

Course Title: A Level FINE ART Awarding Body: OCR Further information available from: MR ANDREWS
--

Course requirements: GCSE Art grade 5 or higher

In A-level Art students follow a course similar to GCSE. Following a series of skills workshops, they produce an independent, self-directed coursework portfolio (Personal Investigation), supported by a related written study (1000-3000 words). The coursework portfolio is worth 60% of their final mark and they sit an externally set task at the end of their second year worth 40% of the overall mark. Both the coursework and exam are marked using the same assessment objectives.

AO1: (25%) Artist INSPIRATION ideas through artist's research and appropriate responses

AO2: (25%) MEDIA EXPERIMENTATION with, and select, appropriate materials

AO3: (25%) Considered CREATION ideas and observations through drawing, painting, photography and video

AO4: (25%) Informed OUTCOME a final outcome developed from work carried out for the other AO's

AO5: Related Study (Coursework only) A supporting written study of 1000-3000 words (for coursework, marks are out of 20% for the 4 AO's above and the written study)

Coursework Portfolio

For this, students produce a body of work that often takes the form of a sketchbook supported by larger drawings, paintings and 3D media pieces. They explore an idea or theme developing work in a way that reflects their personal interests or strengths until they reach a final outcome. Work produced should satisfy the Assessment Objectives above and demonstrate that they have researched and responded to artists relevant to their theme, experimented with different media, recorded relevant images and objects through drawing, painting or photography and then produced a relevant final piece. At A Level a student's coursework portfolio is supported by a 1000-3000 word personal study.

Controlled Assignment

The exam takes the same form as at GCSE. Students will be issued with an early release paper in February from which they will select a title/starting point to develop ideas from. They will have time to produce preparation work that satisfies the first 3 AO's (just as they have done for their coursework) before they begin their exam. This preparatory work is worth approximately 30% of the 40% of marks awarded for the exam. The A Level exam is 15 hours under examination conditions, typically split into sittings of up to 5 hours. The focus in the exam is to produce a final outcome that satisfies AO4. Exams are likely to begin towards the middle of April and finish in the middle of May, although exact timings may vary. Coursework deadlines will coincide with final exam deadlines.

In KS5 students have the opportunity to work in an increasingly independent way. They explore their own ideas by looking at and responding to contemporary Artists, developing drawing, painting and recording skills and by experimenting in a variety of exciting and innovative media.

Course Title: A Level BIOLOGY
 Awarding Body: AQA
 Further information available from: MISS FARRINGTON

Course requirements: Grade 6 or higher in GCSE Combined Science or a minimum grade 6 in each of the GCSE Single Sciences, plus GCSE Maths grade 6 or higher.

Overview

Humans are an influential part of this extraordinary planet. Understanding some of its many systems, cycles and complexities as well as our effect, both positive and negative, upon it is a valuable and interesting experience. Completion of the A-Level course in Biology gives you opportunities in a myriad of areas for further study and career advancement.

Following the AQA Biology syllabus you will study 4 topics per year. Topics 1-4 will be taught in Year 12 and topics 5-8 will be covered in Year 13. The topics are outlined below:

1. Biological molecules
2. Cells
3. Organisms exchange substances with their environment
4. Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms
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

The course is assessed by three written papers. These will cover both course content and practical techniques encountered during the course. There are 12 assessed required practicals during the course and pupils are given a pass / fail status.

Assessment

Paper 1	Paper 2	Paper 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topics 1-4 • Practicals 1-6 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topics 5-8 • Practicals 7-12 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topics 1-8 • Practicals 1-12
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 hours, 91 marks • 35% of A level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 hours, 91 marks • 35% of A level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 hours, 78 marks • 30% of A level
<p>76 marks: Mix of short and long answers 15 marks: Extended response questions</p>	<p>76 marks: Mix of short and long answers 15 marks: Extended response questions</p>	<p>38 marks: Structured questions, including practical techniques 15 marks: Critical analysis of given data 25 marks: One essay.</p>

Biology is a challenging, but rewarding course and students are recommended to consider A-Level Chemistry to complement their studies.

Course Title: A Level Business

Awarding Body: OCR

Further information available from: MR GRAHAM & MR DAVIDSON

Why study A Level Business?

A-Level Business will give you an exciting insight into the dynamic world of business. It is not just a theoretical subject; it is about real life. This combination of academic challenge and practical focus makes the prospect of studying A Level Business highly appealing. You will learn about businesses and the way they operate in today's society. You will investigate problems which real businesses are currently facing and use your initiative to develop possible solutions.

What skills will I gain from studying Business?

Students will develop a broad understanding of the range of activities businesses undertake to compete and be successful in the local, national and global economy. You will, quite simply, gain a better understanding of how the world works and how decisions businesses make affect you. In addition, students will learn to analyse various business scenarios, identify the key issues facing different business and make recommendations as to what approach the business should take to achieve its objectives.

What's included?

You will study a wide variety of topics including: enterprise, human resources, environmental factors, marketing, accounting and finance, production, ethics, international trade, the digital age, law, economics, change management.

Emphasis throughout the entire course is on problem solving and decision-making. You will learn how to use a wide range of contemporary business tools and models and apply them to today's businesses.

How will I be assessed?

The A level course is examined by three separate exam papers, each two hours long:

- **Unit 1** consists of multiple-choice questions and longer written answers based around an unseen case study of a 'small' business.
- **Unit 2** consists of short response questions and longer written answers based around an unseen case study of a UK 'national' business.
- **Unit 3** exam is based around the case study of a 'global' business and includes both data response questions as well as longer written answers.

All exams are sat at the end of Year 13

Where can A Level Business take me?

A level Business is an excellent base for a university degree, especially degrees in business, management, human resources, accountancy, law, finance, philosophy, politics and economics, sociology and psychology. Careers with a business degree are diverse and have high earning potential. Career possibilities include banking, insurance, advertising, distribution, sales, accounting, law, education, central or local government and business consultancy.

Course Title: A level CHEMISTRY
 Awarding Body: AQA
 Further information available from: MR TRICKETT

Course requirements: Grade 6 or higher in GCSE Combined Science or a minimum grade 6 in each of the GCSE Single Sciences, plus GCSE Maths grade 6 or higher.

Chemistry attempts to answer the question “what is the world made of?” From investigating how one substance can be changed into another, to researching new drugs and vaccines to save lives and new materials to help us in the modern world, the opportunities that chemistry provide are endless.

Topics covered include:

- Atomic structure and bonding
- Kinetics
- Thermodynamics
- Organic synthesis
- Chemistry of DNA
- Chemical analysis
- Chemical reactions

The course is assessed by three written papers. These will cover both course content and practical techniques encountered during the course. Practical skills are assessed during the course and given a pass / fail status.

Assessments

Paper 1	Paper 2	Paper 3
What's assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevant Physical Chemistry topics • Inorganic Chemistry • Relevant practical skills 	What's assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevant Physical Chemistry topics • Organic Chemistry • Relevant practical skills 	What's assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any content • Any practical skills
How it's assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written exam: 2 hours, 105 marks • 35% of A level 	How it's assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written exam: 2 hours, 105 marks • 35% of A level 	How it's assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written exam: 2 hours, 90 marks • 30% of A level
Questions 105 marks of short and long answer questions	Questions 105 marks of short and long answer questions	Questions 40 marks of questions on practical techniques and data analysis 20 marks of questions testing across the specification 30 marks of multiple choice questions

Chemistry is a challenging, but rewarding course that opens up a multitude of different career pathways. Students will find that it complements A-level Biology and / or A-level Physics.

Course Title: A Level COMPUTER SCIENCE
Awarding Body: OCR
Further information available from: MR DAVIDSON

Course requirements: There is no requirement that you will have studied Computer Science at GCSE but you will be at a *significant* advantage if you have done so, especially as the course is based around the ability to solve problems using computer programming skills. You should enjoy logic and mathematical problem solving and have achieved a GCSE grade 5 or higher in Maths.

We live in a world dictated by technology and understanding how it works is becoming an increasingly important skill. There is an ever growing demand for workers who have the ability to design, program and install computing systems. A Level Computer Science is a challenging, yet rewarding course that gives students a clear progression into higher education and a range of future career paths, as the course was designed after consultation with members of BCS, CAS and top universities.

The OCR Computer Science specification is relevant to the modern and changing world of computing and covers the following areas of study:

- Computer Programming with an emphasis on the importance of computational thinking as a discipline.
- Algorithm design and mathematical problem solving.
- Computational thinking – learning the skills necessary to break down a problem into the fundamental steps that will lead to a solution, helping students to develop the skills to solve problems, design systems and understand human and machine intelligence.
- The legal, moral, social and cultural impacts of technology in modern society.

The course comprises three units, all examined at the end of Year 13

- Unit 1 – Computer Systems – Written Examination, 2.5 hours, 40%
- Unit 2 – Algorithms and Programming – Written Examination, 2.5 hours, 40%
- Coursework – Programming Project – 20% completed in Year 13

Course Title: Three-Dimensional Design (A Level Art and Design)
Awarding Body: OCR
Further information available from: MR TENNANT

Course requirements: GCSE in any D&T course grade 5 or higher is desirable but not essential.

This exciting A-level course offers students the opportunity to explore Product Design in a hands-on way, working with a wide variety of materials, manufacturing techniques and media. Students will develop their own creative ideas, responding to areas of their own personal interest. The students will develop their skills in sketching and rendering, modelling and Computer Aided Design and Manufacture (CAD/CAM). Through a series of projects, students will be researching and analysing examples of good design and other focused research activities. They will also be guided through a broad range of manufacturing techniques, which they will be experiencing for the first time in order to utilise these as part of their own new ideas for products. Students are expected to be highly motivated, creative and have the ability to work both collaboratively and independently towards unique and imaginative outcomes for their own three-dimensional products.

There are two forms of assessment for this course:

Component 01: Personal investigation

This component is a non-exam assessment. It is worth 120 marks and contributes 60% of the overall A-Level. Students will produce two elements in response to a context: a design folder leading to a practical outcome and a related study. The related study should consist of a minimum of 1000 words. For this component, the students will complete work that often takes the form of a Design folder supported by modelling and a final piece of three-dimensional practical work. Work produced will be aimed at the Assessment Objectives and demonstrate that students have researched and responded to designers/inventors relevant to their theme. Their work will be supported by an in-depth study of their chosen designer/inventor.

Component 02: Externally set task

This component is a non-exam assessment. It is worth 80 marks and contributes 40% of the overall A-Level. A range of themes will be issued by the exam board on 1st February in Year 13. There will be a range of themes each with written and visual starting points, a brief and stimuli. One option will be chosen on which the candidate would base their response.

Once the themes are available the students will select a title/starting point from which to develop ideas. They will have time to produce preparation work that satisfies the first 3 AO's. The preparation work is worth 30% of the marks awarded for this unit. Candidates will then complete their task over a set period of 15 hours of supervised time focused on AO4.

Both components are assessed using the same four Assessment Objectives (AO):

- AO1 Develop ideas through focused research and investigations
- AO2 Explore and select appropriate resources and materials
- AO3 Record ideas and observations through sketching, formal drawings and CAD
- AO4 Present a final outcome developed from work carried out for the other AO's

Course Title: A Level ENGLISH LITERATURE

Awarding Body: EDEXCEL

Further information available from: MRS COWLEY, MRS PENZER-ADAMS

Course requirements: GCSE Grade 4 or higher in English Language and GCSE English Literature Grade 5

Literature is particularly powerful written language. Literature can change our view of the world and of ourselves within the world. You will learn how writers and readers together make meaning out of twenty-six letters and punctuation marks. For many of us teachers, our relationship with A Level texts was the catalyst for our choice of university course and subsequent career. Each examined component on the Edexcel course focuses on the main genres: poetry, prose and drama. This gives the candidates time and space to develop their knowledge and confidence through breadth and depth of study. The English Department encourages further reading and organises theatre visits, library trips and attendance at university style lectures.

The course is comprised of four discrete components:

COMPONENT 1: DRAMA – 30% weighting. One exam = 60 marks. Time: 2 hrs 15 mins. Section A: Tragedy: “King Lear”. There will be two questions and the candidate will choose one on their chosen text worth 35 marks. One Drama text: “A Streetcar Named Desire”. The candidate will answer one question worth 25 marks.

COMPONENT 2: PROSE– 20% weighting. One exam = 40 marks. Time: 1 hr 15 mins. Thematic study of a prose comparative question on the theme of the supernatural: Pre 1900: “The Picture of Dorian Gray”. Post 1900: “Beloved”. Candidates have to answer one examination question from a choice of two questions: this will be comparative.

COMPONENT 3: POETRY– 30% weighting. One exam = 60 marks. Time: 2 hrs 15 mins. Compulsory study of a collection of Modern Poetry set by Edexcel entitled: “Poems of the Decade: An Anthology of the Forward Books of Poetry 2002-2011.” Chosen named poet: “The Wife of Bath’s Prologue and Tale” by Geoffrey Chaucer.

COMPONENT 4: COURSEWORK – 20% weighting. One extended comparative essay referring to two texts = 3000 words. Free choice of texts and candidates can choose which two texts to study and analyse to pursue their own interests. The texts must be linked by theme, movement, author or period and may be poetry, prose or drama.

Why study English Literature?

English literature is a subject well respected by potential employers owing to the numerous transferable skills. These skills will also serve you well in advertising and marketing, teaching is another option. The analytical skills associated with this subject also apply well to things such as Law. Here are other examples: Digital copywriter, Editorial assistant, Lexicographer, Magazine or Newspaper journalist, Publishing copy-editor/proof-reader, Advertising copywriter, Arts administrator, Marketing executive and Social media manager.

Wider transferable work skills- Communication skills, problem solving, presentation skills, articulating knowledge and understanding of texts, concepts and theories, leading and participating in discussions, critical reasoning and analysis.

Course Title: A Level GEOGRAPHY
 Awarding Body: AQA
 Further information available from: MR RAY

Course requirements: Grade 5 in GCSE Geography, Grade 5 or higher in GCSE English Language or English Literature and GCSE Mathematics.

Following a course in A Level Geography will enable learners to:

- Actively engage in the process of geography to develop as effective and independent learners and as critical and reflective thinkers with enquiring minds;
- Develop their knowledge and understanding of geographical concepts and appreciate the relevance of these concepts to our changing world;
- Develop a framework of spatial awareness in which to appreciate the importance of the location of places and environments from local to global;
- Appreciate the differences and similarities between people's views of the world, it's environments, societies and cultures;
- Apply their learning to the real world through fieldwork and other out of classroom learning using geographical skills, appropriate technologies, enquiry and analysis.

The Course:

In Year 12 and 13, Geography content is divided into two sections – Physical and Human Geography. In core physical, candidates' subject knowledge and understanding in key environments is developed. The contrasting physical environments each present opportunities for studying distinctive sets of processes raising common themes of environmental impact, management, sustainability and citizenship.

In core human, fundamentals of population in human geography are addressed with an emphasis on change and development over space and time and their geographical implications. Optional elements are specified to give candidates the opportunity to engage with key themes of contemporary relevance with an emphasis on human agency and welfare and/or sustainability aspects.

Component 1 – Physical Geography	Component 2 – Human Geography	Component 3
written exam 2 hours 30 minutes – 40% of A-Level	written exam 2 hours 30 minutes – 40% of A-Level	3000 – 4000 word individual investigation – 20% of A-Level
Section A – Water and Carbon Cycles Section B – Coastal Systems and Landscapes Section C – Hazards	Section A – Global Systems and Governance Section B – Changing Places Section C – Contemporary Urban Environments	Fieldwork: There will be an opportunity to conduct fieldwork in Iceland, investigate coastal landforms in Wales and undertake practical work on urban settlement patterns

Course Title: A Level HISTORY
 Awarding Body: AQA
 Further information available from: MR FERGUSON

Course requirements: Grade 5 in GCSE History, Grade 5 or higher in GCSE English Language or English Literature and 3 in GCSE Mathematics.

The History department's A Level History course consists of three fascinating and contrasting modules: Stuart Britain and the Crisis of the Monarchy, 1603 – 1702, Italy and Fascism 1900-1945 and a Personal Study.

Unit 1: Stuart Britain and the Crisis of the Monarchy, 1603-1702

This Unit provides an overview of the changing relationships between Crown, Parliament and people of Britain during these turbulent and historically crucial years. Key issues include the nature of political authority; continuity and change in Crown-Parliament relations; the relationship between religion, politics and society and changes in the economy and society.

Unit 2: Italy and Fascism, 1900-1945

This option focuses on a period in Italian history during which democracy gave way to dictatorship. It gives students an opportunity to broaden their understanding of early 20th century European History through the study of a period which has many parallels with Germany, 1919-1945. Key issues include the concept of Fascism; the role of war and desire of empire in the rise and nature of Italian Fascism; the factors responsible for Mussolini coming in to power in Italy and the establishment of a Fascist dictatorship; efforts to transform Italians into Fascists through totalitarian ideology and the role of Mussolini's decision in June 1940 to take Italy into the Second World War in the eventual collapse of the regime.

Unit 3: A Personal Study

The History department personal study allows students to focus on a choice from one of the following: the first is a study of the controversy surrounding Daniel Goldhagen's book 'Hitler's Willing Executioners'. Goldhagen's claims provoked a bitter controversy that continues to this day because he argues that the whole generation of Germans were culpable in the Holocaust because the nature of anti-Semitism in Germany was far darker and sinister than that found in other European countries. This historical controversy gives students an opportunity to investigate a different historical interpretation than what they are familiar with and gives them the opportunity to create and communicate their own interpretations. The second is the development of Civil Rights in USA, from 1865 to 1965. This is primarily based around the work of two historians, Charles Payne and Steven Lawrence. The core argument will focus on the role of Martin Luther King Jr. in the Civil Rights Movement and students will have the opportunity to argue if he was the driving force that paved the way for the Civil Rights Act, or if other factors such as the government and the media were more important.

What's Assessed?	
Units 1 and 2	Unit 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 hour and 30 minute written exam • 80 marks • Three questions (one compulsory) • Each exam is 40% of the overall mark 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3000-4500 word personal study • 40 marks • 20% of overall mark • Marked by teachers, moderated by AQA

Course Title: BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in IT - Equivalent to one full A-Level
Awarding Body: PEARSON
Further information available from: MR DAVIDSON

Course requirements: A GCSE Grade 4 in Mathematics and Grade 4 in English Language or English Literature.

This qualification is designed for learners who are interested in an introduction into the study of creating IT systems to manage and share information alongside other fields of study, with a view to progressing to a wide range of higher education courses, not necessarily in IT. Learners will develop a common core of IT knowledge and study areas such as the relationship between hardware and software that form an IT system, managing and processing data to support business and using IT to communicate and share information. This will allow progression to a variety of degrees when combined with other suitable Level 3 qualifications.

The course is made up of 4 units of which 3 are mandatory and 2 are externally assessed.

Three mandatory units:

Unit 1: Information Technology Systems (written examination)

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

Unit 2: Creating Systems to Manage Information

Learners study the design, creation, testing and evaluation of a relational database system to manage information.

Unit 3: Using Social Media in Business.

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

This qualification includes a choice of optional units, including:

Unit 5: Data Modelling

Learners study how data modelling can be used to solve problems, and they will design and implement a data model to meet client requirements.

Unit 6: Website Development.

Learners investigate website development principles and they design and develop a website using scripting languages.

Course assessment: The course is assessed both internally and externally as well as through written examination for unit 1. These are graded at Pass, Merit, Distinction and Unclassified. There will also be mandatory employer involvement in at least two units.

Course Title: A Level MATHEMATICS
Awarding Body: EDEXCEL
Further information available from: MR BROWN, MRS STOKES

Course requirements: GCSE Maths Grade 7 or higher

Mathematics is the UK's most popular A-level subject among those who go on to study at university. Why? Because it's exciting, challenging, and opens doors in the future, forming the basis for a vast range of careers and academic disciplines.

A-Level Maths is a big hit with university admissions tutors. For example, the Russell Group (a collection of the UK's leading universities) has maths on its prestigious list of 'facilitating subjects' – those most frequently required for their degree courses. Universities know that students with an A-Level in Maths are loaded with transferable skills, not afraid of some really solid hard work, and able to solve problems in whatever subject area they go on to study.

Is A-Level Maths suitable for me?

Ok, so Maths is the UK's most popular A-Level subject, but is it for you? Here are some questions to ask yourself to help you to decide:

- Do you enjoy maths?

If you like the buzz you get from working out the correct answer to a difficult question, or appreciate the way an equation can be used to solve a complicated problem, or find sitting and doing some maths practice strangely therapeutic, then A-Level Maths might be for you.

On the other hand, if you do well at GCSE maths but find it generally stressful and unpleasant, then you're probably not going to want two more years of it.

- Are you a well-organised, self-motivated, independent worker?

We make no secret of the fact that being successful at A-Level Maths involves lots and lots of hard work. After all, if you could get an A-Level in Maths with only moderate effort, why would all those universities and employers be so impressed? A lot of the work needed to be successful is practising questions until you're an expert at them – you'll need to be committed to organising your study and able to motivate yourself to get on with it - even if nobody is checking up!

What topics are studied at A-Level Maths?

- Pure Maths – Lots of lovely algebra!
- Statistics – Graphs, analysing data, probability
- Mechanics – The maths of movement: speed, force, energy etc.

What careers or courses can maths lead to?

Here are just a few... Accountancy, Aeronautical Engineering, Agricultural Science, Astrophysics, Architecture, Banking & Finance, Biology, Business, Chemistry, Civil Engineering, Civil Service, Computing, Computer Sciences, Construction, Consultancy, Economics, Electrical Engineering, Electronic Engineering, Environmental Sciences, Games Development, Information Technology, Marine Engineering, Mathematics, Medicine, Pathology, Physics, Psychology, Software Engineering, Teaching, Veterinary Science...

Course Title: Level 3 Extended Certificate in PERFORMING ARTS Equivalent to one A-Level
Awarding Body: Pearson
Further information available from: MRS MAYMAND, MR TILL

The Extended Certificate is for learners who are interested in learning about the Performing Arts sector. You will complete 3 externally assessed units and 1 optional unit in either Acting Styles or Musical Theatre Techniques. The course is equivalent to one A Level.

Unit 1: Investigation Practitioners' Work External Assessment

In this unit, you will develop skills that allow you to investigate the work of influential Performing Arts practitioners. This unit will give you skills in research, critical analysis and extended writing that will support your progress to higher education. As a Performing Arts practitioner you will need to have a good understanding of the work of influential practitioners to inform your own work and professional practice.

Unit 2: Developing Skills and Techniques for Live Performance Internal Assessment

This unit serves as an induction into the Performing Arts where you will develop the appropriate skills and techniques in one or more of the performance disciplines of acting, musical theatre, physical theatre and variety/popular entertainment. You will participate in regular workshops, classes and exercises where you will acquire, practise and develop the necessary technical, practical and interpretative performance skills to help you succeed when performing live to an audience. The training and experience provided by this unit will also help prepare you for employment in the Performing Arts industry as the development of performance skills and techniques is fundamental to all live performance roles.

Unit 3: Group Performance Workshop External Assessment

In this unit, you will learn how to respond to a given stimulus as part of a group, using research, discussion and practical exploration to develop performance material and later present an informal presentation of the work to an invited audience. The experience, skills and knowledge gained through this unit are applicable to a range of job roles, including performing, directing, choreography, devising, Theatre in Education (TIE) and project leadership.

Unit 19: Acting Styles Internal Assessment

In this unit, you will develop acting methods by explore different acting styles. You will apply techniques to the development, rehearsal and performance of your practical work.

Unit 27: Musical Theatre Techniques Internal Assessment

In this unit, you will explore key features of musical theatre, developing specialist skills and techniques as a musical theatre performer combining acting, singing and dance skills for a performance.

Course Title: A Level PHILOSOPHY and ETHICS

Awarding Body: OCR

Further information available from: MISS ROACH, MISS CLENTON or MRS ATTWATER

Course requirements: All students must have at least a Grade 5 in English. A GCSE in Religious Studies is not required, but would be advantageous.

What is Philosophy and Ethics and why take it?

The Religious Studies department's A Level Philosophy and Ethics curriculum course consists of three units: Philosophy, Religion & Ethics and Developments in Christian thought. Philosophy deals with the big questions humans ask, such as "Does God exist?" While Ethics looks at how humans make important decisions, such as "What is right?" Developments in Christian thought examines how the religion has developed and its relationship with society.

Do we still need religion?

Philosophy and Ethics explores those 'big questions' about life, the universe and everything! As such it can inform and enrich your life. Philosophy students acquire a number of skills that will never date, that will be useful across other subject areas, and that are transferable to a wide range of professions. Don't think that because philosophy is about finding answers to interesting and difficult questions it cannot prepare you well for a professional career, or set you in good stead for Higher Education courses. When you study Philosophy and Religious Ethics, by inquiring into such diverse phenomena as language, science, law, morality and religion, you will acquire a whole range of abilities, such as being able to argue a point of view, sharpening your logic, developing your articulacy, and enhancing your problem solving skills.

What topics will be studied?

Philosophy of Religion

- How did some of the first philosophers, the Ancient Greeks, explain the world?
- Is God real? If so, then what is He?
- Why does God allow bad things to happen to good people?
- Can something exist that has no beginning?
- Can we actually talk about God in a meaningful way?

Religious Ethics

- How can we know what is morally good?
- What is the conscience and should it decide what we do?
- Is an action *always* morally right or wrong?
- What does good even mean?

Development in Christian thought

- Are Christian morals still applicable in society today? Do we even need religion?
- Who was Jesus?
- What role does gender play in society and in religion?

How is the A Level course examined?

For each unit there is a 2 hour written examination during which candidates will answer 3 essay questions from a choice of four. There is no coursework in Philosophy and Ethics.

Course Title: A Level PHOTOGRAPHY
Awarding Body: OCR
Further information available from: MR ANDREWS

Course requirements: Art Level 5, or, ICT Level 5, or, any D & T Level 5 (if studied at GCSE).

In Photography students follow a course similar in structure to A Level and GCSE Art. They produce a coursework project (portfolio) worth 60% of their final mark and sit an externally set exam worth 40%.

Both the coursework portfolio and the exam are marked using the same Assessment Objectives:

AO1: (25%) Develop ideas through artist's research and appropriate responses

AO2: (25%) Experiment with Photoshop to edit and develop images

AO3: (25%) Record ideas and observations through lens based media

AO4: (25%) Present a final image or images developed from work carried out for the other three

Assessment Objectives

Related Study Mark: Coursework only supporting written study of 1000-3000 words (for coursework marks are out of 20% for the 4 AO's above and the written study).

For this students produce a body of work that takes the form of a sketchbook supported by an A3 portfolio of their own images. They explore an idea or theme developing work in a way that reflects their personal interests or strengths until they reach a final outcome. Work produced should satisfy the Assessment Objectives above and demonstrate that they have researched and responded to photographers relevant to their theme, experimented with their images and objects through photography and then produced a relevant final piece. In Year 13 the students' coursework portfolio is supported by a 1000-3000 word personal study.

Controlled Assignment

The exam takes the same form as GCSE Art. Students will be issued with an early release paper in February from which they will select a title/starting point to develop ideas from. They will have time to produce preparation work that satisfies the first 3 AO'S (just as they have done for their coursework) before they begin their exam. With Photography, students will spend their exam editing one (or a series) of their own images selected as a final piece using Photoshop.

The A Level exam is 15 hours long typically split into a series of sittings of up to 5 hours. As in other subject areas exam conditions are observed. The focus in the exam is to produce a final outcome that satisfies AO4. Exams are likely to begin towards the middle of April and finish the middle of May although exact timings may vary. Coursework deadlines will coincide with final exam deadlines.

A Level Photography students will have the opportunity to explore a wide range of ideas and develop skills in studio, documentary and landscape/architecture photography. They will learn about contemporary photographers and develop relevant industry skills in both the use of software packages and studio lighting equipment.

Course Title: A Level PHYSICS
 Awarding Body: AQA
 Further information available from: DR ALLEN BATE or MRS SPENCER

Course requirements: Grade 6 or higher in GCSE Combined Science or a minimum grade 6 in each of the GCSE Single Sciences, plus GCSE Maths grade 6 or higher.

Following the AQA Physics syllabus, topics 1-5 will be taught in Year 12 and topics 6-8 will be covered in Year 13 plus an optional topic as outlined below:

- Measurements and their errors
- Particles and radiation
- Waves
- Mechanics and materials
- Electricity
- Further mechanics and thermal physics (A-level only)
- Fields and their consequences (A-level only)
- Nuclear physics (A-level only)
- Option Modue10 Medical physics (A-level only)

The course is assessed by three written papers covering both course content and practical techniques. There are 12 assessed required practicals and pupils are given a pass/fail status.

Assessments

Paper 1	Paper 2	Paper 3
What's assessed Sections 1 – 5 and 6.1 (Periodic motion)	What's assessed Sections 6.2 (Thermal Physics), 7 and 8 Assumed knowledge from 1 to 6.1	What's assessed Section A: Compulsory section: Practical skills and data analysis Section B: 10 Medical Physics
Assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • written exam: 2 hours • 85 marks • 34% of A-level 	Assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • written exam: 2 hours • 85 marks • 34% of A-level 	Assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • written exam: 2 hours • 80 marks • 32% of A-level
Questions 60 marks of short and long answer questions and 25 multiple choice questions on content.	Questions 60 marks of short and long answer questions and 25 multiple choice questions on content.	Questions 45 marks of short and long answer questions on practical experiments and data analysis. 35 marks of short and long answer questions on optional topic.

Physics is a challenging, but rewarding course that opens up a multitude of different career pathways. Anyone thinking of doing Physics should also think about studying A Level Maths alongside as the two reinforce each other so well. The study of A Level Chemistry also complements a lot of the work we do.

Course Title: A Level PSYCHOLOGY
Awarding Body: AQA
Further information available from: MISS HUMPHRIES or MISS CANTWELL

Course requirements: At least a 5 in Maths GCSE, a 5 in Science due to the scientific content and a 5 in English Language or English Literature due to the extended writing skills required.

What is Psychology?

Psychology is the scientific study of the brain and behaviour. You will study both traditional and modern Psychological theories at A-level. The new specification places significantly more emphasis on Science (particularly Biology) and Maths. Students are now expected to apply mathematical concepts and complete mathematical calculations in each of the Psychology exam papers.

Due to its scientific nature, Psychology is a challenging but rewarding subject. You will be assessed by your teachers every two weeks. There will be formal mock exams throughout the course.

Course Outline and assessment

Students will sit three exams at the end of year 13.

Paper 1: Introductory topics in Psychology *This is a two hour paper worth 96 marks with four compulsory sections that require extended essay writing*

- Social influence (why people conform and obey)
- Memory
- Attachment (the caregiver-child relationship)
- Psychopathology (explanation and treatment of mental illness)

Paper 2: Psychology in context *This is a two hour paper worth 96 marks with three compulsory sections that require extended essay writing*

- Theories in Psychology
- Biopsychology (a science based module)
- Research methods

Paper 3: Issues and options in Psychology *This is a two hour paper worth 96 marks with three sections that require extended essay writing*

- Issues and debates in Psychology
- Relationships
- Eating behaviour
- Addiction

Course Title: BTEC Level 3 Applied SCIENCE Equivalent to 1 full A Level qualification

Awarding Body: EDEXCEL

Further information available from: MR TRICKETT, DR ALLEN-BATE

Course requirements: at least a Grade 4 in GCSE Combined Science or in the separate GCSE Biology, Chemistry and Physics courses and a grade 4 in Maths and English.

How is the course assessed?

A combination of assessment styles will give you confidence that you can apply your knowledge to succeed in the workplace. Firstly, a series of set tasks set in a work-related scenario. Next, you will be required to complete, in controlled conditions, a practical task tackling an everyday challenge and finally, there is a written exam.

- Unit 1 – an externally assessed written 2hr exam worth 90 marks
- Unit 2 – a series of practical tasks assessed internally by your teachers
- Unit 3 – an externally set task worth 60 marks, completed under supervised conditions over an assessment period of 9 days

Across the two year course you will study 3 mandatory units and then choose a final unit from a choice of:

- Physiology of Human Body Systems
- Human Regulation and Reproduction
- Biological Molecules and Metabolic Pathways
- Genetics and Genetic Engineering
- Disease and Infections
- Applications of Inorganic Chemistry
- Applications of Organic Chemistry
- Electrical Circuits and their Application
- Astronomy and Space Science

Mandatory units:

- **Principles and Applications of Science:** an in-depth study of fundamental scientific concepts encompassing biology, chemistry and physics applications that are crucial to our modern day lives.
- **Practical Scientific Procedures and Techniques:** a hands-on introduction to standard laboratory techniques.
- **Science Investigation Skills:** a practical based unit.

Course Title: A Level SOCIOLOGY
 Awarding Body: AQA
 Further information available from: MR GILES

Course requirements: Sociology is open to students who have not studied the course at GCSE. GCSE grade 5 or above is required in English Language or English Literature.

Sociology is the study of society and people in groups. The study of the subject leads to a wider understanding of contemporary society and helps students to develop a critical opinion of the world around them.

Sociology equips students with the knowledge and language to challenge their own beliefs and perceptions of the society they live in. Students in turn gain a greater understanding of the economic, political and social forces around them.

It is a popular subject at A-Level with many students using the subject to help them make undergraduate and career choices.

A Level Sociology is split into three papers that will be examined at the end of Year 13.

A Level Specification at a glance		
Content	Percentage of A level	Assessment
Component 1 Education with Theory and Method Written paper	33.3 %	2 hour exam 80 marks 50 – Education 20 – Methods in Context 10 – Theory and Methods
Component 2 Topics in Sociology Written paper	33.3 %	2 hour exam 80 marks 40 – Family and Households 40 – Beliefs in Society or 40 - Globalisation
Component 3 Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods Written paper	33.3 %	2 hour exam 80 marks 50 - Crime and Deviance 30 – Theory and Methods

Course Title: BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in SPORT
Awarding Body: EDEXCEL
Equivalent to 1 full A Level qualification
Further information available from: MR SWANNELL, MR BARTER, MRS TOOTH

Course requirements: A Merit in BTEC L2 Sport. Grade 4 or higher in GCSE Double science or grade 4 in GCSE Chemistry and Biology.

The Edexcel BTEC National Level 3 Extended Certificate in Sport is a 360 guided learning hours (GLH) qualification that consists of 3 mandatory units and 1 optional unit. This is a two-year, theoretical course with a limited amount of practical work.

Mandatory units

- Anatomy and Physiology (120GLH)
- Fitness Training and Programming for Health, Sport and Well-being (120GLH)
- Professional Development in the Sports Industry (60GLH)

Optional unit

- Sports Psychology (60GLH)

Unit 1 - Anatomy and Physiology is assessed through a 1 hour 30-minute external examination set and marked by the exam board. Students draw on essential information to create written answers to practical questions applying technical knowledge.

Unit 2 - Fitness Training and Programming for Health, Sport and Well-being is assessed by students interpreting lifestyle factors and health screening data from a scenario and stimulus information in order to develop and justify a fitness training programme and nutritional advice based on these interpretations. This involves a two and a half hour written assessment in controlled conditions.

Unit 1 and Unit 2 form 67% of the total marks for the qualification.

Unit 3 - Professional Development in the Sports Industry is assessed through a series of assignments, which contain tasks set in a work-related scenario. These are set and marked internally and moderated by the exam board.

Unit 6 – Sport Psychology is also assessed through assignments containing tasks set in a work-related scenario. These are set and marked internally and moderated by the exam board.

Each Assignment has deadlines; in order to pass the course deadlines must be met.

Unit 3 and Unit 6 form 33% of the total marks for the qualification. This course is designed to give you the opportunity to develop a range of techniques, personal skills and attributes essential for successful performance in working life or further study at university.