



NULS

Sixth Form
Options

Admissions

All students in Year 11 who are thinking of continuing their studies into the Sixth Form will need to register their formal application and indicate the courses they wish to pursue by the School's published deadlines for the new Lower Sixth intake. The information that prospective students provide on their options form is used to plan the courses on offer and the timetable structure for the Lower Sixth the following year. Therefore, both internal and external applicants will need to let us know their subject choices if they wish for their course preferences to be factored in as the new timetable is built.

Our aim is to encourage Sixth Form students to have high aspirations and to achieve their very best as they build on their GCSE achievements. For entry into the Sixth Form, our expectation is that students will have gained at least eight good GCSE passes at grade 5 (C) or above, including at least five at grade 6 (B) or above, and with the eight good passes to include Mathematics and English Language. In general, we also expect that subjects to be studied at Sixth Form level should (where applicable) have been passed with at least a grade 7 at GCSE.

Subject Choices

We offer a broad range of A Levels that students can choose from. The list below shows subjects that we are offering from September 2024:

Art & Design (Ceramics, Fine Art, Textiles)	German
Biology	History
Business	Mathematics
Level 3 Extended Certificate in Applied General Business	Further Mathematics
Chemistry	Music
Computer Science	Philosophy
Design & Technology	Physical Education
Drama & Theatre	BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Sport
Economics	Physics
English Language	Politics
English Literature	Psychology
French	Spanish
Geography	

The majority of our students entering the Lower Sixth will study three A Level subjects, and choose an 'additional qualification' to study for one year which will supplement their main choices. Some of our students choose four A Levels and opt out of an 'additional qualification'. In the Upper Sixth, students benefit from additional teaching time for interleaving and consolidating subject content covered in the Lower Sixth.

Whilst A Level study occupies most of their timetable, Sixth Form students also have a weekly period with their Form Tutor. Some of

this time is devoted to tracking progress and supporting students, as well as preparation for the university application process. In Lower Sixth, a strong emphasis is placed on developing the generic study skills required to successfully negotiate the challenges of A Level study. There is a very wide range of activities provided, both on and off-site, including a variety of sports, and a flourishing Community Enrichment programme. Independent study is a feature of the timetable of every Sixth Former and learning to use this time productively is excellent preparation for life at university and beyond.

Practicalities of Subject Selection

In arriving at their subject selection, students should consider their interests and strengths, but should also investigate whether particular subjects are required for the pursuit of an intended career, or to gain entrance to a particular university course. Careers interviews and personal advice are always available for internal and external applicants planning their Sixth Form study.

Students taking Further Mathematics do so along with Mathematics and two further mainstream A Level subjects, on the understanding that they are making a two-year commitment to all four subjects.

Following the return of completed options forms, students' choices will be blocked together for timetable purposes. This will be done in such a way as to accommodate as many requested subject combinations as possible. Please note, however, that the School cannot guarantee that all combinations of subjects will be available

due to the timetabling constraints that face all schools and colleges. The School reserves the right to withdraw the availability of any subject, or to offer this by means of a reduced timetable allocation, where numbers opting are too low.

Once the mainstream subjects have been blocked together for timetable purposes, any subsequent changes to subject choices will only be possible if they can be accommodated within the block structure, and then only if set sizes allow. It is therefore important to consider option selections carefully but with the knowledge that later subject swaps are still possible, within the option blocks, after GCSE results are published.

If any difficulties or questions arise, students and parents should speak to Mr Poole (Director of Sixth Form) or Mr Dicksee (Deputy Head - Academic) who will be able to offer further advice and guidance.



Making an Informed Choice

Given their influence on future career choices and accessing Higher Education courses, the selection of A Level subjects is an important one. It is recommended therefore that time is spent researching the courses offered at A Level, including subjects new to the Sixth Form. A good starting place is to choose subjects that you enjoy and can imagine studying for two years at A Level.

Three reasons you may want to continue to study a subject at A Level are:

- You have been good at it and have enjoyed the subject in the past;
 - You require this subject to enter a particular career or course;
 - You have not studied the subject before but you have looked into it and think it will suit your strengths.
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It is also worth noting that some subjects may suit you less at A Level than they did at GCSE so it is advisable to research both the content and method of assessment for any subject that you consider.

And finally, we have a dedicated team of staff who will guide you if you feel like you need more information and advice. Please just ask for help.



Fine Art, Textiles & 3D Studies

Specification: AQA Fine Art (7202), AQA 3D Studies (7205), AQA Textiles (7204)



What will I study?

Component 01: Personal investigation

A practical portfolio with supporting contextual research in response to a set theme. The portfolio may be presented in a format appropriate to the specialism and area of study chosen.

A supporting dissertation sketchbook and essay demonstrating the context in which their portfolio exists, exploring the relevant genre, subject matter, movement or historical framework of the selected theme.

Component 02: Externally set task

Students can choose a starting point from any of the seven given themes for which they will generate an appropriate personal response for assessment. They will carry out preparatory work to research, plan and develop their ideas, before engaging in 15 allocated hours of supervised time to complete their final piece.

Various trips support teaching and provide students with the opportunity to engage directly with art and photography whilst offering them locations to carry out research first-hand. Recent study trips have visited Liverpool and Manchester galleries, Pitt Rivers and Ashmolean in Oxford, and the V&A as well as The National Portrait Gallery in London.

We offer regular artists and designer workshops, as well as Photoshop skills tutorials and our studios are open for extra study periods during lunchtimes and after school twice weekly.

How will I be assessed?

60%

Component 01:
Personal investigation

40%

Component 02:
Externally set task

Where will it lead?

The creative industries have moved into first place to be the fastest growing economic sector in the UK, responsible for 5.6% of jobs, and worth £76.9bn to the UK economy. We offer a great foundation for careers such as architect, digital and multi-media artist, web designer, illustrator, advertisement designer, product designer, costume designer, fashion consultant, fashion photographer, photojournalist and many other careers that require fine motor skills, presentation skills and an eye for aesthetics and creative thinking.

Biology

Specification: AQA (7402)



What will I study?

You will study a variety of biological processes including the biology of the cell, biochemistry, genetics, human physiology, ecology and some plant physiology. An experimental approach to learning means you will develop your understanding through first-hand observations of your own work. The broad aim of the course is to encourage an enjoyment and appreciation of Biology and enable students to develop essential knowledge and understanding of the key concepts of Biology.

The course also leads to an understanding of scientific methods and heightens awareness of advances in technology relevant to Biology. Current issues such as gene technology and biotechnology are studied enabling students to recognize the value and responsible use of Biology in society.

The course content is enriched principally by a five-day, residential fieldwork trip in the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park during the Autumn Term in Upper Sixth and by the Biology Olympiad competition which takes place during the Spring Term in Upper Sixth.

How will I be assessed?

Three written examination papers are taken at the end of the two-year, linear course.

35%

Topics 1-4 will be assessed on Paper 1:

1 Biological molecules; 2 Cells; 3 Organisms exchange substances with their environment; 4 Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms. Paper 1 is a 2-hour, 91-mark examination and is equivalent to 35% of the A Level.

35%

Topics 5-8 will be assessed on Paper 2:

5 Energy transfers in and between organisms; 6 Organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments; 7 Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems; 8 The control of gene expression. Paper 2 is a 2-hour, 91-mark examination and is equivalent to 35% of the A Level.

30%

Paper 3 covers any content from topics 1-8, including relevant practical skills:

Paper 3 is a 2-hour, 78-mark examination and is equivalent to 30% of the A Level. There is one essay question on Paper 3.

As an integral part of the course, students must successfully complete twelve compulsory practical investigations. Their teachers will assess students' ability to use practical apparatus and techniques as well as assessing them against Common Practical Assessment Criteria (CPAC). There is no coursework.

10% of the overall assessment of A Level Biology will contain mathematical skills and at least 15% will assess knowledge, skills and understanding in relation to practical work.

Where will it lead?

Students use their Biology A Level to gain entry to Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Science, Natural Sciences, Biochemistry, Physiotherapy, Microbiology, Marine Biology, Zoology and a wide variety of Biological Sciences at University.

Business

Specification: Edexcel (9BS0)



Level 3 Extended Certificate in Applied Business

Specification: AQA (1832)



What will I study?

In this qualification, students will cover topics such as:

- The role of finance in planning an enterprise, analysing and making financial decisions;
- How business organisations use the human, physical and financial resources at their disposal to achieve their dynamic goals;
- The nature of enterprising behaviour and how this can be personally utilised to best exploit entrepreneurial opportunities within specific market conditions;
- How managers organise, motivate and lead employees through change to achieve business objectives;
- The skills and processes required to develop, present and evaluate a business proposal;
- The skills and processes required to develop an e-business proposal for a new business;
- The planning, coordination and management of a one-off event to support a business proposal;
- The development of a marketing communications mix for a business proposal and a schedule of marketing communications.

Each unit is based on four key business themes: people, markets, finance and operational delivery, which ensure that the qualification has a synoptic approach to learning.

Where will it lead?

The course provides a broader and deeper understanding of business knowledge and skills. The qualification also offers learners an opportunity to develop transferable skills, such as teamwork, research and communication, as part of their applied learning. This qualification supports entry to a range of business and enterprise-associated higher education courses, such as management, finance, entrepreneurship, and economics.

This will allow access to a range of career opportunities, with certain sectors being particularly relevant:

Accounting, Business, Business administration and office skills, Enterprise and entrepreneurship, Information technology, Hospitality, Tourism, Marketing and advertising.

How will I be assessed?

The course is assessed through a combination of internal and external assessments. 50% of the course is internally assessed coursework, and the other 50% is externally assessed by the exam board, through one piece of coursework and two examinations.

Chemistry

Specification: AQA (7405)



What will I study?

The first year of the course is designed to follow logically from GCSE. Students will expand their knowledge of topics such as atomic structure, chemical calculations and energy changes during chemical reactions in the first half of Lower Sixth. In the second half of the year, students undertake a more in-depth study in the fields of inorganic and organic chemistry.

Chemistry invites students to think creatively about solutions to problems. The lessons involve practical work, formal presentation of new ideas and concepts, discussion and student presentations. The course is designed to link to contemporary issues, build on previously studied concepts, and complete specified practical work to ensure that students are prepared for the written examinations. There is also the chance to participate in the Chemistry Olympiad, C3L6 Cambridge Chemistry Challenge and RSC Young Analysts' competitions. We also visit Keele University on a pharmacy outreach day with industry collaborators.

How will I be assessed?

35%

Paper 1 - Inorganic and Physical Chemistry
Relevant physical chemistry, inorganic chemistry and practical skills.

Written examination: 2 hours; 105 marks, 35% of A Level, short and long answer questions.

35%

Paper 2 - Organic and Physical Chemistry
Relevant physical chemistry, organic chemistry and practical skills.

Written examination: 2 hours, 105 marks, 35% of A Level, short and long answer questions.

30%

Paper 3 - Chemistry
Any content from the specification and any practical skills from required practical work.

Written examination: 2 hours; 90 marks, 30% of A Level; multiple choice, short and long answer questions.

Practical endorsement
Non-examination assessment.

Assessment of practical competency.

Reported separately and not contributing to the final grade.

Where will it lead?

Chemistry has played a major role in improving living standards and is one of the most successful industries in the UK. A chemistry qualification at A Level provides the necessary skills to follow any science-related degree course or profession. In most cases, chemistry is an essential subject for Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Science, Pharmacy and some biological sciences. It is also accepted for many non-science qualifications and careers such as accountancy and law.

Computer Science

Specification: OCR (H446)



Design & Technology

Specification: AQA (7552)



What will I study?

Design and Technology is an inspiring, rigorous and practical subject. You will strengthen your critical thinking skills within a creative environment, enabling you to develop and manufacture products that solve real-world problems.

You will study a range of different skills both in the design studios and in the workshop through project work and individual skill masterclasses. These range from branding individual products and designing lighting that can be used in a range of areas to manufacturing a product based on its ergonomic properties. You will be encouraged to take design risks, develop your intellectual curiosity and improve your capacity to think creatively. Studying this course will encourage you to work individually and creatively whilst also improving your knowledge in the world of design.

50%

NEA – Practical Application of Technical Principles, Designing and Making Principles
Substantial design and make project
= 50% of the total A Level (100 marks)

Where will it lead?

Students studying this subject can venture into a variety of different disciplines such as a large range of roles within Engineering, Architecture, Automotive Design, Product Design, Graphic Design, Advertising and Animation to name a few. With the popularity of the subject increasing, a large range of universities are offering courses for students under the Design and Technology umbrella.

How will I be assessed?

30%

Paper 1 – Technical Principles
Written examination: 2 hours 30 minutes
= 30% of the total A Level (120 marks)

20%

Paper 2 – Designing and Making Principles
Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes
= 20% of the total A Level (80 marks)

Drama & Theatre

Specification: WJEC (A690QS)



What will I study?

Component 1: Theatre Workshop

You will work to create, develop and perform a reinterpretation of an extract from a text. Between 30% and 70% of the material will come from the text itself, but you will have the creative freedom to experiment to produce a piece that is exciting and innovative. To support your work, you will produce a creative log.

Component 2: Text in Action

You will work to create, develop and perform two pieces in two different styles: a devised piece and an extract from a performance text. The lessons will take the form of devising and acting workshops.

Component 3: Text in Performance

Through workshop and discussion, you will study texts from two different historical periods and genres, from the performance of actor, director or designer, drawing on your experience of live theatre to inform your work. In addition, you will study an additional text (currently *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time*), writing about a specific scene in the examination, as chosen by the examination board.

How will I be assessed?

20%

Component 1: Theatre Workshop

Non-examination assessment: internally assessed, externally moderated. You will be assessed on a combination of your performance piece and supporting creative log.

40%

Component 2: Text in Action

Non-examination assessment: externally assessed by a visiting examiner. You will be assessed on your practical performances.

40%

Component 3: Text in Performance

Written examination: 2 hours 30 minutes

Where will it lead?

Qualifications in Drama and Theatre provide a natural pathway into careers in the Theatre, Film, TV or Entertainment industries. Commonly, Drama and Theatre students also go on to take up places in Arts subjects, Social Sciences, Humanities and Law.

The course is academically and creatively demanding, helping students to lay an excellent foundation for further study in a wide range of disciplines. Equally, students have found Drama and Theatre in more unusual combinations an excellent talking point in interviews, helping candidates stand out in highly competitive markets.

Economics

Specification: Edexcel (9EC0)



English Language

Specification: OCR (H470)



What will I study?

English Language at A Level makes no distinction between a bus ticket and King Lear: they both use English, in different ways and for different purposes. The job for students is to articulate and explore these differences. They will focus on knowledge and understanding of the language levels and application of critical analysis skills through a range of texts from the world around us.

The course also explores interesting and varied contexts which affect language in use: gender, power, technology and accent, all have an impact on our language in some way. Alongside this, we explore specific areas such as child language acquisition, language in the media and language change. They will also complete an engaging written production task in which they will demonstrate their own language skills.

As part of the course, there is an independent language research component which comprises two sections.

Section A

Is an independent investigation of language, providing the opportunity to explore an area of study which is of a particular personal interest.

Section B

The academic poster allows a presentation of research from an independent investigation in a concise and visually accessible way. The 'real-world' purpose of the academic poster is for use in conferences and to present research projects to a group of peers. This module therefore provides excellent preparation for the types of activities undertaken in universities.

How will I be assessed?

There are three units in total, two are examinations and one is a non-examined assessment.

40%

Unit 1: Exploring Language (40%)

- 2 hours 30 minutes examination

Section A: Language under the microscope
Section B: Topical language issues
Section C: Comparing and contrasting texts

40%

Unit 2: Dimensions of linguistic variation (40%)

- 2 hours 30 minutes examination

Section A: Child Language Acquisition
Section B: Language in the media
Section C: Language Change

20%

Unit 3: NEA – Independent language research (20%)

Where will it lead?

Many students go on to study English in various forms such as English, English Language, Linguistics, Creative Writing or Journalism. English is often also combined with a variety of subjects as part of a joint degree and provides a wide range of skills.

English Literature

Specification: OCR (H472)



What will I study?

English Literature A Level is exciting for both students and teachers. The OCR syllabus builds upon the skills which students start to develop whilst studying their IGCSE/GCSEs. Students develop their own critical responses as they engage with the wide variety of texts offered; in fact, the range of texts and topics should really spark their interest. The course is challenging and academic but students will be fully supported in lessons which provide them with the chance to express their views.

As part of the course, students will write two coursework essays which allow them to pursue more detailed study in an area of particular interest. They will work independently with one teacher, acting as a tutor, an arrangement which also prepares them effectively for university studies. Students can be both creative and analytical in their responses according to their individual skills. If they enjoy thinking about how language is manipulated by writers and responding to different interpretations of texts, or reflecting upon the contexts influencing writers, then they will gain a lot from this course.

Students will study Shakespeare and some pre-1900 poetry. However, there is also a range of modern texts offered and we are particularly enthusiastic about the opportunities to study literature published post -1990 because these texts are absolutely relevant to students and their times.

How will I be assessed?

There are three units in total, two are examinations and one is a non-examined assessment.

40%

Unit 1: Drama and poetry pre-1900
- 2 hours 30 minutes examination

Section 1: Shakespeare

Section 2: Drama and poetry pre-1900

40%

Unit 2: Comparative and contextual study
- 2 hours 30 minutes examination

Focusing on texts within a topic area

20%

Unit 3: NEA – Literature post-1900

Close reading or re-creative writing piece with commentary
Comparative essay

Where will it lead?

Studying English can lead to anywhere. Whilst many students go on to study English in various forms at university there are also many students who continue in other avenues. Having studied to A Level or beyond, English students develop strong written and spoken communication skills, develop their analytical abilities and become adept at arguing a point. The knowledge and skills developed support progression to a range of careers within areas such as media, journalism, publishing, teaching, advertising, marketing, law and business.

Geography

Specification: AQA (7037)



History

Specification: Edexcel (9HI0GO)



What will I study?

The Edexcel History course gives you the opportunity to broaden and enhance your existing knowledge of Modern World European History whilst broadening your interests and skills through studying aspects of Fifteenth Century British and Tudor History. You will also have the opportunity to study Russian History, examining the rise of Lenin, the tyranny of Joseph Stalin and the collapse of the USSR. It provides an ideal combination of modern 20th Century topics and more traditional “Kings and Queens” early modern history. You will be taught by History teachers who are specialists in their respective fields, and can rely on our knowledge, enthusiasm and extensive resources to help you achieve your very best.

30%

Paper 3: Rebellion and disorder under the Tudors, 1485-1603

An essay and sources depth and breadth paper, lasting 2 hours 15 minutes, worth 30% of the A Level.

20%

Coursework: An independent research-based enquiry which addresses an issue of historical debate

A 3000-4000 word essay, submitted in April, worth 20% of the A Level. This will be based on the Holocaust.

How will I be assessed?

The A Level course: consists of four components, three examination papers and a coursework assignment.

30%

Paper 1: Russia, 1917-1991

An essay and sources breadth paper, lasting 2 hours 15 minutes, worth 30% of the A Level.

20%

Paper 2: The German Democratic Republic, 1949-1990

An essay and sources depth paper, lasting 1 hour 30 minutes, worth 20% of the A Level.

Where will it lead?

Given the flexibility afforded by the Edexcel course, we are offering you the opportunity to expand your knowledge and interest and to develop key skills such as research, analysis and effective communication (in debate and on paper) so much in demand in a competitive modern job market.

History is ideal preparation for university courses such as law and other Humanities based subjects, and can provide an invaluable research and communication skills base to complement the sciences, Dentistry and Medicine.



Always
Striving
for New
Heights.



Mathematics

Specification: Edexcel (9MA0)



What will I study?

A Level Mathematics is split into three components: Pure Mathematics; Mechanics; and Statistics.

Pure Mathematics

Covers the topics of proof; algebra and functions; coordinate geometry; sequences and series; trigonometry; exponentials and logarithms; differentiation; integration; and vectors.

Mechanics

Covers the topics of quantities and units in mechanics; kinematics; forces and Newton's laws; and moments.

Statistics

Covers the topics of statistical sampling; data presentation and interpretation; probability; statistical distributions; and statistical hypothesis testing.

While studying Mathematics you will be expected to:

- Use mathematical skills and knowledge to solve problems
- Solve problems by using mathematical arguments and logic
- Simplify real-life situations so that you can use Mathematics to show what is happening and what might happen in different circumstances
- Use Mathematics to solve problems that are given to you in a real-life context
- Use calculator technology

How will I be assessed?

Pure Mathematics 1: 9MAO/01
2-hour paper: 100 marks

Pure Mathematics 2: 9MAO/02
2-hour paper: 100 marks

Statistics and Mechanics: 9MAO/03
2-hour paper: 100 marks (50 marks on statistics and 50 marks on mechanics)

Where will it lead?

People with qualifications in Mathematics can go into accounting, medicine, engineering, forensic pathology, finance, business, consultancy, teaching, IT, games development, scientific research, programming, the civil service, design, construction and astrophysics to name but a few.

Many employers highly value Mathematics qualifications, because they believe that Mathematics students are better at thinking logically and analytically. Through solving problems you develop resilience and are able to think creatively and strategically.

Specification: Edexcel (9FMO)

40

Modern Foreign Languages (*French, German, Spanish*)

Specification: AQA French (7652), AQA German (7662), AQA Spanish (7692)



What will I study?

The French, German and Spanish specifications build on the knowledge, understanding and skills gained at GCSE, focusing on language, culture and society, and fostering a range of transferable skills including communication, critical thinking, research skills and creativity.

The course involves actively using the foreign language and the approach tends to be topic-based, dealing with the themes and topics around which linguistic skills are practised and developed. Besides course books, authentic listening and reading materials from news broadcasts, newspapers and the internet are used extensively. DVDs are shown from time to time and visits to see plays and films are arranged where appropriate. The language lab is used weekly and there is also a compulsory conversation class with the foreign language assistant once per week.

During the course, it is strongly recommended that Sixth Formers spend a period of time abroad. Study trips, exchanges and work experience are organised by the department.

Where will it lead?

Languages are seen as very academic, 'facilitating' subjects. The skills learned are transferable, so universities and employers look very favourably on linguists, who tend to develop greater powers of analysis and good retentive memories, are sociable people who interact well and can write well-reasoned arguments, and, above all, can work independently and with considerable initiative.

Languages can be combined effectively with most subjects, and add value to your degree discipline and your CV. A student wishing to enter the broad field of industry or commerce can combine Economics/Business or Mathematics with a language, in the knowledge that combined courses of this nature are burgeoning at universities and hold excellent career prospects. In addition, the more traditional combinations of languages with English, History or Law offer plenty of opportunities. New and exciting European world languages can also be studied ab initio (from scratch) following an A Level in French, German or Spanish.

How will I be assessed?

Examinations are based on the core subject content of Social Issues and Trends, Political and Artistic Culture, Grammar, and Works (Literary Texts and Films), as well as an Individual Research Project.

The Listening, Reading, Writing paper is worth 50%, the Writing paper 20% and the Speaking 30%.

Music

Specification: Edexcel (9Mu0)



What will I study?

You will further develop your skills in performing, composing and appraising. You should be performing to at least Grade 5 standard at the start of the course, and will work with an individual instrumental/vocal teacher and with academic staff to reach at least Grade 7 by the Upper Sixth. Your expected involvement in performance outside the classroom will bring wide opportunities for refinement of your performance; it offers valuable aural skills training and a window into a wide range of music.

You will learn about the processes involved in creating music, developing the technical and expressive skills needed by a composer. You will explore a range of compositional starting points and investigate methods for developing and manipulating ideas, turning your ideas into completed pieces. You will extend your knowledge of formal harmony and complete technical exercises in composing.

You will study 13 set works across six areas of study: Vocal music, Instrumental music, Film music, Popular music and Jazz, Fusions and New Directions. This will extend your toolkit of analytical skills and you will learn to draw deeper conclusions about the musical effects achieved. You will understand how context impacts the creation of music and relate this knowledge to wider listening.

How will I be assessed?

All units are assessed externally at the end of Year 13.

30%

Component 1: Performing

An 8-minute recital on any instrument/voice, and in any style/genre.

30%

Component 2: Composing

A 6-minute composition portfolio consisting of one extended piece, which can be a free composition or to a set brief, and a second piece or pieces composed in controlled conditions using relevant stylistic conventions, e.g. using the techniques of Bach Chorale or Club Dance Remix.

40%

Component 3: Appraising

A 2 hour 10-minute examination in May/June of Year 13, which includes: listening questions on set works; dictation; and two essays, one on an unfamiliar piece and one on a set work.

Where will it lead?

Music is a challenging academic and practical subject, highly regarded by academic universities. It develops a range of transferable skills: analysis, aural discrimination, time-management, time-management, collaboration and attention to detail.

This broad and satisfying experience can lead to a wide range of future study: academic music degrees or those specialising in performance; courses in songwriting or music technology and production; and industry courses such as music business and marketing. Because of its academic nature coupled with the development of soft skills so desirable in 21st century careers, A Level Music is highly-regarded as a complementary subject for those pursuing careers in Medicine, STEM subjects and Law. Inevitably, it also supports those looking to progress to careers in various creative industries.

Philosophy

Specification: AQA (7172)



Physical Education

Specification: OCR (H555)



What will I study?

Our A Level students develop theoretical knowledge and understanding of the factors that underpin physical activity and sport. The course has been designed to allow learners to critically analyse and evaluate their physical performance and apply their experience of practical activity in developing their knowledge and understanding of the subject.

Component 1

Applied Anatomy and Physiology, Exercise Physiology and Biomechanics

Component 2

Skill Acquisition and Sports Psychology

Component 3

Sport and Society and Contemporary Issues in Physical Activity and Sport

Component 4

Performance or Coaching and Evaluation and Analysis of Performance for Improvement (EAPI)

How will I be assessed?

30%

Component 1: Physiological Factors Affecting Performance

Written Paper, 2 hours, 90 marks, 30% of total A Level. Consists of Objective Response, Short and Medium Length Answers and Extended Response Items.

20%

Component 2: Psychological Factors Affecting Performance

Written Paper, 1 hour, 60 marks, 20% of total A Level. Consists of Objective Response, Short and Medium Length Answers and Extended Response Items.

20%

Component 3: Socio-Cultural Issues in Physical Activity & Sport

Written Paper, 1 hour, 60 marks, 20% of total A Level. Consists of Objective Response, Short and Medium Length Answers and Extended Response Items.

30%

Component 4: Performance in Physical Education

Non-Examined Assessment (NEA), 60 marks (weighted up to 90 marks), 30% of total A Level. Consists of Practical Performance and the Evaluation and Analysis of Performance for Improvement (EAPI).

Where will it lead?

A Level Physical Education will prepare learners for the further study of PE or Sports Science and often acts as a valuable additional qualification for those undertaking the sciences with the intention to move through into Medicine, physiotherapy or psychology routes. Students will also develop the transferable skills that are in demand by Higher Education establishments.

The study of Physical Education can lead to University Degrees or Careers in: Sports Science, Sports Management, Exercise and Health, Human Biology, Sports Psychology, Sports Nutrition, Coaching/Officiating, Teaching, Recreational Management, Sport and Leisure Industry, Fitness Industry (Personal Training), Armed Forces and the Civil Service.

Level 3 BTEC Sport

Specification: Pearson BTEC National



National Extended Certificate in Sport

Equivalent to 1 A Level

What will I study?

1. Anatomy and Physiology
 2. Fitness Training and Programming for Health, Sport and Well-being
 3. Professional Development in the Sports Industry
 4. Sports leadership
-

How will I be assessed?

Unit 1 is a written examination set and marked by Pearson (1 hour 30 minutes).

Unit 2 is a task set and marked by Pearson and completed under supervised conditions (2 hours 30 minutes). Learners are given a case study one week before a supervised assessment period, in order to carry out preparation.

Units 3 and 4 are internally assessed. The format of assessment is an assignment taken after the content of the unit, or part of the unit if several assignments are used. An assignment may take a variety of forms, including practical and written types. It is issued to learners as an assignment brief with a defined start date, a completion date and clear requirements for the evidence that they need to provide.

Unit 5 is a task set and marked by Pearson and completed under supervised conditions (3 hours). Learners are given information two weeks before the supervised assessment period, in order to carry out research.

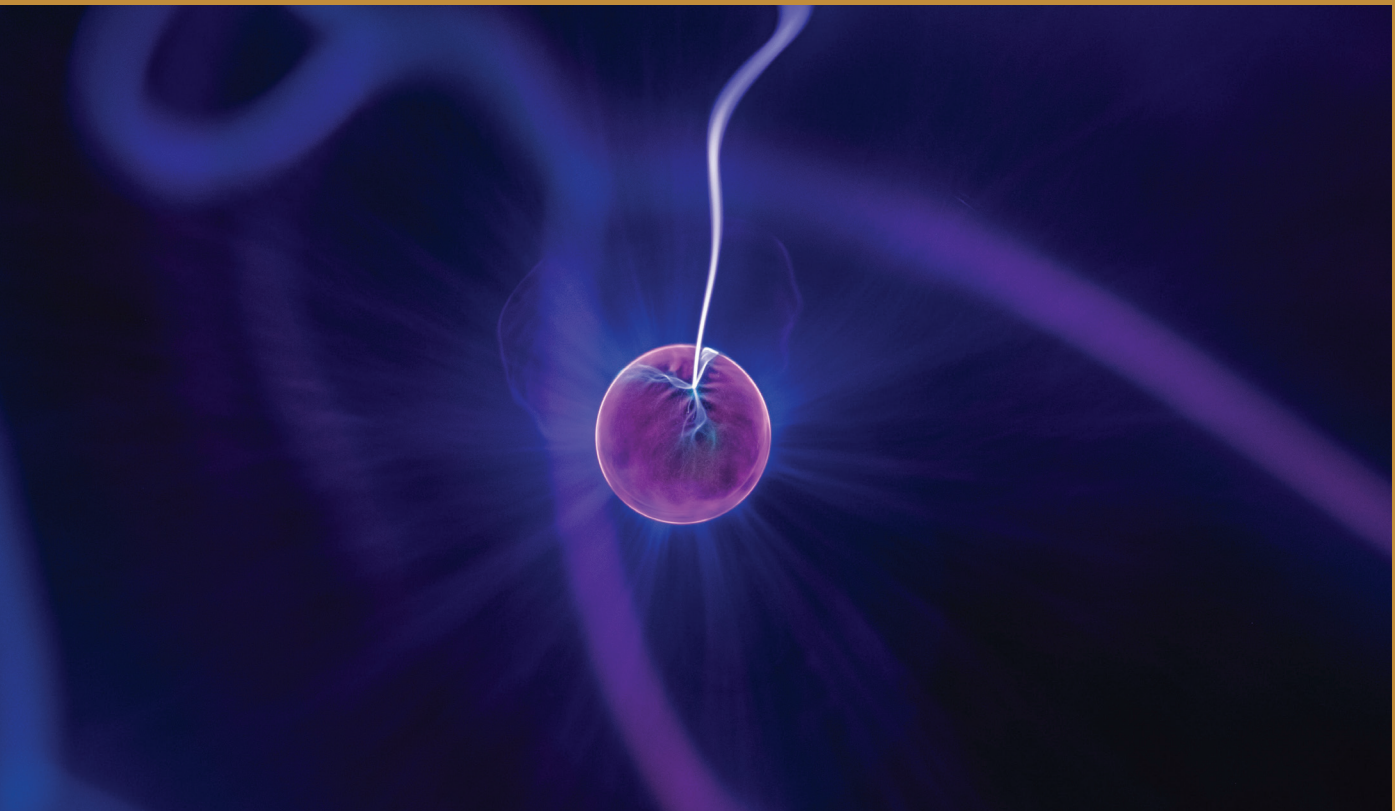
Where will it lead?

This qualification is recognised by higher education providers as contributing to meeting admission requirements for many courses if taken alongside other qualifications as part of a two-year programme of study. It combines well with a large number of subjects and supports entry to higher education courses in a very wide range of disciplines.

For learners who wish to study an aspect of sport in higher education, opportunities include BA (Hons) in Sport Studies and Business, BSC (Hons) in Sport Psychology, BA (Hons) in Sports Education and Special and Inclusive Education, and BA (Hons) in Sport and Exercise Science (depending on the subjects taken alongside these qualifications).

Physics

Specification: AQA (7408D)



Politics

Specification: AQA (7152)



What will I study?

The course provides students with the opportunity to engage in high-level analysis and evaluation of significant issues in both the UK and US political systems.

Politics is about people and power. Why does political conflict occur and how is it resolved? Studying Politics means studying the real world and developing the skills to make sense of that world. Lively, relevant, controversial, there are many ways to describe A Level Politics.

Covering news and current affairs from the UK and US, it helps you understand how our society is run and develops research, written communication and debating skills.

Where will it lead?

It is ideal if you are considering studying politics, sociology, advertising or journalism at university and highly regarded by employers in areas such as the media, government and the civil service. In recent years, politics students have found a real advantage when studying law at university due to the constitutional and legal aspects of the course.

How will I be assessed?

The course consists of three component areas of study, each of which is worth 33.3% of the A Level. There are three, 2-hour papers at the end of the course:

- The Government and Politics of the UK; this will include amongst others, the Constitution, the Prime Minister, Parliament, the Judiciary, parties, elections and pressure groups.
- The Government and Politics of the USA and comparative Politics; this unit studies the American system and compares it to that of the UK.
- Political Ideas: this unit allows students to develop expertise in three core ideologies and to specialise in one additional ideology.

Psychology

Specification: AQA (7182)



What will I study?

Psychology is the scientific study of the mind and behaviour. It is a subject that attempts to provide us with many different theories about our way of acting. This might be why we forget things that we have been told, or why we might copy the behaviour of other people, or do what someone asks us, even when we know it is the wrong thing to do.

Whilst most of the course is the consideration of these fascinating theories of behaviour, it also looks carefully at the evidence that these ideas are based on. Through the study of the theories and evidence you will build up an understanding of how the subject has developed, and how it has had an impact on our lives, and whether these ideas are valid.

As part of the course we will look at how psychological research is conducted in a scientific and ethical manner, as well as ways in which to assess different types of data. Many of the skills that are studied we will use to conduct some small pieces of research in order to test their validity and reliability.

How will I be assessed?

33%

Paper One: Introductory Topics in Psychology: Social Influence, Memory, Psychopathology and Attachments
2-hour written paper (33% of final grade)

33%

Paper Two: Psychology in Context: Approaches in Psychology, Bio-Psychology and Research Methods
2-hour written paper (33% of final grade)

33%

Paper Three: Issues and Options in Psychology: Issues and Debates, Schizophrenia, Aggression and Gender
2-hour written paper (33% of final grade)

Where will it lead?

As Psychology is the study of people it allows students to pursue a wide variety of courses at university. It is ideal for Psychology or Counselling courses, but many use it in their application for a diverse range of subjects including Medicine, Veterinary Sciences, business studies or management.

It is useful in marketing and education. In fact Psychology is a highly versatile subject that can provide a range of skills that can lead you to wherever you want to go.

Extended Curriculum - Lower Sixth



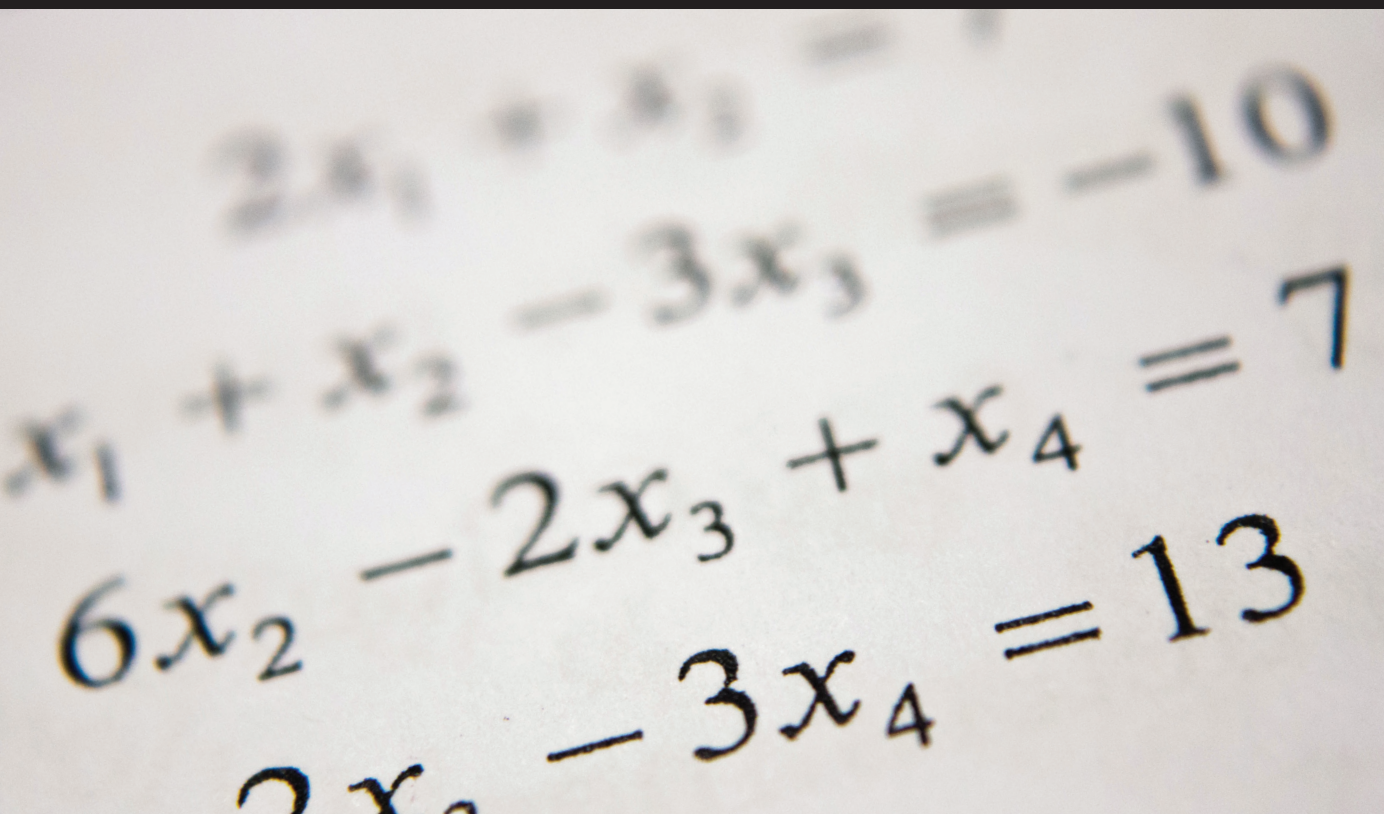
Extended Project Qualification

Specification: AQA Level 3 Extended Project Qualification (7993)

Mathematics

(Level 3 Core Maths)

Specification: AQA Level 3 Mathematical Studies



What will I study?

This Level 3 in Mathematical Studies aims to build on the knowledge, understanding and skills gained at GCSE Mathematics.

You will study a variety of different aspects within Mathematics to support you whilst undertaking further study at A Level in other subjects. In addition, the course will provide an overview of how Mathematics is used in a real-world context. This will include the topics of Analysis of Data, Mathematics for Personal Finance, Estimation and Critical Analysis of Mathematical data and models.

You will also be able to choose an option for study. The options include either the study of Statistical distributions and Correlation, work on Critical Path Analysis and Probability or the use of Graphs for Rates of Change and Exponential functions.

How will I be assessed?

There are two examination papers which are each worth 50% of the final mark.

Paper 1 will cover:

Analysis of Data (use of sampling techniques and the representation of data with the use of averages), Mathematics for Personal Finance (includes income tax, National Insurance and Loan/APR calculations) and Estimations. Examination lasts 1 hour 30 minutes.

Paper 2 is the optional paper:

You will choose one paper from 2A, 2B or 2C. Examination lasts 1 hour 30 minutes.

Paper 2A will cover:

Critical Analysis of Mathematical information, the Normal distribution, Confidence intervals and Correlation and Regression lines.

Paper 2B will cover:

Critical Analysis of Mathematical information, Critical Path analysis, Expectation and Probability, and Cost Benefit principles.

Paper 2C will cover:

Critical Analysis of Mathematical information, Graphical methods (sketching and solving equations), Rates of change and Exponential Growth with the use of logarithms.

Where will it lead?

Many students will use the study of Level 3 Core Mathematics to support their development across other areas of study at A Level. The course will support the application of Mathematics in the Sciences, Psychology and Geography.

This will include the use of Statistics and how to rearrange formulae and use contextual graphs. In addition, students will have a greater understanding of how Personal Finance can be managed as they move into the adult world.

AS Level Photography

Specification: OCR (H603)



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