

Course Title: A Level FINE ART Awarding Body: OCR Further information available from: MRS VAN DAALEN
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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: MR MULVEY

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: BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Business
Awarding Body: PEARSON
Further information available from: MR ROYSTON

Course requirements: Grade 4 in GCSE Maths and English.

Why study A Level Business?

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. 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. The BTEC National uses a combination of assessment styles to give students the confidence that they can apply their knowledge to succeed in the workplace.

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?

Students will study four topic areas across the two years, which is equivalent to one A Level. In Year 12, you will study 2 units. The first unit is Exploring Business. You will gain an overview of the key ingredients for business success, how businesses are organised, how they communicate, the characteristics of the environment in which they operate and how this shapes them and their activities. The second unit covers Personal and Business Finance. Personal finance involves the understanding of why money is important and how managing your money can help prevent future financial difficulties. Business finance will introduce you to accounting terminology, the purpose and importance of business accounts and the different sources of finance available to businesses. In Year 13, you will study Developing a Marketing Campaign as well as Recruitment and Selection. You will learn that successful recruitment is key to maintaining the success of a business, as people are often considered to be the most valued resource. The Recruitment and Selection unit gives you the opportunity, through role play, to take part in selection interviews.

How will I be assessed?

In Year 12 you will complete a series of coursework tasks for Unit 1. The Finance unit will be assessed under supervised conditions. In Year 13, there will be another coursework unit as well as a written external assessment. For the written assessment you will be given a case study two weeks before the assessment in order to carry out research. You will then be required to prepare a rationale and then a plan for a marketing campaign.

What career paths does Business Studies lead on to?

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 testing across the specification 30 marks multiple choice

Chemistry is a challenging, but rewarding course that opens a wide variety of career pathways, not only in medicine, nursing, veterinary science but also engineering, finance, law, business to name but a few. Students will find that chemistry complements A-level Biology or A-level Physics.

Course Title: A Level COMPUTER SCIENCE
Awarding Body: OCR
Further information available from: MRS LEES

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: WJEC Level 3 APPLIED DIPLOMA IN CRIMINOLOGY

Awarding Body: WJEC

Further information available from: MISS TURNER

Course requirements - at least a Grade 4 in Maths, English and Science.

About the course - An understanding of criminology is relevant to many job roles within the criminal justice sector, social and probation work and sociology and psychology. The WJEC Level 3 Applied Diploma in Criminology is a qualification with elements of psychology, law and sociology that complements many other studies.

Criminology is an Applied General qualification, designed primarily to support learners progressing to university or into higher level apprenticeships in areas such as: Criminology and Criminal Justice, Criminology and Psychology, Law with Criminology and Criminology and Sociology. The WJEC Level 3 Applied Diploma in Criminology is equivalent to one A-level and consists of four mandatory units.

How is the course assessed?

A combination of assessment styles will give you confidence that you can apply your knowledge to succeed. The course is assessed by both internally and externally assessed work.

- Unit 1 – Changing awareness of crime
- Unit 3 – Crime scene to Courtroom

These units are internally assessed, written work that are delivered in the form of controlled assessment. In this controlled assessment, you are given a brief that contains a scenario and tasks. This is selected by your teacher and prepared by the exam board.

- Unit 2 – Criminological Theories
- Unit 4 – Crime and Punishment

Both of these units are externally assessed in exams. This draws on information from units 2 and 4, but it is a synoptic paper so can draw on areas from all over the course.

What skills and knowledge does the course allow you to develop?

The course will allow learners to develop:

- skills required for independent learning and development
- a range of generic and transferable skills
- the ability to solve problems
- the skills of project-based research, development and presentation
- the fundamental ability to work alongside other professionals, in a professional environment
- the ability to apply learning in vocational contexts

Course Title: Three-Dimensional Design (A Level Art and Design) **Product design pathway**

Awarding Body: OCR

Further information available from: MRS VAN DAALEN

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. Their marks will come from 60% coursework and 40% externally set task and will be assessed under the following criteria:

AO1: (25%) Design INSPIRATION ideas through design research and appropriate responses

AO2: (25%) MEDIA EXPERIMENTATION with, and select, appropriate materials with a 3D focus, including material testing and function.

AO3: (25%) Considered CREATION ideas and observations through isometric drawing, rendering, 3D outcomes and modelling.

AO4: (25%) Informed OUTCOME a final 3D functional 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 - Personal investigation

Worth 120 marks and contributes 60% of the overall A-Level. Students will produce a body of work that often takes the form of design sheets, supported by rendered drawings, leading to modelling in different media 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 a 1000- 3000 word written study of their chosen designer/inventor that reflects their personal interests or strengths.

Externally set task

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. One option will be chosen on which the candidate would base their response, having the opportunity to work in an increasingly independent way, experimenting in a variety of exciting and innovative 3D media. They will have time to produce preparation work that satisfies the first 3 AO's. Candidates will then complete their final piece over a set period of 15 hours focusing on AO4.

Course Title: A Level ENGLISH LITERATURE
Awarding Body: EDEXCEL
Further information available from: MISS PICKERILL

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

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, its 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: Pearson Level 3 Alternative Academic Qualification (AAQ) in Health and Social Care (Extended certificate)

Awarding Body: Pearson

Further information available from: MISS CANTWELL

Please note that the content of this subject could be amended following the outcome of the Government curriculum review.

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

Health and social care is one of the fastest growing sectors in the UK with demand for both health and social care professionals continuing to be high. In 2021, the health and social care sector contributed £46 billion to the UK economy.

The Level 3 AAQ in Health and Social Care is designed to provide you with an introduction to the sector and an understanding of areas such as human growth and development and human biology. There is a significant emphasis on biology in this new specification and students should be confident with topics within human biology such as cells, tissues and energy, and also systems within the body such as the cardiovascular and nervous systems.

It includes two internally assessed and two externally examined units and is worth the equivalent of one A Level. It is suitable for students looking to develop their applied knowledge and skills in health and social care alongside other academic qualifications such as Psychology, Biology or English.

Course Outline and assessment

You will complete four units of study across the two-year course. Two of these are internally assessed and externally moderated (via assignments) and two are externally examined.

- **Unit 1: Human Lifespan and Development (External):** PIES and factors affecting growth and development, interventions and the different professionals providing care
- **Unit 2: Human Biology and Health (External):** Human body structure and systems, normal physiological functioning and the impact of common disorders
- **Unit 3: Health and Social Care Practice (Internal):** Core principles, values and legislation that underpin and influence health and social care, and the effect of social determinants on an individual's health status
- ***Unit 5: Health Education (Internal):** Health education, its purpose and use of different approaches and models to achieve positive health outcomes

(*This is an optional unit and could be subject to change)

Where can Health and Social Care lead?

This course provides transferable knowledge and skills that prepare learners for progression onto degree level programmes, including the ability to think independently, conduct research and work collaboratively. A qualification in Health and Social Care can also provide knowledge and skills relevant to further study in areas such as social work, nursing, midwifery, paramedic science, occupational therapy and youth work.

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

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: Tudor Britain from Henry VII to Elizabeth I, Germany: Democracy to Nazism, and a Personal Study (either an independent research project on Russia: terror and reform from the Romanov's to Khrushchev, or a study of African-American Civil Rights: from Lincoln to King).

Unit 1: Breadth Study - Tudor England: 1485-1603 (1C)

This component provides an overview of the leadership and challenges of the Tudor Dynasty – from establishing their legitimacy during the War of the Roses, through to the consolidation years under Henry VII and Henry VIII, right up to Edward, 'Bloody Mary' and the triumph of Elizabeth I. Key themes include the nature of politics; challenges of foreign and domestic policy, continuity and change across the Tudor monarchs; the relationship between religion, politics and monarchy, and changes to the economy and society.

Unit 2: Depth Study - Democracy and Nazism: 1918-1945 (2O)

This option focuses on a period of German history during which democracy gave way to terror and dictatorship. It gives students an opportunity to expand their understanding of 20th century European History from their studies at GCSE level through an in-depth review of Germany and fascism. Key issues include the concept of Fascism; the role of war and clash of ideologies between democracy, communism and Fascism; the factors responsible for Hitler coming to power and the establishment of the police state; efforts to transform Germans into Fascists through totalitarian ideology and the role of Hitler's decision in 1939 to initiate WWII – leading to the Holocaust, and eventual collapse of the regime.

Unit 3: A Personal Study

The History Department's personal study allows students to focus on a choice from two of the following: the first examines the change and continuity of the Russian regimes: from the Romanov imperial family, through to Lenin and Stalin, culminating in the Cold-War dictator Khrushchev. Students examine change and continuity through the lens of the different leader's attempts to use terror and reforms to control the Russian people. 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 significance of individuals in achieving Civil Rights (such as Martin Luther King), versus the intervention of Government – under leaders like Abraham Lincoln and Lyndon B. Johnson.

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"> • 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 CREATIVE DIGITAL MEDIA PRODUCTION

Awarding Body: PEARSON

Further information available from: MRS KAUR or MRS LEES

Course requirements: A Merit in Creative imedia and GCSE Grade 4 in English Lang. or Lit.

This course is designed for learners who are interested in an introduction to digital media production. It offers a strong foundation for those looking to pursue further education or careers in creative media, including areas such as video production, social media, and digital content creation. Learners will develop key skills in producing and managing creative digital content while also gaining an understanding of the media industry and its processes.

Course Structure

The qualification is made up of **four units**, with **three mandatory units**, two of which are externally assessed.

Mandatory Units:

1. **Unit 1: Media Representations** (Written Examination)
Focus: This unit explores how different media forms represent people, events, and ideas, and how these representations can influence audiences. Learners analyse media products across different platforms and develop critical thinking skills.
2. **Unit 2: Pre-Production Portfolio**
Focus: Learners study the essential planning and preparation required in media production. This includes creating pre-production documents like scripts, storyboards, and production schedules to develop an understanding of project management.
3. **Unit 3: Creating a Media Product**
Focus: This hands-on unit allows learners to apply their skills by designing and producing a media product, such as a website, or magazine. It covers every stage of production, from concept development to post-production.

Optional Units (one of):

Unit 12: Website Production

Focus: Learners develop the skills to design, build, and manage websites. They explore the principles of web design, user experience (UX), and web development tools, creating functional and visually appealing websites as part of their assessment.

Unit 13: Digital Games Production

Focus: This unit introduces learners to the exciting field of digital game production. They will study game design concepts, develop basic programming skills, and create a playable digital game. The unit provides a strong foundation for those interested in pursuing a career in game development or interactive media.

Career and Progression Opportunities

This qualification prepares learners for a range of higher education courses in fields like media, film production, advertising, and journalism, or entry-level roles in the creative and digital media industry. Learners will also have the opportunity to engage with **industry professionals** and gain practical experience that supports future career goals.

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

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: A Level PHOTOGRAPHY
Awarding Body: OCR
Further information available from: MRS VAN DAALEN

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: MR SOUTHAM

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:

1. Measurements and their errors
 2. Particles and radiation
 3. Waves
 4. Mechanics and materials
 5. Electricity
 6. Further mechanics and thermal physics
 7. Fields and their consequences
 8. Nuclear physics
- Option: Astronomy

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: Engineering 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 some of the work we do.

Course Title: A Level PSYCHOLOGY
Awarding Body: AQA
Further information available from: 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. This specification places significant emphasis on Science (particularly Biology) and Maths. Students are expected to apply mathematical concepts, complete mathematical calculations and display evidence of strong research skills. Students begin the course by studying research methods in Psychology and examine aspects of research design such as data collection, analysis and ethics.

Due to its scientific nature, Psychology is a challenging but rewarding subject. It allows students to consider the origins and potential causes of a wide range of human behaviours, including attachment, addiction and mental health.

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 (including why people conform and obey)
- Memory (including types of memory and the accuracy of eyewitness testimony)
- Attachment (including the influence of early relationships on later behaviour)
- Psychopathology (including the causes and treatments of OCD)

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

- Approaches in Psychology (including biological and behavioural approaches)
- Biopsychology (including neural plasticity and the use of brain scanning)
- Research methods (including research design and data analysis)

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 (including gender bias and culture bias)
- Relationships (including factors affecting attraction and relationship breakdown)
- Schizophrenia (including biological and psychological causes)
- Addiction (including smoking and gambling addiction)

Course Title: A Level RELIGIOUS STUDIES
Awarding Body: OCR
Further information available from: MISS ROACH

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 Religious Studies 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?

Religious Studies explores those 'big questions' about life, the universe and everything! As such it can inform and enrich your life. 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 Religious Studies.

Course Title: BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in APPLIED SCIENCE
Awarding Body: PEARSON
Further information available from: MR TRICKETT

Please note that the content of this subject could be amended following the outcome of the Government curriculum review.

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. The course is equivalent to one A Level.

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: PEARSON

Further information available from: MR BARTER

Course requirements: A Merit in BTEC L2 Sport (if studied). Grade 4 or higher in GCSE Double Science (or triple if taken, including a 4 in 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

- Unit 5 – Application of Fitness Testing (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 5 – Application of Fitness Testing 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.