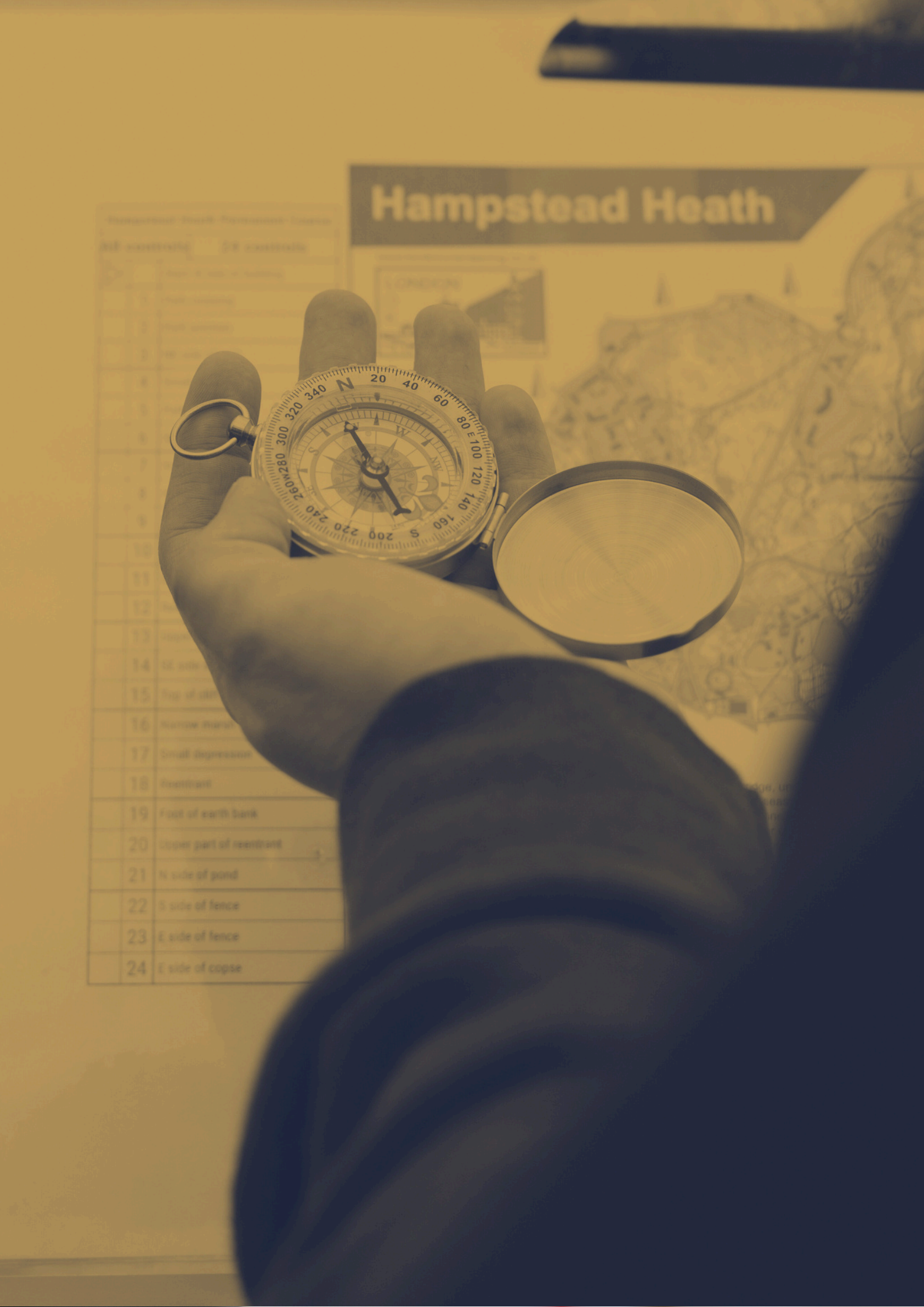
NORTH BRIDGE HOUSE

SIXTH FORM
HAMPSTEAD


Hampstead Heath

Introduction

Choosing to stay at NBH Hampstead means continuing your education in a school community that already knows and supports you. Over the next 18 months (with exams beginning in May of Year 13), you'll be taught by teachers who understand how you learn best and what inspires you to succeed. They'll also guide you in maintaining that all-important balance between your studies and your personal life.

As always, your happiness will be at the heart of everything we do, because we know that happy students are successful students. Whether you're here to complete your education in a vibrant co-educational environment that prepares you for real-world experiences, or to take advantage of our strong academic reputation and amazing co-curricular programmes, you'll find plenty of opportunities to thrive.

This booklet includes information about all subjects available from Science and Humanities to Arts and Languages. We encourage you to read this information carefully. The courses on offer have been selected based on your aspirations and conversations we have had with you all since we announced this exciting new offer.

Our Sixth Form will specialise in A-level supported by a comprehensive global careers and university advice programme. In addition to interdisciplinary projects and professional mentoring, we are currently launching new charitable and educational partnerships, including expanding opportunities for pupils to attend European and American universities and gain valuable work placements in London.

You will continue to benefit from our existing broad co-curricular programme, with a new range of visits and cultural experiences tailored to your age group. With these experiences and the main academic curriculum, we will be creating opportunities for you to collaborate with students in other Cognita schools in Europe and further afield.

We look forward to welcoming you to our Sixth Form.

Mr Christopher Jones
Headteacher

The Day to Day in Brief:

- We don't start the day before 9.20am
- You have 18 A level teaching periods (6 per subject)
- You have supervised study periods **and** 1:1 mentoring
- You have free periods (can be taken out of school after October half term)
- We have dedicated periods for professional and in-school leadership training and opportunities, networking experiences, sport, enrichment and volunteering options
- We offer global specialist advice for career pathways with strong links to European and US universities
- Oracy skills are key to our co-curricular options to prepare students for interview and life-long confidence including Model United Nations and Debating
- There will be a common room dedicated for Sixth Form use
- The expectation will be smart casual dress with no joggers or ripped jeans

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9.20 - 9.40	Tutor Time	No Tutor Time	Tutor Time	Tutor Time	Fortnightly Mentoring 1:1
P1 9.40 - 10.30	A level Option 2	Study Period	Professional Skills & Networking	Study Period	EPQ
Break 10.30 to 10.55					
P2 10.55 - 11.45	A level Option 2	A level Option 1	Study Period	A level Option 3	A level Option 2
P3 11.45 - 12.35	A level Option 1	A level Option 3	A level Option 3	A level Option 3	A level Option 2
P4 12.35 - 13.25	A level Option 1	A level Option 3	Free Period / Lunch	Study Period	PSHE / Life Learning
P5 13.25 - 14.15	Free Period / Lunch	Free Period / Lunch	Be Active (Enrichment & Volunteering)	Free Period / Lunch	Free Period (Sports Fixtures)
Lunch Break 12.35 - 13.25 or 13.25 - 14.15					
P6 14.15 - 15.05	Free Period	Study Period	Be Active (Enrichment & Volunteering)	Leadership	Free Period (Sports Fixtures)
P7 15.05 - 15.55	Study Period	EPQ	Be Active (Enrichment & Volunteering)	A level Option 1	Free Period (Sports Fixtures)
P8 15.55 - 16.45	A level Option 3	A level Option 2	A level Option 2	A level Option 1	A level Option 1

Sample Year 12 timetable

Choosing your subjects

Typically, pupils will study three A-Levels and the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ). You will need to choose three subjects from the list below.*

Art	Geography
Biology	Government and Politics
Chemistry	History
Classics	Mathematics
Computer Science	Modern Foreign Languages
Drama	Physical Education
Economics	Physics
English Literature	Psychology
Further Mathematics	Sociology

The Extended Project Qualification is an open-ended project which is equivalent to an AS-Level. It is an excellent opportunity for students to learn new study and research skills as well as investigate a topic area which fascinates them. You can find out more about the EPQ later in this guide.

As well as your three A-Level subjects and EPQ, you will also do:

- Games (Physical Education): Optional
- PSHE: one lesson per fortnight
- Enrichment activities include PE, Gold DofE, Sports Leaders Award, Music and others

You will also meet with your tutor during the week. S/he will be your first point of call if there are any problems. Your tutor will also monitor your academic progress.

The information contained in this booklet will give you more information about the subjects available. Please read this information carefully and do get in touch with us if you would like additional advice on subject options.

HOW DO I DECIDE WHAT TO STUDY?

The choice of subjects to be taken in Year 12 should be determined by your academic potential to succeed and a real enthusiasm to study that subject. If both are present it is entirely possible for you to do well in that subject. If either is absent it is unlikely that you will enjoy the course or make a success of it. Option blocks are prepared after students have provided their initial interests in subjects and these can help you build your desired portfolio of subject. We are more than happy to meet with prospective pupils and parents to discuss options.

**Subject offering is dependent on sufficient student interest*

ENGLISH LITERATURE

English Literature

INTRODUCTION

A-Level English Literature is a rich and challenging course that develops students' ability to engage critically and creatively with texts spanning different time periods, styles and genres. Students will learn how to engage with literary criticism and craft their own critical voices; develop their skills of literary analysis and nuanced interpretation; enrich their understanding of texts through positioning them within their historical, cultural and literary contexts. Alongside the taught course, students will undertake independent reading and studies to deepen their appreciation of the literary canon and enrich their own understanding of its changing traditions.

COURSE OUTLINE AND METHODS OF ASSESSMENT

Component 1 – Drama (30%): Open book written examination (one Shakespeare and one other play).
Component 2 – Prose (20%): Open book written examination consisting of one comparative essay question on two studied texts linked by theme or genre.
Component 3 – Poetry (30%): Open book written examination consisting of two sections: one essay question and one comparative essay question.
Coursework (20%): One extended essay comparing two texts (including opportunity for independent choice).

WHAT SKILLS DO I NEED?

Students will undertake taught lessons and independent study so being a passionate reader and thinker is key to success.

WHERE COULD THIS COURSE LEAD?

A-Level English Literature is a well-respected subject that complements the study of many other subjects, and can lead to diverse career choices including Journalism, Law, Marketing, Publishing and Politics as well as many other fields.

Exam Board: Edexcel

Extended Project Qualification

INTRODUCTION

The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) is a sought after academic qualification and is held in high regard by universities. It is an exciting qualification which offers students the opportunity to produce a single piece of work of their own choosing, showing evidence of planning, preparation, research and independent working. The EPQ offers unrivalled opportunities for academic extension as well as providing evidence of a pupil's readiness for university. It should also be a highly rewarding experience!

COURSE OUTLINE AND METHODS OF ASSESSMENT

An EPQ can take several forms:

- an extended essay
- an artefact, model or construction
- a journal of activities or events

A project which consists solely of written work will be approximately 5,000 words, for example an investigation, exploration of a hypothesis or extended essay or academic report. Projects where the majority of the evidence is provided in other formats will include a report or record of work undertaken which is at least 1,000 words. All projects must include a substantial research element.

In the first term of the Sixth Form, you will have a number of lessons teaching you the necessary research and presentation skills. After Christmas, you will begin working on your projects. Projects are undertaken with the assistance of a supervisor (a member of staff) who guides the student at every level, although they are not allowed to contribute directly to its content.

OTHER USEFUL INFORMATION

Because the EPQ requires students to identify and design their own project, adopt a strategic approach to its management, and work independently, it is an ideal vehicle for curriculum enrichment and academic extension. All Sixth Form students, but most especially those aspiring to apply to the more competitive universities, should give serious consideration to undertaking an EPQ.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Biology

INTRODUCTION

Biology A-Level covers fascinating topics such as genetics, evolution, ecosystems, and cellular biology, which appeal to students who are curious about the natural world and living organisms. A-Level Biology is essential for many university courses in the life sciences, including medicine, biochemistry, and environmental science. It provides a strong foundation for students pursuing higher education. Biology also touches on global issues like climate change, biodiversity, human health and food security making it highly relevant to understanding and addressing real-world challenges.

The subject develops critical thinking and problem-solving abilities, skills that are valuable in a wide range of careers, both within and outside of science.

A-Level Biology allows students to learn to analyse data, evaluate experiments and draw logical conclusions from complex biological processes. It also allows students to develop research skills where students are taught how to design investigations, collect data and report findings accurately. Students develop the ability to clearly communicate complex ideas both in writing and through presentations as well as understand biological systems which requires a problem-solving approach. Students will gain hands-on experience with lab equipment, techniques, and procedures, such as microscopy, genetic testing, and fieldwork.

COURSE OUTLINE

The AQA A-Level Biology course is divided into multiple topics across two years (AS and A-Level) and culminates in three exam papers. The syllabus covers a wide range of biological principles and emphasizes key skills in scientific inquiry, data analysis, and practical applications.

AS Level (Year 1) Topics

1. Biological Molecules
2. Cells
3. Organisms Exchange Substances with Their Environment
4. Genetic Information, Variation, and Relationships Between Organisms

A-Level (Year 2) Topics

1. Energy Transfers in and Between Organisms
2. Organisms Respond to Changes in Their Internal and External Environments
3. Genetics, Populations, Evolution, and Ecosystems
4. The Control of Gene Expression

Practical Skills
In addition to theoretical content, the AQA A-Level Biology course emphasises practical skills. These are developed through required practical activities that are assessed both internally and externally. Practical skills cover:

- Planning experiments
- Making accurate measurements
- Analysing data and drawing conclusions
- Evaluating methodology and results

METHODS OF ASSESSMENT

The AQA A-Level Biology exam consists of three papers:

1. **Paper 1** (35% of A-Level)
    - Covers content from Year 1 topics (Topics 1-4)
    - Includes multiple-choice, short answer, and extended response questions
    - Practical skills are also assessed
2. **Paper 2** (35% of A-Level)
    - Covers content from Year 2 topics (Topics 5-8)
    - Similar question types as Paper 1
3. **Paper 3** (30% of A-Level)
    - Covers content from both years (Topics 1-8)
    - Includes structured questions, critical analysis of data, and an essay

Synoptic assessment
Paper 3 has an emphasis on synoptic skills, where students need to integrate knowledge from different parts of the course.

WHAT SKILLS DO I NEED?
You need the ability to think logically and analytically, and demonstrate strong literacy and numeracy skills.

WHERE COULD THIS COURSE LEAD?
A-Level Biology is a gateway to numerous career paths in science, healthcare, and beyond. It opens doors to a variety of professions, including agriculture, dentistry, medicine, pharmacy, sport sciences and veterinary sciences.

A-Level Biology provides a solid foundation for careers in the life sciences, but the critical thinking and problem-solving skills it fosters are transferable to fields like law, business, and technology, making it a versatile choice for students.

Exam Board: AQA

Chemistry

INTRODUCTION

A-Level Chemistry is an intellectual rewarding subject that explores the fundamental principles of matter and its interactions. A-Level Chemistry is a core requirement for many higher education courses, especially in fields like medicine, chemical engineering, pharmacy, and biochemistry. The analytical, research and problem-solving skills gained through studying A-Level Chemistry are highly valued in various industries. Chemistry plays a key role in addressing global challenges such as climate change, renewable energy, and new drug development. Students interested in contributing to such innovations often pursue chemistry.

Students gain hands-on experience with lab techniques, such as titration, chromatography, and spectroscopy, as well as safe handling of chemicals. Students design experiments, gather data and interpret results, helping students develop strong research capabilities. Students also enhance their mathematical skills as well as communication skills.

COURSE OUTLINE

The OCR A-Level Chemistry course is designed to build a comprehensive understanding of the principles and practical applications of chemistry. It is divided into six modules that span across two years (AS and A-Level), with assessments in both theoretical knowledge and practical skills.

AS Level (Year 1) Topics

Module 1: Development of Practical Skills in Chemistry
Module 2: Foundations in Chemistry
Module 3: Periodic Table and Energy
Module 4: Core Organic Chemistry

A-Level (Year 2) Topics

Module 5: Physical Chemistry and Transition Elements
Module 6: Organic Chemistry and Analysis

METHODS OF ASSESSMENT
In addition to theoretical assessments, students must complete a series of practical activities over the two years that develop essential lab skills. These are recorded in a practical log and assessed throughout the course. The practical endorsement is reported separately from the overall A-Level grade but is required for certification.

The OCR A-Level Chemistry exam is divided into three papers at the end of Year 2:

1. **Paper 1:** Periodic Table, Elements and Physical Chemistry
    - Covers content from Modules 1, 2, 3, and 5.
    - Questions include multiple-choice, short answer, and extended response questions.
    - 2 hours 15 minutes, 37% of A-Level.
2. **Paper 2:** Synthesis and Analytical Techniques
    - Covers content from Modules 1, 2, 4, and 6.
    - Similar question types as Paper 1.
    - 2 hours 15 minutes, 37% of A-Level.
3. **Paper 3:** Unified Chemistry
    - Synoptic paper covering content from all six modules.
    - Focuses on linking different areas of chemistry and practical skills.
    - 1 hour 30 minutes, 26% of A-Level.

Throughout the A-Level course, there is an emphasis on synoptic skills, requiring students to integrate knowledge across different modules and apply it to unfamiliar situations.

WHAT SKILLS DO I NEED?
You need the ability to think logically and analytically, and demonstrate strong literacy and numeracy skills.

WHERE COULD THIS COURSE LEAD?
A-Level Chemistry can lead to a wide variety of careers especially in science, healthcare and industries such as petrochemicals, polymers, food and cosmetics. This subject can support careers such as dentistry, engineering, forensic science, medicine, pharmacy, renewable energy, environmental science, and more.

The analytical, practical, and problem-solving skills gained through the study of Chemistry are also highly transferable, allowing students to excel in areas such as business, finance, and technology, making it a valuable qualification.

Exam Board: OCR

Physics

INTRODUCTION

A-Level Physics is a fundamental subject that explores the laws of nature and the universe, from the smallest particles to the largest galaxies. Students choose to study A-Level Physics for a variety of reasons such as delving into curiosity about the universe, such as the forces governing the universe, the behaviour of particles and the mysteries of space and time,

Conducting experiments and using specialized equipment (e.g., oscilloscopes, lasers) enhances students' technical and hands-on abilities in experimental Physics. Students will also design experiments, collect accurate data and draw conclusions. Students will learn to explain complex physical concepts clearly and concisely, both in written reports and through presentations.

A-Level Physics is essential for students interested in pursuing further education in fields like engineering, astrophysics, electronics, or aeronautics. It is also highly regarded for other STEM subjects. Students who enjoy mathematics and want to see its practical application often find Physics engaging, as it requires mathematical problem-solving such as applying algebra and calculus to understand real-world phenomena.

COURSE OUTLINE

The Edexcel A-Level Physics course is structured to provide a deep understanding of fundamental physical concepts and principles, with an emphasis on theoretical knowledge, practical work, and mathematical applications. The course is divided into eight topics and incorporates a practical skills endorsement assessed separately.

AS Level (Year 1) Topics

Topic 1: Working as a Physicist
Topic 2: Mechanics
Topic 3: Electric Circuits
Topic 4: Materials
Topic 5: Waves and Particle Nature of Light

A-Level (Year 2) Topics

Topic 6: Further Mechanics
Topic 7: Electric and Magnetic Fields
Topic 8: Nuclear and Particle Physics
Topic 9: Thermodynamics
Topic 10: Space
Topic 11: Nuclear Radiation
Topic 12: Gravitational Fields

METHODS OF ASSESSMENT

The Edexcel A-Level Physics exam consists of three papers at the end of Year 2:

1. **Paper 1:** Advanced Physics I (30% of A-Level)
    - Covers Topics 1-6 (Working as a Physicist, Mechanics, Electric Circuits, Materials, Waves, and Further Mechanics).
    - 1 hour 45 minutes, multiple-choice, short-answer, and extended response questions.
2. **Paper 2:** Advanced Physics II (30% of A-Level)
    - Covers Topics 1, 7-8, and additional material from Topics 9-12 (Electric Fields, Magnetic Fields, Nuclear Physics, and Space Physics).
    - 1 hour 45 minutes, similar question types as Paper 1.
3. **Paper 3:** General and Practical Principles in Physics (40% of A-Level)
    - Synoptic paper covering content from all topics (Topics 1-12).
    - Focus on linking different areas of physics and applying practical skills.
    - 2 hours 30 minutes, includes questions testing practical knowledge and application.

Throughout the course, there is an emphasis on synoptic skills, requiring students to integrate and apply knowledge from different areas of physics in various contexts.

In addition to theoretical content, students must complete core practicals across the two years. These practical activities are designed to develop laboratory skills, including:

- Using measurement techniques
- Collecting and analysing data
- Drawing conclusions and evaluating experimental procedures

WHAT SKILLS DO I NEED?

You need the ability to think logically and analytically, and demonstrate strong literacy and numeracy skills.

WHERE COULD THIS COURSE LEAD?

Physics provides a strong foundation for a broad spectrum of careers in science and technology such as in engineering, robotics, space and astronomy, healthcare and medical physics as well as renewable energy and environmental science. Physics also offers transferable skills that are in demand across sectors like finance, business, and data analysis.

Exam Board: Edexcel

Computer Science

INTRODUCTION

Computing and computer technology are part of just about everything that touches our lives from the cars we drive, to the movies we watch, to the ways businesses and governments deal with us. Understanding different dimensions of computing is part of the necessary skill set for an educated person in the 21st century. Every industry uses computers so naturally computer scientists can work in any. Problems in science, engineering, health care, and so many other areas can be solved by computers.

A Level Computer Science helps you think about how technology is created. It allows you to understand how people work together with computers to develop world changing programmes and applications. You'll develop the skills that universities and employers are looking for – and they'll prove valuable for the rest of your life.

COURSE OUTLINE

The AS Level covers:

- 1 Fundamentals of programming
- 2 Fundamentals of data structures
- 3 Systematic approach to problem solving
- 4 Theory of computation
- 5 Fundamentals of data representation
- 6 Fundamentals of computer systems
- 7 Fundamentals of computer organisation and architecture
- 8 Consequences of uses of computing
- 9 Fundamentals of communication and networking

The A Level covers:

- 10 Fundamentals of databases
- 11 Big Data
- 12 Fundamentals of functional programming
- 13 Fundamentals of algorithms

- 14 Non-exam assessment - the computing practical project

METHODS OF ASSESSMENT

Paper 1 - On screen exam (40% of A-Level)

- This paper tests a student's ability to program, as well as their theoretical knowledge of Computer Science from subject.
- Questions: Students answer a series of short questions and write/adapt/extend programs in an Electronic Answer Document provided by the exam board. Preliminary Material, a Skeleton Program (available in each of the Programming Languages) and, where appropriate, test data, for use in the exam will be provided.
- 2 hours 30 minutes.

Paper 2 - On screen exam (40% of A-Level)

- This paper tests a student's ability to answer questions about theory topics through compulsory short-answer and extended-answer questions.
- 2 hours 30 minutes.

Non-exam assessment (20% of A-Level)

- The non-exam assessment assesses student's ability to use the knowledge and skills gained through the course to solve or investigate a practical problem. Students will be expected to follow a systematic approach to problem solving.

WHAT SKILLS DO I NEED?

You don't need GCSE Computer Science to take it at A-Level. But it would be beneficial if you had, to give you better preparation. If you didn't, the best thing to do is practice programming on your own because the course involves a great deal of programming. If you have little to no prior learning, you'll find the subject difficult.

Mathematics plays a massive role in Computer Science. The extent to which you enjoy maths will also most likely be the degree to which you'll enjoy Computer Science. Because both subjects are logic and problem-solving-based. It's about using computation to get to the solutions.

WHERE COULD THIS COURSE LEAD?

Potential careers with this A-level include software engineering, computer security, data analysis, IT consultant, network engineer, and video game developer.

Exam Board: AQA

Psychology

INTRODUCTION

Psychology is the systematic study of human behaviour. It is a fascinating subject where rigorous scientific processes are used in tandem with philosophy and medicine to explain a wide range of behavioural phenomena, from who are the people most likely to stand in a queue without complaining to jealousy, warfare and crime. Essay writing skills are essential as composing arguments using contradictory scientific evidence or theoretical viewpoints are required. Studying Psychology guarantees excellent transferable skills.

COURSE OUTLINE

Year 1

- Approaches in Psychology, Cognitive, Developmental, Social, Biological Psychology and Individual Differences
- Research Methods

Year 2

- Issues and debates in psychology
- Biopsychology, Relationships and Aggression
- Psychopathology, Psychology in action and Research methods

WHAT SKILLS DO I NEED?

You need to be able to think like a scientist – psychology is not 'touchy-feely'. You also need an interest in human behaviour and the ability to interpret data.

WHERE COULD THIS COURSE LEAD?

Many top companies and organisations require the so-called 'soft' skills such as ability to empathize, ability to resolve conflict and offer creative, innovative solutions. Studying Psychology also guarantees excellent transferable skills including improved written and analytical skills.

Exam Board: AQA

MATHEMATICS

Mathematics

INTRODUCTION

Mathematics is a highly regarded qualification that develops logical thinking, problem-solving skills, and advanced mathematical techniques. It builds on concepts introduced at GCSE level, extending your understanding of topics such as algebra, geometry, calculus, and trigonometry. This course is ideal for students who have a strong passion for mathematics and are looking to pursue careers in fields like engineering, economics, computer science, and physics.

COURSE OUTLINE

The course is divided into three core areas: Pure Mathematics, Statistics, and Mechanics.

- Pure Mathematics focuses on advanced algebra, calculus, and functions, providing the foundation for other branches.
- Statistics explores data analysis, probability, and hypothesis testing, essential for real-world decision-making.
- Mechanics examines the mathematical principles behind forces and motion, bridging physics and engineering applications.

METHODS OF ASSESSMENT

Assessment is entirely through examinations at the end of the second year. You will sit three exam papers covering all aspects of the course.

WHAT SKILLS DO I NEED?

You need to be able to think logically and analytically and use abstract ideas. Students should be comfortable working with algebraic concepts and have a genuine interest in problem-solving.

WHERE COULD THIS COURSE LEAD?

A-Level Maths is a gateway to university degrees in mathematics, sciences, and technology-related fields. It is highly valued by employers and universities alike for its rigorous nature and analytical training.

Exam Board: AQA

Further Mathematics

INTRODUCTION

A-Level Further Mathematics is designed for students who excel in Maths and wish to deepen their understanding of more advanced mathematical concepts. It broadens and extends the topics covered in A-Level Maths, providing a strong foundation for students interested in mathematics, physics, engineering, or computer science at university level. This challenging course is ideal for those with a genuine enthusiasm for problem-solving and logical reasoning.

COURSE OUTLINE

The Further Maths course is divided into Pure Mathematics and Applied Mathematics:

- **Pure Mathematics** includes topics such as complex numbers, matrices, and further calculus, exploring abstract mathematical concepts in greater depth.
- **Applied Mathematics** offers additional study in **Mechanics** and **Statistics**, with optional modules in areas like decision mathematics, often used in computer science and operations research.

METHODS OF ASSESSMENT

Examinations take place at the end of the second year and are divided into four papers. These cover a mixture of pure and applied topics, ensuring a comprehensive evaluation of the student's abilities across various areas of mathematics.

WHAT SKILLS DO I NEED?

You need to be able to think logically and use abstract ideas. It requires a dedication to analyse complex information and great attention to detail.

A-Level Maths should be taken alongside Further Maths.

WHERE COULD THIS COURSE LEAD?

Further Maths is highly valued by top universities and employers, particularly for degrees in mathematics, engineering, physics, economics, and computing. It provides an excellent advantage in technical and analytical fields.

Exam Board: AQA

THE ARTS

Art & Design/Photography

INTRODUCTION
This course is designed to build on skills and knowledge from GCSE and encourage an adventurous and enquiring approach to Art and Design. Successful students should be able to demonstrate an understanding of past and contemporary Art and Design practice and be able to produce artwork that embraces a wide range of ideas and materials.

COURSE OUTLINE
Year 12 (Component 1 – 60%)
This component allows you to generate and develop ideas, research primary and contextual sources, record practical and written observations, experiment with media and processes, and refine ideas towards producing personal resolved outcome(s). Final piece(s) will be presented for an end of year exhibition.

Year 13
You will continue with your coursework based on themes and subject matter developed from personal starting points that require you to communicate your understanding through integrated images and texts that includes a written element of no less than 1000 words. The Exam Project comprises an externally set assignment.

METHODS OF ASSESSMENT
Your work will be judged against four criteria:

- Planning (developing ideas through sustained and focused investigations)
- Experimenting (selecting appropriate resources, media, materials, techniques and processes, reviewing and refining ideas as work develops)
- Recording (Record ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions, reflecting critically on work and progress)
- Presenting (Present a personal, and meaningful response that realises intentions and, where appropriate, making connections between visual, and other elements).

WHAT SKILLS DO I NEED?
You will need to display investigative, analytical and experimental skills. You will also need an understanding of the interrelationships between art and design and an awareness of the contexts in which they operate.

WHERE COULD THIS COURSE LEAD?
Many pupils go on to do a Foundation or a Degree, which can lead to careers in design, advertising, fashion, film and television.

Exam Board: Edexcel

Drama and Theatre

INTRODUCTION
This qualification emphasises practical creativity alongside research and theoretical understanding. Students learn through experience, seeing theatre and making theatre for themselves. Students are introduced to a wide range of theatrical styles and contexts as they explore plays practically, devise and work on performances.

The course provides opportunities for learners to develop their skills as theatre practitioners, engaging with theatre and performance in ways that are practical and creative but also scholarly. You will study a wide range of theatrical genres, styles and texts, and over the course will become skilled, well-informed, reflective and confident. You will work with others to understand the power of drama to engage, influence and persuade, creating original drama and developing imaginative responses to well-known plays.

COURSE OUTLINE
The subject content for A-level Drama and Theatre is divided into three components:

- Drama and theatre
- Creating original drama
- Making theatre

Guidance is also provided on the theatrical skills students will need to work on.

METHODS OF ASSESSMENT
Each exam paper is designed to allow students to demonstrate their creativity and imagination in interpreting set texts and apply independent thinking as they evaluate a live theatre production.

Component 1 – Drama and Theatre - 40% of A-Level
What is assessed?

- Knowledge and understanding of drama and theatre
- Study of two set plays, one chosen from List A, one chosen from List
- Analysis and evaluation of the work of live theatre makers

How it's assessed? This is a three hour long, open book, written exam (out of 80 marks).

Questions:

- Section A: one question (from a choice) on one of the set plays from List A (25 marks)
- Section B: one three part question on a given extract from one of the set plays from List B (30 marks)
- Section C: one question (from a choice) on the work of theatre makers in a single live theatre production (25 marks)

Component 2 – Creating original Drama (Practical) - 30% of A-Level
What's assessed?

- Process of creating devised drama
- Performance of devised drama (students may contribute as performer, designer or director)
- Devised piece must be influenced by the work and methodologies of one prescribed practitioner

How it's assessed? This component is a combination of a working notebook (40 marks) and devised performance (20 marks), for a total of 60 marks in total. This component is marked by teachers and moderated by AQA.

Component 3 – Making Theatre (Practical) - 30% of A-Level
What's assessed?

- Practical exploration and interpretation of three extracts (Extract 1, 2 and 3) each taken from a different play.
- Methodology of a prescribed practitioner must be applied to Extract 3
- Extract 3 is to be performed as a final assessed piece (students may contribute as performer, designer or director)
- Reflective report analysing and evaluating theatrical interpretation of all three extracts

How it's assessed? This component is a combination of a performance of Extract 3 (40 marks) and reflective report (20 marks), with a total of 60 marks in total. This component is marked by AQA.

WHAT SKILLS DO I NEED?
Performance is a compulsory part of the course, so some experience of performing is useful. The course does have a large written component, so writing skills are a great asset. Other than that, you simply need a love of theatre, an enquiring mind and a determination to learn, work with others, and develop as a person.

WHERE COULD THIS COURSE LEAD?
Students of Drama and Theatre develop skills that are not just essential for drama but applicable to a wide range of higher education subjects and in the workplace. This specification refines students' collaborative skills, their analytical thinking and their approach to research. Students grow in confidence and maturity as they successfully realise their own ideas. They learn to evaluate objectively and develop a sound appreciation of the influences that cultural and social contexts can have on decision making. Whatever the future holds, students of A-level Drama and Theatre emerge with a toolkit of transferable skills preparing them for their next steps.

Exam board: AQA

HUMANITIES

Classics

INTRODUCTION

The A Level in Classical Civilisation course is designed to provide learners with a broad, coherent and rewarding study of the literature and culture of the classical world. It offers learners the opportunity to study elements of the literature, visual/material culture and thought of the classical world, and acquire an understanding of their social, historical and cultural contexts.

OCR's A Level in Classical Civilisation will help learners to understand the legacy of the classical world, whilst equipping them to progress to higher education. GCSE Classical Civilisation is not a requirement for this course.

COURSE OUTLINE

The important and ever popular literary genre of epic forms the basis of the mandatory component The World of the Hero. This component will explore both Greek and Roman epic, with the study of either Homer's Odyssey and Virgil's Aeneid. The works of Homer are the foundation of the Western literary canon, and the Greeks themselves considered them the cornerstone of Greek culture. In his Aeneid Virgil pays homage to Homer, but also to Rome and its leader, Augustus. With their unique composition, and exciting tales of gods and heroes, these works of literature form an excellent grounding for exploration of the classical world.

For the component Culture and the Arts students will study 'Greek Art', For this unit they will be exploring physical remains of the ancient world, including statues, vases and temples and exploring how these artistic mediums developed from the Archaic period through to the Classical period. This unit make the classical world more tangible for learners, bringing it truly to life.

Finally, in Beliefs and Ideas learners are given the opportunity to explore some of the ideas and ideals important not only to the ancient world but also to the modern one. We will be exploring the birth of democracy; the 'Athenian Democracy' unit involves the study of Athenian democracy as a concept, in combination with the study of literature in translation and visual culture.

METHODS OF ASSESSMENT

This is a linear course with 3 exams at the end of Year 13:

- The World of the Hero (100 marks, 2 hours 30 minutes) Written paper, 40% of total A Level
- Culture and the Arts (75 marks, 1 hour 45 minutes) Written paper, 30% of total A Level
- Beliefs and Ideas (75 marks, 1 hour 45 minutes) Written paper, 30% of total A Level

WHAT SKILLS DO I NEED?
You do not need to have studied any Classics (either Classical Civilisation or Latin/Greek) before. All ancient literature is studied in English. What is most important is that you should have an interest in the classical world and an enquiring mind.

WHERE COULD THIS COURSE LEAD?
Classics qualifications are naturally particularly valued by Classics departments in UK universities, but it is not just Classics departments who value these subjects. The study of A-Level Classics qualifications can often lead to the university level study of Classics, Drama, English, History, History of Art, Philosophy and Politics, however, information from UCAS shows that students who studied Classical Civilisation went on to study in such diverse disciplines as Medicine, Veterinary Science and Chemistry.

Exam Board: OCR

Economics

INTRODUCTION

A-Level Economics provides an in-depth understanding of how economies operate on both a national and global scale. It examines the allocation of resources, the decision-making processes of individuals, firms, and governments, and the consequences of economic policies. This course is perfect for students who are interested in current affairs, business, finance, and how economic theories apply to real-world issues.

COURSE OUTLINE

The A-Level Economics course is divided into two main areas:

- Microeconomics explores how individuals and businesses make decisions, market structures, and the concept of market failure.
- Macroeconomics covers broader topics like inflation, unemployment, economic growth, and international trade. You will also study the impact of government policies and global economic challenges.

METHODS OF ASSESSMENT

The course is assessed through three exam papers at the end of the second year, each focusing on different aspects of the subject. These include data response questions, essays, and multiple-choice questions, testing both your analytical and evaluative skills.

WHAT SKILLS DO I NEED?

Economists need the ability to think logically and analytically with an interest in current affairs.

WHERE COULD THIS COURSE LEAD?

A-Level Economics is a strong foundation for careers in finance, banking, law, public policy, and business management. It is also highly valued by universities for courses in economics, business, and social sciences.

Exam Board: Pearson

Geography

INTRODUCTION

Have you got a deep appreciation of our planet? Keen to find out more about the big rock we live on? Then A-Level Geography would be a great choice for you. This course doesn't just give you a comprehensive understanding of the geographic environment but explores how people interact with it and the impact we make.

A-Level Geography covers contemporary geographical issues as well as physical and human geography, builds geographical skills and explores fieldwork. The course deals with environmental impact as well as management and sustainability. You will also build on your statistical skills and learn how to analyse and evaluate feedback.

COURSE OUTLINE

Physical geography

- Water and carbon cycles
- Hot desert systems and landscapes
- Coastal systems and landscapes
- Glacial systems and landscapes
- Hazards
- Ecosystems under stress

Human Geography

- Global systems and global governance
- Changing places
- Contemporary urban environments
- Population and the environment
- Resource security

Additional Information: There is a four day fieldwork requirement and NEA (non-examination assessment) to be completed as part of this course.

WHAT SKILLS DO I NEED?

Geographers need map reading, data analysis, critical thinking, research, essay writing, fieldwork techniques, effective communication, and problem-solving skills. More important than any of these is an inherent interest in our world and current affairs.

WHERE COULD THIS COURSE LEAD?

Geography is a broad-based subject which provides lots of opportunities for future progression. For example, geography is an obvious choice for careers in sustainability and green issues, urban regeneration, energy supply, retail location, managing the effects of hazards and climate change. It can also provide useful skills in a variety of fields including business, law, human rights, international relations, and more.

Exam Board: AQA

Government and Politics

INTRODUCTION

Politics is the study of power: how power is used and abused by our leaders, how power is distributed and amassed, and how decisions by those in power affect our lives. In A-Level Government and Politics you will study the politics of Westminster and Washington as well as developing your own ideas of how society should be run.

Politics A-Level will not only add considerably to your knowledge of current affairs, but it will also develop your skills of analysis and evaluation, your ability to write well-structured essays, and your capacity to present your arguments in a logical and persuasive fashion.

COURSE OUTLINE

Unit 1: People and Politics will introduce you to an understanding of the concept of democracy before exploring the policies and ideologies of our political parties, examining the electoral systems used in the UK, and investigating the burgeoning role of pressure groups.

Unit 2: Governing the UK focuses on the institutions of British Government: The Prime Minister and Cabinet, the Judiciary, the Civil Service, and Parliament.

Unit 3: Comparative Politics: USA. Students compare what they have learnt in Units 1 and 2 to the American system, covering topics such as Race Relations, Presidential Elections, the Supreme Court, and Political Parties. Politics lessons will, however, extend beyond these two countries and focus on wider international perspectives wherever possible. For example, current issues such as Brexit, the migration crisis, and the threats posed by ISIS have naturally formed part of our class discussion and analysis.

WHAT SKILLS DO I NEED?

Students in Politics should have a strong interest in current events. They should be keen to participate in active debate, and able to articulate logical arguments, both when writing and speaking. You should also have the ability to analyse and evaluate both sides of an argument.

WHERE COULD THIS COURSE LEAD?

This course lends itself to a plethora of careers including public policy, law, and journalism, but also provides analytical and argumentative skills that can be applied to a variety of degrees and careers.

Exam Board: Edexcel

History

INTRODUCTION

Our A-Level History qualification has been designed to help students understand the significance of historical events, the role of individuals in history and the nature of change over time. The qualification will help students to gain a deeper understanding of the past through political, social, economic and cultural perspectives. The engaging topics available to them throughout the course will provide them with the knowledge and skills they require to succeed as A-Level historians.

COURSE OUTLINE

Component 1J: The British Empire, c1857–1967 – Breadth Study

This option allows students to study in breadth issues of change, continuity, cause and consequence in this period through key questions about imperial policy, economics and development, British attitudes and culture, relationships with indigenous peoples, and more.

Component 2Q: The American Dream: reality and illusion, 1945–1980

This option provides for a study in depth of the challenges faced by the USA at home and abroad as it emerged from the Second World War as a Superpower. For many Americans, post-war prosperity realised the 'American dream' but the prosperity was not shared by all and significant problems at home and abroad challenged the extent to which the 'American dream' was a reality. It explores concepts and ideas such as American identity at home and abroad, anti-communism, social equality, ethnic identities and federal versus states' rights. It also encourages students to reflect on the nature of democracy in a pluralist society, political protest and the power of the media.

Component 3: Historical Investigation

METHODS OF ASSESSMENT

Two exams that consist of 40% of the total grade each. These written exams are a mix of compulsory questions and a choice of essays. A historical investigation (4,500 max word essay) is 20% of the grade. This is an independently researched essay on an aspect of Russian history covering the years 1855-1953.

WHAT SKILLS DO I NEED?

Historians need to display powers of analysis and evaluation. They also need effective written communication and research skills.

WHERE COULD THIS COURSE LEAD?

Common careers following this course include journalism, law, politics, archaeology, and the Civil Service.

Exam Board: AQA

Sociology

INTRODUCTION

This course has most similarity with the study of History and Politics. It is appropriate for students who are interested in modern society and who enjoy conveying their ideas in writing. Sociologists produce theories to explain human behaviour (functionalism, Marxism, feminism, etc.) and students must be prepared to study these theories and the related research in detail.

COURSE OUTLINE

Unit 1: Introduction to Sociology

Unit 2: Education

- The role and functions of the education system
- Educational achievement of social groups (i.e., social class, gender and ethnicity)

Unit 3: Families and Households

- Gender roles, domestic labour and power relationships within the family in contemporary society
- Changes in the status of children in the family and society
- Demographic trends in the United Kingdom since 1900.

Unit 4: The Media

- The new media and their significance for an understanding of the role of the media in contemporary society
- The relationship between ownership and control of the media
- The media, globalisation and popular culture
- Media representations of age, social class, ethnicity, gender, sexuality and disability

Unit 5: Crime and Deviance

- Crime, deviance, social order and social control
- The social distribution of crime and deviance by ethnicity, gender and social class, including recent patterns and trends in crime
- Crime control, surveillance, prevention and punishment, victims, and the role of the criminal justice system and other agencies.

Unit 6: Theories and Methods

- Consensus, conflict, structural and social action theories
- The concepts of modernity and postmodernity in relation to sociological theory
- The nature of science and the extent to which sociology can be regarded as scientific
- Debates about subjectivity, objectivity and value freedom

WHAT SKILLS DO I NEED?

There is a great deal of reading and essay based assessment; students must be able to interpret essay titles and produce coherent, fluent essays. It is essential that they develop analytical and evaluative skills in relation to both empirical and theoretical data.

Exam Board: AQA

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Modern Foreign Languages

INTRODUCTION

The A-Level Modern Foreign Languages (MFL) exam assesses students' proficiency in listening, reading, speaking, and writing in one or more foreign languages, such as French, Spanish, or German.

This qualification develops students' skills in communication, intercultural understanding, and critical thinking, providing a strong foundation for further study or careers in translation, international relations, and global business.

The course also encourages the analysis of literary texts and films, deepening cultural insight. Assessment is designed to reflect authentic language usage and prepares students for practical applications of the language in real-world contexts.

METHODS OF ASSESSMENT

The exam typically consists of three main components:

- Listening, Reading, and Translation: This section tests comprehension and the ability to accurately translate passages between the target language and English.
- Speaking: Students must demonstrate oral fluency by participating in discussions, debates, or presentations on topics relating to culture, current events, and societal issues in the target language's countries.
- Writing: Candidates are required to produce structured essays, reviews, or reports, exploring themes from literature, cinema, or the socio-political environment of the target language.

WHAT SKILLS DO I NEED?

A passion for the language studied and a love and interest for linguistics, literature, history, politics, current affairs, and/or sociology.

WHERE COULD THIS COURSE LEAD?

As well as being a great addition for many degree studies, A-Level MFL cultivates linguistic skills and cultural awareness, promoting lifelong language learning.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical Education

INTRODUCTION

If you have a desire to gain a greater understanding of the scientific and socio-cultural factors that underpin physical activity, you love playing sports, and are a dedicated sports person, then A-level Physical Education is for you. If you are considering studying Physical Education at A-level, you should have a genuine interest in sport and physical activity. We would expect you to be playing your chosen sport at club level, studying GCSE PE is desirable but not essential. The entry requirement for Physical Education will be a grade 6 in PE if taken, 6 in English and a 6 in Biology.

COURSE OUTLINE

Year 12

- Applied anatomy and physiology
- Skill acquisition
- Sport and society
- Biomechanics

Year 13

- Exercise physiology
- Sports Psychology
- Contemporary issues and sport
- Performance in one chosen activity
- Evaluation and planning for the improvement of performance

METHODS OF ASSESSMENT

This course is assessed with a mixture of written papers and non-exam assessments (NEA) with no one written paper or assessment equalling more than 30% of the total grade.

WHAT SKILLS DO I NEED?

Students in Politics should have a strong interest in current events. They should be keen to participate in active debate, and able to articulate logical arguments, both when writing and speaking. You should also have the ability to analyse and evaluate both sides of an argument.

WHERE COULD THIS COURSE LEAD?

A-level Physical Education is accepted by all top Russell Group universities and will prepare you for further studies in either sports science degrees and support related applications in a wide range of subjects including, but not exclusive to, Psychology, Sociology, Biology and Physics. You will develop many transferable skills in demand at university and the world of work.

Exam Board: OCR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