units will be studied. These are: exploring business and research and planning a marketing campaign. In addition, learners take optional units such as branding, international business, business ethics, management accounting and career paths.

HOW IS THE COURSE ASSESSED?

International BTECs are internally assessed, allowing for practical assignments that combine knowledge and career-related skills. The assignments are provided by Pearson allowing for standardisation across the BTEC framework. Assignments are scenario based and designed to be work relevant, for example by researching and presenting information and demonstrating the skills needed for employment. Internally assessed assignments are then sampled by Pearson to ensure that rigorous standards are being applied and for students to achieve their certification.

WHY IS THIS A USEFUL QUALIFICATION?

The BTEC International is designed to give learners the opportunity to develop skills for university as well as employability skills. Students will develop problem-solving skills, use critical thinking, develop a range of communication skills, work collaboratively, learn how to self-manage and develop resilience. BTEC Business is a useful course for progression into a range of careers and University courses such as accountancy, marketing, human resources and economics. The BTEC qualification provides a more applied and practical way of learning for students interested in Business.

SPORT

COURSE: BTEC International Level 3 in Sport

EXAM BOARD: Edexcel

SUBJECT LEADER: Mr Lappin



SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade 5 or above in PE at I/GCSE.

If not studied, entry upon discussion with the head of department.

WHY STUDY THIS COURSE?

BTEC Sport provides students with a solid foundation in the sports sector, enabling them to develop the essential skills required for gaining employment, securing career progression or, advancing towards further qualifications and training required to achieve their sporting ambitions. It is designed specifically to give students a hands-on approach in a variety of sporting fields, including several practical elements. Students will complete tasks set specifically geared to their needs and expertise.

WHAT DOES THESE COURSE INVOLVE?

BTEC International Level 3 Diploma in Sport (Double)

The course is assessed over 720 guided learning hours, which is equivalent in size to two International A-levels. As part of the course, 5 mandatory units will be studied. These are: health, wellbeing and sport, careers in the sport and active leisure industry, ethics, behaviours and values, developing coaching skills and inclusive coaching. In addition, learners take optional units that support the progression route identified in inclusive coaching. In addition, learners take optional units that support the progression route identified in the qualification title. Optional units may include some of the following: sports psychology, fitness testing, physical activity, sport nutrition for physical performance, influence of technology in sport and development and sports performance analysis.

BTEC International Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma in Sport (Single)

The course is assessed over 360 guided learning hours and is equivalent to one International A-level. As part of the course, one mandatory unit will be studied: health, wellbeing and sport. In addition, learners take optional units which may include some of the following: fitness testing, sports development, influence of technology in sport and physical activity and practical sports performance.

HOW IS THE COURSE ASSESSED?

International BTECs are internally assessed, allowing for practical assignments that combine knowledge and career-related skills. At least 25% of these assignments will be set by Pearson to provide additional external standardisation. Assignments are scenario based and designed to be work relevant, for example by researching and presenting information and demonstrating the skills needed for employment.

WHY IS THIS A USEFUL QUALIFICATION?

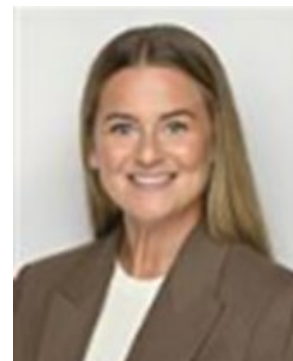
The BTEC qualification in Sport provides an introduction to the sector for learners looking to build a career in sport, within one of its occupational areas. These areas include careers in exercise and fitness, coaching and leadership, and sports development. It also compliments several other subjects and supports entry to higher education courses in a very wide range of disciplines.

TRAVEL AND TOURISM

COURSE: BTEC International Level 3 in Travel and Tourism

EXAM BOARD: Edexcel

SUBJECT LEADER: Ms Whittet



SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade 5 or above in IGCSE Geography.

If not studied, Grade 5 or above in I/GCSE mathematics and English, plus discussion with the head of department.

WHY STUDY THIS COURSE?

The Pearson Edexcel BTEC Level 3 in Travel and Tourism is an excellent starting point for anyone looking to enter one of the world's most dynamic and rapidly expanding industries. This course takes a practical, hands-on approach, focusing on the real-world skills and knowledge that are essential for success in the tourism sector.

WHAT DOES THIS COURSE INVOLVE?

Students will complete two core units set by Pearson Edexcel, assessed under controlled conditions. These mandatory units are The Travel and Tourism Industry and Customer Service Provision in Travel and Tourism. In addition, students will choose at least two optional units to complete the course. Options may include the Cruise Industry, Recruitment and Selection in Travel and Tourism, Sustainable Tourism, and others.

HOW IS THE COURSE ASSESSED?

The optional units are assessed through coursework, allowing students to take greater ownership of their learning. Assessment methods vary and may include presentations, written reports, and articles, allowing students to develop a range of practical and academic skills. At least four units, of which two are mandatory and one is assessed by a set assignment. Mandatory content (50%). Internally assessed assignments are sampled by Pearson to ensure that rigorous standards are being applied and that students achieve their certification.

WHY IS THIS A USEFUL QUALIFICATION?

This qualification is designed to support learners who are interested in learning about the travel and tourism industry alongside other fields of study, with a view to progressing to a wide range of higher education courses, not necessarily in travel and tourism-related subjects. The qualification is designed to be taken as part of a programme of study that includes other appropriate BTEC International Level 3 qualifications or A Levels. You will delve into engaging topics such as managing travel experiences, sustainable tourism, and delivering excellent customer service, all of which are highly sought-after skills in today's job market. With a well-balanced mix of coursework and assessments, this program is especially well-suited to learners who prefer continuous evaluation over traditional exams.



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