SIXTH FORM COURSES

2019 - 2021
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Applied General in Business

Course Level Level 3 Extended Certificate in Applied Business
Examin ing Body AQA
Entry Qualifications Grade 4 in Business GCSE or a Humanities subject if Business not studied and a grade 5 in Maths

Brief Description of Course Contents

This course will give learners the opportunity to learn and understand the fundamental business and entrepreneurial knowledge and skills associated with working within a business enterprise. The student will understand the way in which any venture in business (big or small) is a function of the relationship between its people, its marketing, its finance and its ability to deliver operationally upon its commitments.

Year 1

This qualification is made up of three units each of which is assessed differently

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit Title</th>
<th>Unit purpose</th>
<th>Assessment Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unit 1</td>
<td>Students will investigate how finance can help plan an enterprise, monitor its progress and analyse financial decisions.</td>
<td>External examination</td>
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<tr>
<td>Financial planning and analysis</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Unit 2</td>
<td>Students will develop your understanding of business organisations and how they can use their human, physical and financial resources to achieve their goals.</td>
<td>Internally centre assessed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Business dynamics</td>
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<td>Unit 3</td>
<td>Students will develop your understanding of entrepreneurial opportunities and investigate how individuals can exploit these through personal enterprise, e.g. by offering a service. Students will consider opportunities for their own personal enterprise, for a given context, and propose marketing and operations activities to take advantage of the entrepreneurial opportunity.</td>
<td>External assignment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Entrepreneurial opportunities</td>
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Students must undertake the following

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit Title</th>
<th>Unit purpose</th>
<th>Assessment Type</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unit 4</td>
<td>Students will investigate how managers can organise, motivate and lead employees through organisational change to achieve business objectives.</td>
<td>External Examination</td>
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<tr>
<td>Managing and leading people</td>
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<td>Unit 5</td>
<td>Students will investigate the processes required to develop, present and evaluate a business proposal. The business proposal will require human resources beyond those provided by yourself. You will develop a concise proposal and present this to funding providers.</td>
<td>Internally Centre assessed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Developing a business proposal</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Unit 6</td>
<td>Students will investigate the processes required to develop an e-business proposal for a new business start-up</td>
<td>Internally Centre assessed</td>
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<td>Managing an event</td>
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What kind of student is this course suitable for?

This course will appeal to students who

- wish their learning to be practical and active, making use of their own business imagination
- have a keen interest in the business world and business operations
- enjoy analysing business case studies using business theories
- are interested in a career in business or management

How can I develop my full range of skills by doing this course?

This course will enable you to develop some key transferable skills, including

- research
- teamwork
- problem Solving
- communication (Oral and Written)

What could I go on to do at the end of this course?

Students could study the discipline further by opting to undertake a degree in Business Studies, Business and Management, Human Resource Management Accounting or Marketing. Business graduates go on to work in myriad different sectors, and not all of them are those you would typically associate with business in general. More obvious careers with a business degree include roles in accounting and finance departments, which take in large numbers of business degree graduates. Other sectors with high demand for business graduates include marketing and advertising, as well as retail, sales, human resources and business consultancy. The diversity and plenitude of careers with a business degree underlies the subject’s appeal for many students.

Students will also be given the opportunity to take part in the Young Enterprise Company Challenge as part of the Enrichment Programme.
Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Creative Digital Media Production

Entry Requirements
Grade 4 in Media GCSE or equivalent

Exam Board – Pearson/BTEC

The Course
The qualification provides an introduction to the study of creative digital media production. Learners develop an understanding of the media industry through analysing media representations and pitching and producing media projects. It is designed for post-16 learners who aim to progress to higher education and ultimately to employment.

What is the structure of the course?
It is made up of four units of which two are externally examined.

Unit 1: Media Representations
Learners will consider how different media representations are constructed by media producers to create meaning, messages and values. This unit is assessed by an exam. The examination will last two hours and will consist of short and extended-answer questions.

Unit 4: Pre-production Portfolio
Learners study the requirements of planning and delivering a digital media product, carrying out essential pre-production tasks and creating a pre-production portfolio. Students gain an understanding of the requirements of the planning stage, from finance and logistics to regulations. Investigations help students develop the pre-production skills and experience needed to carry out their own tasks and to produce a digital media product. Students create a portfolio and manage the pre-production of their own creative media production.

Unit 8: Responding to a Commission
This unit considers the commissioning process and how media producers respond to client by generating ideas using a range of skills. This unit develops student’s ability to respond to briefs and understand the commissioning process, which is an essential aspect of successful, commercial media production. The development of communication and problem-solving skills involved in responding to a commission are an essential part of the media learner’s skillset and will support the generation of creative and commercial ideas necessary for progression to employment and higher education. It takes place under timed conditions.

Unit 10: Film Production (Fiction)
This unit will focus on the process of producing a short narrative film or film extract that uses generic conventions.

Who is this qualification for?
The Pearson BTEC National Extended Certificate in Creative Digital Media Production has been developed in consultation with Higher Education and is an Applied General qualification. It is for
post-16 learners wanting to continue their education through applied study and who aim to progress to higher education and ultimately to employment, possibly in the Creative Industries. The qualification is equivalent in size to one A level.

**What does this qualification cover?**
The content of the qualification relates directly to the skills and understanding needed for further study in creative digital media production and has been developed in consultation with higher education. Over three units of mandatory content, learners gain a broad understanding of the subject and learn the skills to produce media artefacts. They develop their ability to analyse and deconstruct media images and representations. They learn the communication and planning skills needed to work in teams through vocational media projects. An optional introductory unit in a particular media sector such as, publishing, games, film or radio, allows learners to create engaging digital media content and platforms.

**What could this qualification lead to?**
The qualification is recognised by Higher Education providers as contributing to meeting admission requirements for many courses if taken alongside other qualifications as part of a two year programme of learning, and it combines well with a large number of subjects. It will support entry to HE courses in a very wide range of disciplines, depending on the subjects taken alongside particularly, in fields of journalism, film, communications, and marketing. Learners should always check the entry requirements for degree programmes at specific HE providers. Although a significant proportion of recruitment in this sector is at graduate level by studying this qualification learners develop their communication skills as well as the ability to work collaboratively. They develop their knowledge of digital processes and software through practical projects which would give them an advantage if applying for entry level roles in marketing such as a marketing assistant, media sales as well as working as publishing assistants, updating websites and hosting content.
Applied General in Science

Entry Requirements
The qualification builds on the knowledge, understanding and process skills that you will have
developed in GCSE Science. Students must have achieved at least a GCSE Grade 4 in Physics or 44
in Combined Science GCSE. It will be desirable to have at least a grade 4 in GCSE Mathematics as
mathematical skills are important in Science. Communication is also important in Science so you
will need to be able to communicate effectively, be able to research and critically think about
problems.

Exam Board - Pearson/BTEC

You will learn theory and develop relevant practical skills throughout the course.

What will I learn on this course?
Level 3 BTEC Applied Science aims for students to

- develop essential knowledge and understanding in science
- develop the skills needed for the use of this knowledge and understanding in new and
  changing situations where appropriate
- develop an understanding of the link between theory and experiment
- appreciate how science has developed and is used in present day society
- show how science links with social, philosophical, economic, industrial and environmental
  matters
- understand how mathematical expressions relate to biological, chemical and physical
  principles
- study how scientific models develop
- understand scientific principles associated with the application of Biology, Chemistry and
  Physics
- develop experimental and practical techniques associated with Applied Science
- study the roles and skills of scientists, and the public and media perception of science
- develop experimental techniques and undertake a scientific investigation

What kind of student is this qualification suitable for?
Level 3 Applied Science is suitable for students who

- have a real interest in and enjoy all sciences
- want to complete practical tasks and assessments
- enjoy solving problems
- enjoy carrying out investigations by the application of imaginative, logical thinking
- want to use science to support other qualifications or progress onto further studies or
  employment
- are taking additional level 3 qualifications in other subjects and/or Mathematics or other
  relevant courses such as Design and Technology and want to take another course that will
  support their studies
Examples of Key Skills Development in Applied Science

Communication
• taking part in discussions about investigations or issues
• preparing written documents for your practical work
• researching from books, the Internet and journals

Application of numeracy
• planning to collect results from your experiments and investigations and analysing and presenting them in a suitable way
• carrying out calculations on the data collected in experiments and investigations
• Interpreting the results from experiments and seeing how this relates to your plan

Information technology
• internet and academic journal based research
• use of Excel for data analysis of practical data
• using word processing software to present written reports and prepare presentations.

Working with others
• discussing in a group to plan a task such as a plan for an investigation or a presentation to the group

Improving own learning and performance
• setting targets with a timetable to improve your learning or skills
• increasing independent learning skills using the resources at your disposal
• seeking support and using different ways of learning
• monitoring the marks awarded for your work, setting appropriate targets and taking action to improve them

Problem solving
• planning practical investigations into some aspect of science to answer a question
• working out different ways to solve/investigate a problem
• carrying out one of your plans and assessing suitability for the problem
• evaluation of the plan

What could I go on to do at the end of my course?
Applied Science leads on to a wide range of courses and careers. You could go on to use your knowledge to support other qualifications or progress onto further studies or employment. This could be:
• Complete an Extended Certificate in Applied Science from a Higher National programme (HNC & HND) to degree level;
• Science-related higher education courses, including Biomedical, Forensic, Sports Science, as well as Nursing

The Applied Science Certificate can be used to contribute towards an extended certificate and a diploma which may support a wide range of Higher Education courses and employment.
**Applied General in Information Technology**

**Course Level**
Level 3 Cambridge Technical Extended Certificate in IT

**Examining Body**
OCR

**Entry Qualifications**
5 GCSE’s to include a grade 4 in Maths GCSE and a minimum grade 4 in English GCSE. If studied GCSE ICT or Computing, a minimum grade 4.

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**Brief Description of Course Contents**

This course will give learners the opportunity to develop their knowledge and understanding of the principles of IT and global information systems. Achievement of this qualification can support progression to go on and study relevant IT degrees in a Higher Education institution such as, Computing and IT, Computing Science, Software Developments, Software Engineering, ICT and Computer Networks or Business Information Systems.

**What will I learn on this course?**

There are three mandatory units that are externally assessed. These are:

- the Fundamentals of IT
- global information
- cyber security

The first two mandatory units provide learners with an insight into the IT sector as you investigate the pace of technological change, IT infrastructure, the flow of information on a global scale and important legal and security considerations. The third mandatory unit reflects an important development in the sector around information security and requires learners to consider how data should be protected and the response of the IT sector to emerging threats such as cyber terrorism.

Students then take two of the four optional units that are centre-assessed and moderated by OCR. The optional units include:

- project management
- product development
- systems analysis and design
- the Internet of Everything

**What kind of student is this course suitable for?**

This course will appeal to students who:

- have a keen interest in the advances in technology
- enjoy solving problems by constructing and implementing complex algorithms
• are interested in a career in software development or engineering

How can I develop my full range of skills by doing this course?

This course will enable you to develop some key transferable skills, including

• communication
• information technology
• numeracy
• working with others
• improving own learning performance

What could I go on to do at the end of this course?

Students should take the Extended Certificate if they want to gain the specialist skills, knowledge and understanding of IT which taken alongside other vocational or academic qualifications, can allow them access to Higher Education in IT-related programmes.

The Extended Certificate takes 360 guided learning hours to deliver. This means it is a similar size to an A level and can be taken as part of a one or two-year study programme. This gives learners the flexibility to take other qualifications, whether vocational or academic, in preparation for further study in the sector.
Art & Design

Entry Requirements
The best foundation for success in A Level Art is a good grade at GCSE therefore the entry requirement is a Grade 5 at GCSE.

Exam Board - Edexcel

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?
If you have an aptitude for the subject, if you are creative or 'good at drawing', you may have the basic skills to succeed. However, A Level Art encompasses a range of art techniques and skills and you should be prepared to work hard at developing your abilities and moving out of your comfort zone.

You should have an understanding of the basic elements of art - colour, tone, form etc, and also some understanding of the place of art, craft and design in the world - its history and its purpose. Above all, you should have an interest in creating and understanding art and the determination to develop that interest. You should also be keen to develop your interest in the subject through visiting galleries and exhibitions which will help you develop ideas for your own artwork.

What will I learn on this course?
The main purpose of any course in art, craft and design is to develop your ability to appreciate the visual world, respond in a personal and creative way and perhaps even contribute for the benefit of everyone.

You will develop the skills to interpret and convey your ideas and feelings using art, craft and design. You will also learn traditional drawing and painting skills as well as new media techniques and theoretical terms. During the course you will be encouraged to look at a broad range of artists and to review your own work in relation to the artists you have studied. Aside from this you will also develop a technical terminology to develop your knowledge and understanding of the place of art, craft and design in history and in contemporary society.

What kind of student is this course suitable for?
- Students who wish to undertake further studies in art, craft and design, usually at art college or further education
- Students who are looking to take up careers for which an art background is relevant These might include advertising, publishing, architecture, museums, theatre or art gallery work
- Students who have an interest in and aptitude for the subject, but who do not intend to take the subject beyond A level

How can I develop my full range of skills by doing this course?
As well as covering the A level study of art, this course will enable you to develop some Key
Skills which will be essential to you whatever you go on to do afterwards. The Key Skills you can develop during this course are:

**Communication**
The key skill of communication is integral to the study of A Level Art and will be assessed as specified in the mark scheme. This involves, amongst other skills, the ability to

- summarise the information found in many different types of sources - eg books, paintings, museums, galleries, the Internet
- use accurate and relevant information in the best format for the piece of work you are doing
- make sure that written work is legible and that its meaning is clear
- choose suitable images to illustrate your ideas clearly
- being able to express your ideas and intentions for particular pieces of artwork

**Other key skills appropriate to the study of Art are**

- information Technology
- improving own learning and performance
- working with others
- problem solving

**What could I go on to do at the end of my course?**

There are many opportunities in our design-conscious world for careers using the skills you will develop on an A level Art course. Most of these require further study at an art school, further education college or university. If you are unsure about whether to make a career of the subject, the best thing to do is to speak to your art teacher who will know about the courses on offer in your area or elsewhere.

At present most students wishing to take art, craft or design further will go on to do a one year 'Foundation' course at an art college or college of further education before applying to degree courses in more specialist areas of art and design.

You may wish to do Art A Level for its own sake, perhaps to form the basis of a future interest or as part of a range of other subjects. You might wish to go into a job where it is useful to have had experience of art, craft and design, or where you will need to use some of the skills developed during this course. These might include careers in such fields as advertising, marketing, design, architecture, publishing and the media. The study of art can also help you develop transferable skills you can take into any career or job. Success in A Level Art requires determination and dedication. However, whichever future path you choose, it can be a very rewarding beginning.
Biology

Entry Requirements
Students must have achieved a Grade 6 in Biology GCSE or grade 66 in Combined Science GCSE. Students also require at least a grade 5 in GCSE English and Mathematics as the Biology course requires good literacy and analytical numerical skills.

Exam Board - Edexcel

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?
The course builds on the ‘How Science Works’ skills acquired at GCSE. Students during the course will need to be able to communicate effectively in exam questions, for fieldwork and from their practical work during the course, as well as research information from a variety of sources, therefore a good grade in GCSE English is essential. During parts of the course students will be expected to handle and interpret data.

What will I learn on this course?
• Develop greater understanding of biological facts together with an appreciation of their significance in new and changing situations
• Develop greater expertise in the area of practical work and the link between theory and experimental work
• Continue to enjoy and further develop a personal interest in the study of living organisms
• The recognition of the responsible use of Biology in society
• Develop further the awareness of developments in Biology in the changing world into the new millennium.

What kind of student is this course suitable for?
• Have a real interest in and enjoyment of, Biology
• Have an interest in the study of living organisms
• Enjoy carrying out investigations in the laboratory or as fieldwork
• Interested in the developments of new Biology topics such as genetic engineering and the impact on society
• Want to use Biology to support other qualifications such as Geography, Food Technology etc

How can I develop my full range of skills by doing this course?
As well as covering Advanced Level study of Biology this course will enable you to develop some key skills, which will be essential to you whatever you go on to do afterwards. Examples of the key skills you can develop during this course are

Communication
• Taking part in discussions on issues such as pollution
• Preparing written documents for your practical work
Using reference materials from books, CD-ROM and the Internet

**Application of number**
- Planning to collect results from experiments and presenting them in a suitable format
- Carrying out calculations on the data collected in experiments
- Interpreting the results from experiments and seeing how this relates to your plan

**Information technology**
- Using word processing software to present written reports and prepare presentations
- Plan and design a spreadsheet to support your experiments, be able to select a suitable graphical format to show trends and patterns in your data

**Problem solving**
- Planning an ecological investigation to look at the distribution of plants and animals on the seashore
- Trying out different techniques to extract pigments from plant tissues

**Working with others**
- In planning an investigation in a woodland study to involve all members of the group
- Presentation of a poster to explain the findings from a survey on local conservation issues

**Improving own learning and performance**
- Working out a timetable with targets to improve your practical skills
- Monitoring the marks awarded for written reports

**What could I go on to do at the end of my course?**
- Follow a degree course in Biology, Environmental Science, Medicine, Nursing, Dentistry, Psychology or Pharmacy. These are a small selection of courses with direct links. UCAS handbooks will give you further guidance
- Enter a Higher National Course in Biological Science and related programmes
- Employment in the area of Pharmacy, Biotechnology, Catering and Land Management as possible examples
Chemistry

Entry Requirements
The qualification builds on the knowledge, understanding and process skills inherent in GCSE. Students must have achieved a minimum GCSE Grade 6 in Triple Award Chemistry or grades 66 in Combined Science. Students also require at least a grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics as the Chemistry course requires good numerical skills.

Exam Board - OCR

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?
The qualification integrates theory and relevant practical work, which are developed at different levels throughout the course. Students will need to be able to communicate effectively, research and think critically about chemical problems.

What will I learn on this course?
Students follow the OCR Chemistry A syllabus at A level. The course covers a broad range of fundamental concepts and practical skills. The qualification aims to

- stimulate and sustain students’ interest in and enjoyment of Chemistry
- enable students to gain a knowledge and understanding of Chemistry appropriate to Advanced Level and to appreciate the inter-linking patterns which are distinguishing features of the subject
- demonstrate the inter-relationship between the development of the subject and its application (social, economic, environmental and technological) by building on How Science Works skills and also to recognise the value of Chemistry to society when used responsibly and with imagination
- develop students’ skills in laboratory procedures and techniques
- develop students’ abilities to acquire knowledge and understanding through practical work
- provide opportunities for students to bring together knowledge of how different areas of Chemistry relate to each other

What kind of student is this qualification suitable for?
This qualification is suitable for students who

- have a real interest in and enjoyment of Chemistry
- enjoy carrying out investigations by the application of imaginative, logical and critical thinking
- enjoy working with theoretical concepts and models and applying them to macroscopic observations
How can I develop my full range of skills by doing this qualification?
As well as covering Advanced Level study of Chemistry, this course enables students to develop a range of valuable transferable key skills. Examples of the key skills covered during this course are

**Communication**
- Taking part in discussions on topical issues
- Preparing written documents for your practical work
- Using, assessing and summarising reference materials from a range of primary and secondary sources

**Application of numbers**
- Planning to collect results from experiments and presenting them in a suitable format
- Carrying out calculations on data collected during experiments
- Interpreting the results from experiments and seeing how these relate to prior hypotheses

**Information technology**
- Using software to present written reports and prepare presentations
- Planning and designing spreadsheets to support experiments and being able to select suitable graphical formats to show trends and patterns in data
- Using digital data collection equipment to obtain and display findings

**Problem solving**
- Planning an investigation to distinguish between similar substances

**Working with others**
- Planning group investigations and presentations to study and explain the effect of changes to systems

**Improving your own learning and performance**
- Working out a timetable with targets to improve modelling skills
- Monitoring the marks awarded for written reports and identifying areas for improvement
- Developing scientific communication skills to explain complex concepts accurately and clearly to a range of audiences
- Developing the ability to work independently with a range of resources to enhance individual learning

What could students go on to do at the end of the course?
- Follow a degree course that directly applies a knowledge of Chemistry for example, in Chemistry, Chemical Engineering, BioChemistry, Environmental Science, Medicine or Pharmacy. UCAS handbooks provide further guidance
- Follow a degree course in subjects where critical thinking skills are important, such as Law or Politics
- Direct employment as a technician in the scientific field
Computer Science

Entry Requirements
Students must have achieved a grade 5 in Computer Science GCSE or grade 7 in Mathematics if Computing GCSE is not studied.

Exam Board – OCR

About the course
Computer Science is of great importance to the economy, and the role of Computer Science as a discipline itself and as an ‘underpinning’ subject across Science and Engineering is growing rapidly.

Computer technology continues to advance quickly and the way that technology is consumed has also been changing at a fast pace over recent years. The growth in the use of mobile devices and web-related technologies has exploded, resulting in new challenges for employers and employees. For example, businesses today require an ever-increasing number of technologically-aware individuals. This is even more so in the gaming, mobile and web related industries and this specification has been designed with this in mind.

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

Candidates wishing to study Computer Science should have studied a GCSE course in Computing/Computer Science or have a vast experience in programming.

It will be assumed that candidates have an elementary knowledge of most of the following
- an understanding of current and emerging technologies and how they work
- an ability to apply technical skills and an understanding of the use of algorithms in computer programs to solve problems using programming
- the ability to create computer programs to solve problems
- the ability to work collaboratively
- the ability to evaluate the effectiveness of computer programs/solutions and the impact of the use of computer technology in society

What will I learn on this course?

The course will offer candidates opportunities to learn about the following
- fundamentals of programming, data structures and algorithms
- theory of computation
- fundamentals of data representation
- fundamentals of computer systems
- fundamentals of computer organisation and architecture
- consequences of uses of computing
- fundamentals of communication and networking
- fundamentals of databases
What kind of student is this course suitable for?

This course will appeal to students who

- have a keen interest in the advances in technology
- enjoy solving problems by constructing and implementing complex algorithms
- enjoy compiling computer programs to solve problem.
- are interested in a career in software development or engineering

How can I develop my full range of skills by doing this course?

As well as covering Advanced Level study of Computer Science, this course will enable you to develop some key skills, which will be essential to whatever you do afterwards. The key skills you can develop during this course are

- communication
- information technology
- numeracy
- problem solving and computational thinking
- working with others
- improving own learning performance

What could I go on to do at the end of this course?

Students could study the discipline further by opting to undertake a degree in Computer Science or a more focused degree such as Software Engineering or Artificial Intelligence. Computing graduates have a very marketable degree. Of those working in the UK, seven out of the top ten professions are in IT. Jobs include programmers and software developers, web design and development professionals, IT technicians and IT business analysts, and architects and systems designers.
ADVANCED LEVEL COURSE 2019-2021

Design and Technology: Product Design / 3D Design

Entry Requirements
Students need to have studied Design and Technology at GCSE level and gained a grade 5 or above or a grade 6 in English GCSE if D&T was not studied.

Exam Board - AQA

About the course
This course is designed to encourage the students to take a broad view of technology and design, to develop their capacity to design and make products and to appreciate the complex relations between design, materials, manufacture and marketing.

3D Design is intended to reflect the wide-ranging activities of professional designers and covers a wide range of materials. Written papers will be restricted to testing the core content, but other materials such as ceramics and textiles and other areas such as electronics and mechanisms can be incorporated to produce exciting coursework.

3D Design also contains a section on Communication Methods. Graphics are an integral part of Design & Technology work. Therefore, it is important that students can communicate their thinking clearly and represent their ideas graphically.

What I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?
Candidates wishing to study Design and Technology / Product Design should have studied a GCSE in Design Technology or completed a Technical award in a specific subject area.

It will be assumed that candidates have an elementary knowledge of most of the following

- designing and making skills needed to produce end products
- materials common forms of paper/card, modelling materials, fibres and fabrics, plastics, wood, light weight metals and composites
- components and processes as used in products
- system & control functions as applied to the planning and manufacturing of products, or as components within products
- products and their applications
- health and safety issues and a range of experience drawn from the wider study of Graphical and Textiles materials based products, or Systems and Control within products.
What will I learn on this course?

The course will offer candidates opportunities to acquire and demonstrate
- knowledge and understanding of the world of designing and making
- flair and technological capabilities through the making of quality outcomes
- an awareness of industrial processes and manufacturing techniques that underpin the manufacture of products and systems within products
- an awareness of the responsibilities of Designers and Technologists to mankind through an increasing knowledge of the potentials and hazards inherent in technology advance, change and decision making
- manage resources and time whilst applying the safety principles of the focus area

What kind of student is this course suitable for?

This course will appeal to students who
- have an interest in the world of design and the technological achievements that surround us
- enjoy developing their own design skills and ideas, and solving design problems
- want to study the impact of economic, technological and environmental factors on the way we live
- want to develop their self-confidence.
- want to offer a broad selection of subjects at AS/Advanced Level to keep their options open
- enjoy practical and creative work

How can I develop my full range of skills by doing this course?

As well as covering Advanced Level study of Design and Technology, this course will enable you to develop some Key Skills, which will be essential to whatever you do afterwards. The key skills you can develop during this course are
- communication
- information technology
- numeracy
- problem solving
- working with others
- improving own learning performance

The Advanced Level Design &Technology course offers you plenty of opportunities to acquire key skills, which arise naturally as part of the design process and design briefs, which you are set throughout the course.

What could I go on to do at the end of my course?

Students who study Advanced Level Design and Technology have access to a wide range of career and Higher Education opportunities. By the end of the course you will have learned how to solve design problems for a variety of human needs, evaluate and analyse information, communicate complex design ideas effectively. These skills are recognised and valued by employers, universities and colleges.
Drama and Theatre Studies

Entry Requirements

As a minimum requirement you should have achieved at least a grade 5 in GCSE Drama. If you did not study Drama at GCSE, a grade 5 in English GCSE is required, and you should evidence a practical involvement in drama and theatre during the past two years.

Exam Board – Edexcel

What will I learn on this course?

This course aims to enhance your enjoyment and appreciation of the drama and theatre, within the context of world culture. Upon completion of the course you should possess a thorough understanding of drama and theatre, highly toned analytical and creative skills, and an ability to successfully communicate your ideas to a wide range of audiences.

Who is this course for?

This course is for students who enjoy practical performance work and have a passion for drama and theatre. However, it is not just aimed at students who wish to pursue careers in the performing arts. It is a wide ranging course that will develop numerous transferable skills. The course often links well with other Arts subjects, English, History, Media and Psychology. If you enjoy practical work, are creative and imaginative, a problem solver, and enjoy analysing literature then this could be just the course you are looking for!

Component 1 - Devising - 40% of the qualification

- Coursework unit, internally assessed and externally moderated
- Devise an original performance piece
- Use one key extract from a performance text and a theatre practitioner as stimuli
- Contribute as a performer or designer
- 30% is awarded for portfolio work
- 10% is awarded for the performance/design realisation

Component 2 - Text in Performance – 20% of the qualification

- Practical component, assessed by a visiting examiner
- Group performance/design realisation of one key extract from a performance text
- A monologue or duologue/design realisation of one key moment from a different performance text
Component 3 - Theatre Makers in Practice - 40% of the qualification

- Practical exploration and study of a complete performance text – focusing on how this can be realised for performance
- Practical exploration and interpretation of another complete performance text, linked to a practitioner – focusing on how this could be reimagined for a contemporary audience
- Live theatre performances will be analysed
- Assessment takes the form of a 2 hour and 30 minute written examination

What could I go on to do at the end of my course?

Students can use these qualifications as a 'stepping stone' to further studies at university in a broad range of subjects including Classics, Drama, English, Film Production, Journalism, Law, Marketing, Media, Psychology, Performing Arts, Professional Theatre, and Teacher Training amongst others.
Economics

Course Level  A Level
Examining Body  AQA
Entry Qualifications  Grade 5 in Economics GCSE or a Humanities subject. Grade 6 in Mathematics and grade 5 in English GCSE

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?
You do not need to have studied Economics at GCSE in order to take an Advanced Level course in the subject although some topics that feature in GCSE syllabuses will be developed at Advanced Level. It is important that you have an interest in economic affairs and a desire to explore why and how the study of Economics contributes to an understanding of the modern world.

What will I learn on this course?
- how to develop an understanding of economic concepts and theories through a critical consideration of current economic issues, problems and institutions that affect everyday life
- how to apply economic concepts and theories in a range of contexts and to appreciate their value and limitations in explaining real-world phenomena
- how to analyse, explain and evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the market economy and the role of government within it
- how to participate effectively in society as a citizen, producer and consumer

Subject content

A Level Economics

Individuals, firms, markets and market failure
1 Economic methodology and the economic problem
2 Individual economic decision making
3 Price determination in a competitive market
4 Production, costs and revenue
5 Perfect competition, imperfectly competitive markets and monopoly
6 The labour market
7 The distribution of income and wealth: poverty and inequality
8 The market mechanism, market failure and government intervention in markets

The national and international economy
9 The measurement of macroeconomic performance
10 How the macro economy works: the circular flow of income, AD/AS analysis, and related concepts
11 Economic performance
12 Financial markets and monetary policy
13 Fiscal policy and supply-side policies
What kind of student is this course suitable for?

This course will appeal to students who

- wish to pursue a career in an economics-related profession
- enjoy studying a subject that affects their everyday lives
- want to keep their options open - Economics can be combined with a wide range of social science and humanities subjects

What could I go on to do at the end of my course?

Students with A Level Economics have access to a wide range of possible career and higher education opportunities. You learn and use a variety of transferable skills throughout the course. These include

- collecting and analysing economic information from different sources
- development of numeracy and written communication skills
- development of problem-solving and evaluation skills

These skills are in great demand and are recognised by employers, universities and colleges as being of great value. Economics combines well with a range of social science and humanities subjects to lead to University courses in such areas as Law, Business, Accounting, Politics and, of course, Economics.

Students will also be given the opportunity to take part in Target 2.0 or the ifs Student Investor Challenge.
English Language and Literature

Entry Requirements
The course is demanding as well as rewarding, so subsequently students will be required to have a minimum of a grade 6 in GCSE English Language or English Literature.

Exam Board - Edexcel

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

The study of English Language and Literature will encourage you to develop your interest in both English Language and English Literature as interconnected disciplines. This course will give you the opportunity to develop as an independent, confident and reflective reader and writer, and you will have the opportunity to explore the ways that people manipulate language in order to express themselves. The course will give you the opportunity to read and analyse both literary and non-literary texts and to write analytical essays as well as producing your own creative writing.

What will I study at A Level?

- Voices in Speech and Writing: An Anthology (a collection of non-literary texts, including newspapers, blogs, speeches, interviews, travelogues where the focus will be on how the writer or speaker crafts his/her work to produce a distinctive voice)
- ‘The Great Gatsby’ (F Scott Fitzgerald)
- ‘Othello’ (Shakespeare)
- ‘Streetcar Named Desire’ (Tennessee Williams)
- A selection of unseen non-fiction prose
- Coursework is a free choice of a non-fiction and a fiction text. Students will use these to produce two pieces of their own creative writing

What will I learn on this course?

The course will enable you to

- communicate insights gained from the combined study of literature and language;
- develop your ability to use linguistic and literary critical concepts
- develop as independent and confident readers
- demonstrate your skills in speaking and writing for a variety of specific purposes and audiences
- respond to texts of different types and from different periods, making comparisons between them
What kind of student is this course suitable for?

This course will appeal to students who

- have an interest in reading a wide variety of examples of English language and literature
- enjoy expressing their opinions and justifying their comments on texts
- enjoy studying a subject which is relevant to their own lives and experiences
- want to keep their options open for further study - English Language and Literature is a popular qualification for a wide range of courses in higher education or for future careers

What is the difference between English Literature and English Language/ Literature?

The main difference is that in English Literature you will only study works of literature, i.e. poems, plays and novels, whereas in English Language/ Literature the texts you study will include literature, but will also include non-literary texts such as diary extracts, reports, speeches, transcripts of conversations, instruction manuals, letters. The focus will be very much on how writers use language for effect and adapt it according to audience and purpose. In English Literature, you will also look at the writer’s use of language but as part of a wider exploration of themes and character. Both subjects contain a mixture of coursework and final examination.

What could I go on to do at the end of my course?

Students with A Level English Language and Literature have a wide range of possible career and higher education opportunities. You will learn and use a wide variety of transferable skills during the course. These include responding to literary and non-literary texts, developing skills in speaking and writing for different purposes and audiences and identifying and developing the links between different parts of the subject. These skills are in demand from employers and universities and colleges and are also valuable in their own right.

English Language and Literature can be studied separately or as a single subject in higher education or can be combined with a wide variety of other subjects. It could form a good basis for study in any arts-based subject in combination with, for example, history, media studies, philosophy, law, politics or foreign languages.
English Literature

Entry Requirements

The course is demanding as well as rewarding, so subsequently students will be required to have a grade 6 in GCSE English Language or English Literature.

Exam Board - Edexcel

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

Advanced study of English Literature builds on the skills and knowledge acquired during GCSE. Analytical study of literary texts forms the basis of the course. The course will give you the opportunity to explore a wide range of challenging texts, both in discussion and in writing, and considerable emphasis is put on you developing your own ideas about the books you study. You will be expected to explore connections between texts as well as learn about their social, cultural and historical contexts.

What will I study at A Level?

- 'Poems of the Decade' (an anthology of poems written in the last ten years)
- 'A Streetcar named Desire' (a play by Tennessee Williams)
- a collection of poems by Christina Rossetti
- 'Othello'
- A selection of modern unseen poetry
- 'A Thousand Splendid Suns' and 'Wuthering Heights' for an exam
- a selection of novels for coursework. These could include, 'Never Let Me Go' (Kazuo Ishiguro), 'Enduring Love' (Ian McEwan), 'The Collector' (John Fowles), 'War of the Worlds' (HG Wells), 'The Great Gatsby' (F. Scott Fitzgerald) and Dracula (Bram Stoker)
  Coursework texts can be completely free choice

What will I learn on this A Level course?

The course will enable you to

- develop your interest and enjoyment in literature by reading widely
- gain an understanding of the traditions of English Literature
- communicate your response to a wide variety of texts and respond to texts of different types and periods
- make informed opinions and judgements on literary texts
- gain an understanding of cultural, historical and other influences on texts
What kind of student is this course suitable for?

This course will appeal to students who

- have an interest in reading a wide variety of literature from the past and present
- enjoy expressing their opinions and justifying their comments on texts
- enjoy studying a subject which is relevant to their own lives and experiences
- want to keep their options open for further study - English Literature is a popular qualification for a wide range of courses in higher education or for future careers

What is the difference between English Literature and English Language/Literature?

The main difference is that in English Literature you will only study works of literature, i.e. poems, plays and novels, whereas in English Language/Literature the texts you study will include literature, but will only include non-literary texts such as diary extracts, reports, speeches, transcripts of conversations, instruction manuals, letters. The focus will be very much on how writers use language for effect and adapt it according to audience and purpose. In English Literature you will also look at the writer’s use of language but as part of a wider exploration of themes and character. Both subjects contain a mixture of coursework and final examination.

What could I go on to do at the end of my course?

Students with A Level English Literature have a wide range of possible career and higher education opportunities. You will learn and use a wide variety of transferable skills during the course. These include writing for a variety of purposes, responding to literary texts, expressing informed and independent opinions and identifying and developing the links between different parts of the subject. These skills are in demand from employers and universities and colleges and are also valuable in their own right.

English Literature can be studied as a single subject in higher education or can be combined with a wide variety of other subjects. It could form a good basis for study in any arts based subject in combination with, for example, history, media studies, philosophy, law, politics or languages.
**Film Studies**

**Entry Requirements**
Students of Film Studies are expected to interpret texts and demonstrate their understanding of the material through essay writing and creative coursework tasks. If students have studied Media Studies at GCSE a 5 grade is required or a Merit or above in a Level 2 Media BTEC. If Media has not been studied a 5 grade in either English Language or Literature is required.

Exam Board - OCR

**The Course**
Film Studies involves investigating the production of a range of films from early Hollywood, current Hollywood, documentaries and a variety of film movements. The course is designed to help students to understand how different texts are constructed and delve into narrative, ideology and filmmaking theories. The ability to apply a critical and analytical approach will be developed, in order to evaluate the influence that the film has on our society. The effect on audiences is researched in detail. Progress is assessed through a range of research, essays, report writing and creative coursework tasks.

**What will I learn on this course?**
During the course you will learn a variety of content, from key elements of film, meaning and responses and critical debates in film. The course demands analytical, creative and communication skills. Theoretical concerns and academic report writing which shows understanding of how films achieve their impact supplement these.

**Course Structure**

**Film History - 35% of the total qualification**
*Exam:* Two-hour exam assessing your knowledge of film of five feature films. One from each of the following era's; The Silent era, 1930-1960 and 1961-1990. Along with studying film and stylistic movement from the European surrealist film and the German expressionism.

**Critical Approaches to Film - 35% of the total qualification**
*Exam:* Two-hour exam assessing your knowledge and understanding of key critical approaches to film, specifically focusing on narrative, genre, representation and spectatorship. Students must study one film from the following categories; Contemporary British and US cinema, Documentary, non European and non English language and US independent.

**Making a Short Film - 30% of total qualification**
*Coursework:* Students are required to produce a short film *(60 marks)* and carry out an evaluation of their production *(30 marks)*.
What could I go on to do at the end of my course?
This Advanced Level course can lead to further study in Film and Media Studies, Broadcasting Media, Marketing, Animation, Communications and Journalism in Higher Education at degree or HND level. They can be used as part of your course to broaden your studies and may lead to a career in the Media. Film Studies complement a range of other subjects, especially English, History, Government and Politics, Sociology, Art, and Psychology. Film Studies will also build confidence and improve presentation skills suitable for a range of careers.
Further Mathematics

Entry Requirements
You will be expected to have achieved at least a Grade 8 in Maths GCSE and taking A Level Mathematics. All students will also require a non-programmable scientific calculator for the duration of the course. We recommend the Casio fx-991EX scientific calculator.

Exam Board – Edexcel

What will I learn on this course?
Further Maths will introduce you to fascinating mathematical concepts. It will broaden and deepen the maths covered in A Level Maths developing your problem solving skills, which will help to boost your performance in A Level Maths. If you plan to apply for any degree that is rich in maths, a qualification in Further Maths will give your application an edge. You will study more maths that’s relevant to your university course, which will stand you in good stead for first year degree level Mathematics. Some prestigious university degree courses now require a Further Maths qualification.

Mathematics at A Level is divided into:
Core Pure Mathematics
Pure Mathematics develops your mathematical ability and introduces you to new topics, such as matrices and complex numbers, which are vital for maths-rich degrees in areas such as sciences, engineering, statistics and computing, as well as mathematics itself.

Mechanics
When you study mechanics you will learn how to describe mathematically the motion of objects and how they respond to forces acting upon them, from cars in the street to satellites revolving around a planet. You will learn the technique of mathematical modelling; that is, of turning a complicated physical problem into a simpler one that can be analysed and solved using mathematical methods.

Statistics
When you study statistics you will learn how to analyse and summarise numerical data in order to arrive at conclusions about it. You will extend the range of probability problems that you started for GCSE by using the new mathematical techniques studied on the core mathematics course. If you study three units of statistics you will apply some of the statistical ideas of the course by doing some assessed practical work.

Decision Mathematics
Students following the Decision course will learn how to use algorithms that have been developed for solving real-life problems. You will be analysing techniques to solve problems in time-keeping, organisation and maximising profits while minimising costs for businesses. As you progress you will also learn for example, some of the mathematical concepts required in winning a typical board or card game.
How can I develop my full range of skills by doing this course?

As well as covering an advanced level study of Mathematics, this course could enable you to develop some key skills which will be essential to you whatever you go on to do afterwards. The key skills that you develop on this course will depend on the units that you cover. Your teacher will be able to give you further advice as you study for this course.

What could I go on to do at the end of my course?

Advanced Level Mathematics is a much sought after qualification for entry to a wide variety of full-time courses in Higher Education. There are also many areas of employment that see a Mathematics Advanced Level as an important qualification and it is often a requirement for the vocational qualifications related to these areas.

Higher Education courses or careers that either require Advanced Level Further Mathematics or are strongly related include

- Engineering
- Computing
- Sciences

If you wanted to continue your study of Further Mathematics after Advanced Level you could follow a course in Mathematics at degree level or even continue further as a postgraduate and get involved in mathematical research.
Geography

Entry requirements are a grade 5 in Geography GCSE or a grade 5 in one Science GCSE if Geography not studied.

Exam Board – Edexcel

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

As the new A Level builds on knowledge acquired at GCSE it is a requirement that you should have studied Geography or Science at GCSE in order to undertake this A Level. Equally important is that you should have a lively and enquiring mind, an interest in the environment and current affairs, a willingness to explore new ideas and an ability to communicate your ideas effectively. You will benefit from having an interest in the world around you, be it curiosity about how a landscape has formed, or an interest in how a community might be affected by trans-national corporations. You need to be prepared to leave the classroom and see for yourself what is going on!

What will I learn?

The world we live in is changing and Geography aims to explore how and why. Geography is a multidisciplinary subject which draws on skills and understanding from a range of subjects. It can also enhance communication skills, literacy and numeracy, IT literacy, spatial awareness, team working, problem solving and environmental awareness.

In Geography you will explore and evaluate contemporary geographical questions and issues such as the consequences of globalisation and responses to hazards. The course is framed by enquiry questions that encourage an investigative and evaluative approach to learning. Geography A level integrates the assessment of geographical skills with knowledge and understanding encouraging you to make links between different geographical themes, ideas and concepts through synoptic themes embedded in the lessons.

In Year 12 you will study an equal split of human and physical geography including topics comprising Tectonic Processes and Hazards, Coastal Landscapes and Change, Globalisation and Regenerating Places.

In Year 13 you will study four further topics including The Water Cycle and Water Insecurity, The Carbon Cycle and Energy Security, Superpowers and Migration, Identity and Sovereignty.

In addition to examinations there is also a new element to the A-Level – An Independent Investigation where you will have the opportunity to do an in-depth enquiry on any area of the course that has interested you. You will be expected to collect fieldwork data and carry out secondary research to complete a report of your findings. This coursework will require a high level of independent work but is a fantastic opportunity to develop your skill set.
Is this the right subject for me?

The Advanced GCE in Geography will appeal to you if

- you are curious about the world’s places, peoples and environments
- you like asking questions and finding answers
- you are interested in local, regional and global issues
- you have the ability to think and work independently
- you wish to explore human, physical and environmental geographical relationships.

How will I be assessed?

A Level

Paper 1: 2 hours and 15 minutes written examination – 30% of A Level qualification
- Tectonic Processes and Hazards
- Coastal Landscapes and Change (including fieldwork questions)
- The Water Cycle and Water Insecurity
- The Carbon Cycle and Energy Security

Paper 2: 2 hours and 15 minutes written examination – 30% of A Level qualification
- Globalisation
- Regenerating Places (including fieldwork questions)
- Superpowers
- Migration, Identity and Sovereignty

Paper 3: 2 hours and 15 minutes written examination – 20% of A Level qualification
You will receive a resource booklet 6 weeks before your exam which will contain information on a geographical issue which will draw from different parts of the course. The exam will assess your overall understanding of three themes which will be developed throughout the course: players, attitudes and actions and futures and uncertainties.

Paper 4: Independent Investigation - non-examined coursework – 20% of A level qualification
You will produce a written report of 3000-4000 words. You will be expected to formulate your own question for investigation relating to any of the A Level content. You will then be given the opportunity to collect data during a fieldtrip as well as in your own time. The investigation report will evidence independent analysis and evaluation of data, presentation of data findings and extended writing.

Fieldwork

All students will be required to take part in a minimum of 4 days of fieldwork for the A Level qualification.

What can I do after I have completed the course?

An A Level in Geography opens doors. You will find that studying geography is a brilliant step towards a wider range of HE courses and/or employment opportunities.

- Further education – geographers can go on to study higher level courses, including Foundation degrees, undergraduate degrees and/or BTEC Higher Nationals.
- Employment – geographers can go into a wide range of jobs, including advertising, education, environmental management, finance, law, marketing, retailing, sales and social/health services.

Next Steps

Interested? Talk to a Geography teacher in the first instance. They should be able to advise you on what steps to take.
Government & Politics

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

You do not need to have studied Government and Politics at GCSE in order to take an Advanced Level course in the subject (a grade 5 in English GCSE or a grade 5 in History GCSE is required). It is more important that you should have a lively and enquiring mind, an interest in politics and current affairs, a desire to explore new ideas and an ability to communicate your ideas effectively.

Exam Board – Edexcel

What will I learn on this course?

- how the British system government works and how it compares to the systems in the USA and other European countries
- how Britain changed during the Thatcher years
- how the Blair government changed the constitution
- how the media affects the political process
- the different approaches to key issues such as law and order, health, the economy, and Europe
- the impact of the Coalition government
- an understanding of the way a parliamentary democracy works and to analyse how democratic the British system is
- how to develop the skills to argue a case logically and clearly

What kind of student is this course suitable for?

This course will appeal to those students who
- enjoy debating current affairs and politics generally
- have a keen appreciation of the need to participate in the decision-making process
- like doing a subject that affects their everyday lives
- like doing a subject that offers the opportunity to progress to a career in politics
- want to keep their options open - Politics can be a useful choice for a wide range of careers and can be combined with a wide range of social science and humanities subjects

How can I develop my full range of skills by doing this course?

As well as covering advanced level study of Government and Politics, this course will enable you to develop some key skills, which will be essential to you whatever you go on to do afterwards. The key skills you can develop during this course are
- communication
- application of number
What could I go on to do at the end of my course?

Students with Advanced Level Government and Politics have access to a wide range of possible career and higher education opportunities. You learn and use a variety of transferable skills throughout the course. These include collecting and analysing information and evaluating different political ideas and systems. Your written communication skills will develop greatly as will your ability to question information given to you. These skills are in great demand and are recognised by employers, universities and colleges as being of great value.

Government and Politics combines well with a range of social science and humanities subjects to lead to University courses in such areas as business, economics, law, media, philosophy and, of course, politics.

Students who choose not to go on to higher studies will have well developed transferable skills that will allow them to explore a wide range of employment opportunities.
History

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?
History is an academically demanding subject, which is reflected by our entry requirements. We ask for at least a 5 grade in History GCSE or a grade 6 in English GCSE if History GCSE not studied. It is not an absolute requirement to have studied History before. It is more important that you have an enquiring mind, an interest in the past and its relevance to current affairs and an ability to communicate your ideas effectively.

Those students who have studied History GCSE will find that the skills they have learned and the knowledge they have acquired will form a solid foundation for further studies at A Level.

Exam Board – AQA

What will I learn on this course?

- during Year 12 students will study British political and cultural History from 1951 to 1979, from Churchill to Callaghan, from deference to decadence. It takes in the swinging 60s, the origins of multicultural Britain and the failure of the post-war consensus. They will also study The United States from 1865 to 1920, from Reconstruction, through the Gilded Age to the Progressive Era and the rise of American Imperialism.
- towards the end of Year 12, students will start work on their coursework, which accounts for 20% of the overall grade. This will be completed in Year 13. It covers a 100-year period and students can choose to study either the Marian Counter-Reformation or the legacy of the British Empire.
- in Year 13, students will resume and extend their studies on the same topics. The British unit will progress to 2007, covering Thatcher, Major and Blair. The America Unit will extend to 1975, including the New Deal, the Civil Rights Movement and the Cold War. Both the British and American units take in a broad range of political, economic, cultural and social history.

What kind of student is this course suitable for?
The course will appeal to students who

- have an interest in the way that the world has developed through the ages
- enjoy investigation and discovery
- enjoy debate and like putting forward a well-argued case
- want to improve their analytical skills
- want to study a subject which encourages them to consider evidence and make up their own minds
- want to broaden A level studies to include a humanities subject
- want to keep their options open. History is regarded as a "facilitating subject" by Russell Group universities - a subject whose academic rigour is well regarded when making UCAS applications
How can I develop my full range of skills by doing this course?
As well as covering advanced level study of History, this course will enable you to develop some key skills, which will be essential to you whatever you go on to do afterwards. These include

- communication
- information technology
- problem solving
- working with others
- improving own learning and performance

History A Level offers you plenty of opportunities to acquire the key skills. These will arise naturally during your lessons and might include presenting your ideas to the rest of your group, taking part in a discussion, using ICT for research or working in a small group to investigate a historical problem.

What could I go on to do at the end of my course?

Students who study Advanced Level History have access to a wide range of career and higher education opportunities. By the end of your course you will have learned how to evaluate and analyse information, how to weigh up evidence and how to communicate complex ideas effectively. These skills are recognised and valued by employers, universities and colleges. History combines well with maths and science subjects to create an attractive portfolio of qualifications, enabling a student to move on to a university science-based course. Combined with English and a modern foreign language it would provide a good basis for an arts or languages-based degree.

History A Level provides an excellent foundation for a number of popular careers including journalism, law, politics and business.
Latin

Entry Requirements
Students will have achieved a GCSE Grade B (old specification) or GCSE grade 6 (new specification) in Latin and a grade 6 in English GCSE.

Exam Board - OCR

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?
As a result of your studies in GCSE Latin, you will possess a good understanding of the fundamental grammar and vocabulary of the language, and you will have been introduced to the basics of Latin literary analysis.

What will I learn on this course?
This course deepens your understanding of Latin as a language, the literature written in it, and the world that produced both. GCSE grammar will be revised, consolidated and built upon over the length of the 2-year course. You will begin to encounter new works of literature across a variety of ancient genres, and for the first time you will encounter them unabridged and unadapted. You will learn to critically analyse texts in detail and evaluate the impact of an author’s style, genre and social context on the content of their work.

Reading
Translation is still the key skill of Latin A Level, and you will be required to read all the texts that we study, whether for literary comment or for linguistic analysis, in the original language. You will be able to read, understand and extract information from a variety of different passages in Latin and comment upon them.

Writing
Latin A Level builds on the fundamentals of the literary analysis begun at GCSE. You will learn how to write essays in which you develop a sustained argument about the texts you read. You will also be required either to compose short sentences in Latin or to comment upon the linguistic features of a passage of Latin.

Your A Level Qualification
The examination board is OCR and the course will run as part of the new A Level suite that begin in September 2016. Students will take the two-year A-Level certificate; no AS option will be offered. The advantage of the 2 year A Level for current Drayton Manor students (who will have taken their GCSE in Year 10) is that there will be plenty of time to recap your (perhaps rusty) GCSE grammar and vocabulary ahead of terminal exams.

As a class, we will also have a certain amount of freedom to decide amongst ourselves which of the specified literature options we will take up.
What kind of student is this course suitable for?
If you are interested in
- the Latin literature you read at GCSE
- exploring the genres that form a basis for both classical and European literature
- gaining a more comprehensive understanding of Latin grammar
- reading unadapted literature
- Roman religion, mythology, history and politics
then the Latin course is suitable for you

Similarly, if you are interested in
- any subjects that demand logical thinking (any science, including computer science)
- law and other careers that involve building sustained arguments
- literature in any language
- history and politics of other periods then you are also likely to find the skills developed in the course appropriate for your other interests

How can I develop my full range of skills by doing this course?
The course is designed to deepen your understanding of original Latin and to encourage a fuller appreciation of Latin literature. In the course of your study of Latin, you will acquire a number of additional skills:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key Skill</th>
<th>Typical Activities</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Communication</td>
<td>You will learn both to understand and to concisely explain the literary, stylistic and grammatical features of a range of Latin texts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Logic and analysis</td>
<td>Deciphering Latin texts requires you to develop both grammatical accuracy and context sensitivity. Your understanding of genre, register, lexis and style will allow you to write more sensitive and specific essays.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working with others</td>
<td>By studying in a small-group environment, you will gain the opportunity to frequently and regularly discuss both literary and linguistic topics and issues.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improving own learning and</td>
<td>You will make use of whole-class and individual feedback to improve essays and translations. You will have the opportunity to read widely and independently to improve your knowledge.</td>
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<tr>
<td>performance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Information technology</td>
<td>You will make use of various online resources such as the Perseus Project to access and translate set texts.</td>
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What could I go on to do at the end of my course?
Latin offers a frankly unparalleled breadth of options. Some students choose to do degree courses in Classics, which is itself an extremely broad course taking in everything from forensic archaeology to literary analysis, ancient history, art history and philosophy. For many of these courses, the only requirement is Latin A Level, in combination with any other subjects of your choice.

Even for those who are not considering a Classics degree, Latin combines effectively with any subjects, and those who study Latin A Level have gone on to excel in not just arts subjects and languages, but also in humanities and sciences. Latin at A Level is an unusual but highly regarded qualification, and Latin students frequently achieve top grades across all their subjects. Having Latin A Level will distinguish you sharply and positively from the many other students competing to secure coveted places at well-regarded universities, whatever subject you choose to study.
 ADVANCED LEVEL COURSE 2019-2021

Mathematics

Entry Requirements
You will be expected to have achieved at least a Grade 6 in Maths GCSE. All students will also require a non-programmable scientific calculator for the duration of the course. We recommend the Casio fx-991EX scientific calculator.

Exam Board - Edexcel

What will I learn on this course?
Mathematics at A Level is a course worth studying in its own right. It is challenging but interesting. It builds on work you will have met at GCSE, but also involves new ideas that some of the greatest minds of the millennium have produced. It serves as a very useful support for many other qualifications as well as being a sought-after qualification for the workplace and courses in Higher Education.

Mathematics Advanced Level is divided into:

1. Core Mathematics
When studying core maths at A Level you will be extending your knowledge of such topics as algebra and trigonometry as well as learning some brand new ideas such as calculus. If you enjoyed the challenge of problem solving at GCSE and using mathematical techniques, then you should find the prospect of this course very appealing.

2. Applied Mathematics
Applied Mathematics is comprised of mechanics and statistics. When you study mechanics you will learn how to describe mathematically of the motion of objects and how they respond to forces acting upon them, from cars in the street to satellites revolving around a planet. You will learn the technique of mathematical modelling; that is, of turning a complicated physical problem into a simpler one that can be analysed and solved using mathematical methods. When you study statistics you will learn how to analyse and summarise numerical data in order to arrive at conclusions about it. You will extend the range of probability problems that you started for GCSE by using the new mathematical techniques studied on the core mathematics course. You will study large data set and use statistical knowledge to analyse that data set.

How can I develop my full range of skills by doing this course?
As well as covering an advanced level study of Mathematics, this course could enable you to develop some Key Skills which will be essential to you whatever you go on to do afterwards. The Key Skills that you develop on this course will depend on the units that you cover. Your teacher will be able to give you further advice as you study for this course.

What could I go on to do at the end of my course?
Advanced Level Mathematics is a much sought after qualification for entry to a wide variety of full-time courses in Higher Education. There are also many areas of employment that see a
Mathematics Advanced Level as an important qualification and it is often a requirement for the vocational qualifications related to these areas.

Higher Education courses or careers that either require Advanced Level Mathematics or are strongly related include

- Economics
- Medicine
- Engineering
- Accountancy
- Teaching
- Computing
- Information Technology

If you wanted to continue your study of Mathematics after Advanced Level, you could follow a course in Mathematics at degree level or even continue further as a postgraduate and get involved in mathematical research.
ADVANCED LEVEL COURSES 2019-2021

Media Studies

Entry Requirements
Students of media are expected to interpret texts and demonstrate their understanding of the material by presenting well-written responses; therefore, if a student has studied Media Studies at GCSE a grade 5 is required. (In the event that Media has not been studied a grade 5 in English Language.)

Exam Board - WJEC

The Course
Media Studies involves investigating the production of a range of media content including newspapers, television, magazines, film and the internet (all of which are referred to as texts). The course is designed to help students to understand how these texts are constructed and to investigate in detail the institutions who produced them. The ability to apply a critical and analytical approach will be developed, in order to evaluate the influence that the media has on our society. The effect on audiences is researched in detail. Progress is assessed through a range of research, essays, report writing and creative coursework tasks.

What will I learn on this course?
The course demands practical, creative and communication skills within the Practical Coursework Productions unit. These are supplemented by theoretical concerns and academic report writing which shows your understanding of how media texts achieve their impact. The course is designed to balance vocational and academic aspects.

Course Structure
Component 1: Media products, Industry and audience (35% of A Level)
Exam: two hours and half written exam where students are required to answer four questions. In section A there is two questions on media language and representation and in section B students are required to answer two questions on media industries and audience.

Component 2: Media forms and Products (35% of A Level)
Exam: two hours and half written exam. Three questions to be answered, one on Television and Global age, the second on Magazine and thirdly Media in the online age.

Component 3: Cross-Media Production (30% of A Level)
Coursework: An individual cross-media production based on two forms in response to a choice of briefs set by WJEC. Students will be assessed on the application of knowledge and understanding of media language (25 marks) and the application of representation and industry including digital convergence (25 marks)

What could I go on to do at the end of my course?
These A Level courses can lead to further study in Broadcasting Media, Marketing, Animation, Communications, Film and Journalism in Higher Education at degree or HND level. They can be used as part of your course to broaden your studies and may lead to a career in the Media. Media Studies complement a range of other subjects, especially English, History, Government and Politics, Sociology, Art, and Psychology.
Modern Foreign Languages: French, Spanish

Entry Requirements
Students will normally have achieved at least the equivalent of GCSE Grade 6 in the relevant language before taking this course.

Exam Board - AQA

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?
You will need to feel confident at this level in the four language skills of Listening, Reading, Writing and Speaking. You must also have some knowledge and understanding of the culture and way of life of the target-language country. You need to be interested in developing this understanding and in exploring in much more depth the topic areas that you will have covered at GCSE as well as being open-minded about studying politics, culture, literature and film.

What will I learn on this course?
The course will help you to develop your general study skills, but most of all you will learn to communicate at a higher level in the language that you have chosen. You will also learn much more about a wide range of aspects of the society or societies in which the language is spoken.

Reading
You will be able to read, understand and extract information from written passages in the target language that are taken from authentic sources, such as magazines and newspapers, reports or books.

Listening
You will be able to listen to, and understand contemporary spoken language and answer questions on what you have heard. The passages that you will learn to listen to will be taken from a range of sources such as news reports on the radio or TV, weather forecasts, announcements, interviews and discussions.

Speaking and Writing
You will learn how to write essays or longer pieces and to hold conversations and discussions in the target language. You will learn all the appropriate grammar, words and phrases that will help you to:

• present information in the target language
• organise your arguments
• provide opinions
• analyse your ideas
What kind of student is this course suitable for?
If you are interested in languages and communication, and you enjoy learning about other cultures and ways of life, then the Modern Foreign Languages course could be suitable for you. Similarly, if you are interested in the business world, in travel or tourism, in literature, or in journalism and the media, then you are also likely to find the course appropriate. There are a number of options in the course where you can choose your topic or question to suit your interests. Whether you want to use language for work, for further study, training, or for leisure, this course will equip you with the necessary skills and knowledge.

How can I develop my full range of skills by doing this course?
As well as covering advanced level study of Modern Foreign Languages, this course will enable you to develop some Key Skills, which will be essential to you whatever you go on to do afterwards. The Key Skills you can develop during this course are listed in the table below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key Skill</th>
<th>Typical Activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Communication</td>
<td>Presenting topics and expressing opinions and ideas/writing a letter to an environmental organisation seeking information.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information Technology</td>
<td>Producing a newsletter or poster/using the internet and CD ROMS.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working with others</td>
<td>Role-plays/working on an exchange project/work experience abroad.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improving own learning and performance</td>
<td>Setting targets with the teacher for classwork and homework and/or oral topic/receiving feedback on work and taking forward suggestions on how to improve it.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What could I go on to do at the end of my course?
There will be a range of opportunities open to you, where you can continue to use and further develop your language skills and knowledge of contemporary society. Some students choose to do degree courses in languages; others choose to pursue a Higher Education course in another subject, but choose a language option alongside it. Having a language at Advanced Level will certainly improve your employability, in particular with companies which have international branches. Whether you are interested in continuing your studies or working at home or abroad, a language course is an excellent step towards achieving your goals.

Work Experience / Intensive courses / Homestays / Immersion Programme
We always aim to run trips and/or visits which complement your studies. More information will be provided by your language teacher once the course starts.
ADVANCED LEVEL COURSE 2019-2021

Music

Entry Requirements
You should have a grade 6 in Music GCSE or equivalent or pass at Grade 5 Theory.

Exam Board - Edexcel

What else do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?
Basic keyboard skills are important. It will help if you are able to play chords and bass lines when working on compositional techniques and developing compositions.

You will need to be taking regular lessons on your principal instrument throughout the course, working hard to improve as a player, and performing regularly during the course on your own and in ensemble. Music IT skills are also very useful.

What will I learn on this course

You will develop your skills in performing and composing in a range of styles. You will listen to a wide variety of music and develop a more informed appreciation of how and why it was written and/or performed. You will develop and grow as a musician, leading to a life-long interest or the basis for a career involving Music.

The A Level Course has 3 units

1. **Performing** (externally assessed coursework) (30%)
   You will perform for a minimum of 8 minutes in total on your chosen instrument. Performances can be solo or ensemble and the standard level of difficulty expected is Grade 7

2. **Composing** (externally assessed coursework) (30%)
   You will complete a free composition worth 40 marks and a compositional techniques paper in timed conditions for 20 marks

3. **Appraising** (exam) (40%)
   The exam consists of listening questions, a dictation question and two essays, one on an unfamiliar piece of music, and one on a set work studied in the course

What kind of student is this course suitable for?
Anyone who is passionate about performing, creating and listening to different styles of music and who wishes to broaden their experience and deepen their understanding of both live and recorded music. You can perform on any instrument (including singing).

A Level Music is a much respected qualification at university entrance level as it demands a wide range of skills and aptitudes. Music is everywhere and is the second largest visible industry in the country so as well as leading to further study in Music or performing arts it opens the door to a very wide range of careers such as journalism, music and arts administration, radio and TV, publishing, education and the recording industry – as well as performing.
Physical Education

Entry Requirement
It is a requirement that you should have studied Physical Education at GCSE (full course) and achieved a grade 5, or if PE not studied at least 2 grade 5s in Science GCSE and evidence of practical participation in sport at school, county or national level.

Exam Board - AQA

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?
Several topics covered in the course are developments of work covered at GCSE but others are new. It is important that you should have a lively and enquiring mind, an interest in Physical Education, a willingness to explore new ideas and an ability to communicate your ideas effectively. Students taking Physical Education at Advanced Level will be expected to participate in school representative teams in order to further their practical skills and provide opportunities for practical assessment. Students wishing to be practically assessed in activities in which the school does not have representative teams will be expected to train on a regular basis in clubs outside school hours. Students will also be expected to coach and officiate at school clubs and fixtures. There may also be opportunities to obtain coaching and officiating qualifications within the school.

In essence, the course will let students who enjoy sport and sporting activities develop their all-round knowledge of the subject whilst pursuing an academic course they enjoy and can relate to.

What will I learn on this course?
You will

- develop your knowledge and skills in selected activities
- explore the contemporary sociological issues in modern sport
- examine the effects of exercise and the relationships between training and performance
- analyse the way we learn to be skilful
- compare and contrast sport through many differing cultures
- enhance your understanding of the role of technology or psychology in sporting performance
- learn to coach others to learn effectively and develop the confidence to lead groups of people
- find ways to improve your own performance through your greater understanding

What kind of student is this course suitable for?
The course will appeal to those students who

- have a keen interest in sport and recreation
- want to follow a course that develops the theoretical aspects of sport and physical education
- have an enquiring mind and are interested in sport throughout the world
- want to know more about how the body functions and the effects of exercise
- have a strong desire to help others develop their skills
- want to evaluate and improve their sporting performance
• enjoy discovering about themselves in practical situations
• want to study a course that they will enjoy
• are willing to volunteer their time for extra-curricular activities
• may want to move onto a related career or higher education course

**How can I develop my full range of skills by doing this course?**
As well as covering Advanced Level study of Physical Education, this course will enable you to develop some key skills, which will be essential to you whatever you go on to do afterwards. The key skills you can develop during this course are

- communication
- application of number
- information technology
- problem solving
- working with others
- leadership skills
- improving own learning and performance

Your coursework will offer you the greatest opportunity to develop and collect evidence for all of these key skills, although it will not cover every aspect. Other opportunities will arise during lessons and individual study time. If you take part in a debate or role play, for example, you could be collecting evidence for part of your Communication key skill, essays that you write as part of your course could also provide evidence. Collecting and analysing primary and secondary data is part of the Application of Number key skill, and if you manipulate and present this using IT, you are starting to produce evidence for the Information Technology key skill.

**What could I go on to do at the end of my course?**
Students with Advanced Level Physical Education have access to a wide range of possible career and higher education opportunities. You learn and use a variety of transferable skills throughout the course. These include collecting, analysing and interpreting data, communicating your findings in different ways, and identifying and developing the links between different parts of the subject. These skills are in great demand and are recognised by employers, universities and colleges as being of great value.

Physical Education combines with a range of Advanced Level subjects. Taken with sciences like Biology it supports applications for a wide range of university courses like Sports Sciences, Physiotherapy, Recreation and Leisure Studies. Gaining coaching and officiating qualifications can also lead to future opportunities in those fields.

Many students choose to use their qualification to go straight into employment, rather than go on to higher education. Since Advanced Level Physical Education develops the transferable skills and the key skills that employers are looking for, they can lead to a very wide range of employment opportunities. This can include further training in such areas as Recreational Management, Leisure Activities, Armed Forces and the Civil Services.
Philosophy & Ethics (Religious Studies)

A grade 5 in Religious Studies GCSE or any Humanities subject is required at GCSE

Exam Board - AQA

Why choose Philosophy & Ethics?
Advanced Level Philosophy & Ethics (Religious Studies) is of particular interest to students wishing to explore diverse aspects of Philosophical, Ethical and Religious Study. It will appeal to students looking to develop their critical and evaluative skills and to those looking to build upon their experience of Philosophy & Ethics (Religious Studies) at GCSE. In addition to being of considerable value in its own right, the course may complement and balance choices in other subject areas.

The Specification offers an academic and thought-provoking approach to the study of Philosophy, Ethics and Religion and is accessible to candidates of any religious persuasion or none.

The course encourages students to
- develop their interest in, and enthusiasm for, a rigorous study of Philosophy and Ethics and its relation to the wider world
- treat the subject as an academic discipline by developing knowledge, understanding and skills appropriate to a detailed specialist study
- adopt an enquiring, critical and reflective approach to the subject
- reflect on and develop their own values, opinions and attitudes in the light of their learning

Candidates will have an opportunity to study a wide range of aspects of this academic discipline including: philosophical, textual, theological, historical, ethical and phenomenological perspectives; thereby making a positive contribution to their understanding of Philosophy and Religion and its impact on life.

What topics does the Advanced Level Course Cover?
The course is linear in structure, with candidates studying a total of two components at Advanced Level. For both components, candidates will study one of five main world religions: Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, and Judaism

1. Component 1 – Philosophy and Religion and Ethics. This component includes a detailed study and analysis of the following key areas, with reference to one of the religions listed above:

   Section A: Philosophy of religion
   - Arguments for the existence of God
   - Evil and suffering
   - Religious experience
   - Religious language
- Miracles
- Ideas of the Self and life after death

Section B: Ethics and religion
- Ethical theories
- Issues of human life and death
- Issues of animal life and death
- Introduction to meta ethics
- Free will and moral responsibility
- Conscience
- Utilitarianism - Bentham and Kant

2. **Component 2 – Study of religion and dialogues.** Within this component, students will undertake an extensive exploration and evaluation of the following, with reference to the same religion as Component 1

Section A: Study of religion – the following topics are covered:
- Sources of wisdom and authority
- God/gods/ultimate reality
- Self, death and the afterlife
- Good conduct and key moral principles
- Expression of religious identity
- Religion, gender and sexuality
- Religion and science
- Religion and secularisation
- Religion and religious pluralism

Section B: The dialogue between philosophy of religion and religion.
How religion is influenced by, and has an influence on philosophy of religion in relation to the issues studied.

Section C: The dialogue between ethical studies and religion.
How religion is influenced by, and has an influence on ethical studies in relation to the issues studied.

(Further details on these modules can be obtained via the AQA website; www.aqa.org.uk/7062)

**Assessment**
For each component studied, candidates will sit one written exam of 3 hours. Each paper is worth 100 marks and is 50% of the final A-Level mark.

In Component 1 – candidates will answer a total of four compulsory two part questions, two from Section A and two from Section B. The first part of each question is worth 10 marks and tests AO1 (see below) and the second part of each question is worth 15 marks (AO2). Questions may span more than one topic area.

In Component 2 – candidates will answer two compulsory two part questions from Section A, with marks following the same format as Component 1.

In addition, candidates will answer one unstructured synoptic question from a choice of two in both Section B & C. Each question carries 25 marks.
Assessments Objectives/Skills
Using Assessment Objectives set by Ofqual, the course is designed to test student’s ability to

Assessment Objective 1
Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of religion and belief, including
- religious, philosophical and/or ethical thought and teaching
- the influence of beliefs, teachings and practices on individuals, communities and societies
- the cause and significance of similarities and differences in belief, teaching and practice
- approaches to the study of religion and belief

Assessment Objective 2
Analyse and evaluate aspects of, and approaches to, religion and belief, including their significance, influence and study.

The course will also enable students to develop many of the key skills essential for their future careers including; Communication, Information Technology, Working with Others, and Improving Own Learning and Performance.

Who is the course suitable for?
The course will particularly appeal to students who
- have a lively and enquiring mind
- want to consider aspects of the human condition, especially the spiritual, philosophical and moral
- are interested in current affairs – particularly relating to moral and ethical issues
- enjoy studying a subject that is relevant to real life and experience
- want to broaden their AS/Advanced Level studies

What do students progress to after completing the course?
Students with Advanced Level Religious Studies have access to a wide range of career and Higher Education opportunities. Students will use and develop a variety of transferable skills. The course encourages students to develop the critical and evaluative skills which will may enable them to progress to Higher Education to study a wide range of courses, including Philosophy, Religious Studies, Theology, Law, Medicine, Administration, Media, Sociology and the Social Sciences, Arts/Humanities and Classics. Religious Studies complements many other popular A Levels including: Law, History, History of Art, Government and Politics, Sociology and English Literature.
Photography

Entry Requirements
Students must have achieved a Grade 5 in Art, Textiles or English GCSE. If Art/Textiles was not studied students should demonstrate their interest in the subject by submitting a portfolio of 10-15 images that they are particularly inspired by.

Exam Board - AQA

The Course
A Level Photography encompasses a range of art techniques and skills and you should be prepared to work hard at developing your abilities and moving out of your comfort zone. On this course you will be required to apply creative, analytical, critical thinking and problem solving, in order to communicate ideas through photography. Students will critical analyse artists’ work helping to develop their own ideas through reaction, practical application and written reflections. Students will learn about a variety of photographic media, techniques and processes including hands-on experimentation in the dark room, lighting in our studio and use computers for Photoshop and digital media, utilizing these techniques and equipment, to achieve visual communication through photography. Students will use sketchpads and workbooks to demonstrate project management through practical learning, ideas development and critical analysis.

Course structure
The course is broken down in to two parts

- Component 1 is coursework which is worth 60% of your A Level
- Component 2 is a timed exam that is worth 40% of your A Level

How can I develop my full range of skills by doing this course?
Photography develops a wide range of skills, analytical and critical thinking and problem solving, which will be useful at University and future careers. Photography may offer a highly creative and hands-on alternative to other subjects you may be studying at A level. Tuition is enjoyable, structured, friendly and supportive, resulting in high-grade achievements on this course.

What kind of student is this course suitable for?
- Students who wish to undertake further studies in photography usually at art college or further education
- Students who are looking to take up careers for which a photography background is relevant. These might include advertising, publishing, architecture, museums, theatre or art gallery work
- Students who have an interest in and aptitude for the subject, but who do not intend to take the subject beyond A Level

What could I go on to do at the end of my course?
Photography could lead to academic or vocational degrees relating to Art. Career options for photography may include but are not limited to advertising, commercial work, editorial, fashion, film, food, forensic, industrial, architectural, ariel, portraiture and wedding photography, sports and travel, press photography, photojournalism, fine art, editing, fashion photography or styling, the film industry, forensic science, curating,
Physics

Entry Requirements
The qualification builds on the knowledge, understanding and process skills that you will have developed in GCSE Science. Students must have achieved at least a GCSE Grade 6 in Physics or 66 in Combined Science GCSE. It will be necessary to have at least a grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics as mathematical skills are important in Physics. Communication is also important in Physics so you will need to be able to communicate effectively, to research and critically think about problems.

Exam Board - AQA

You will learn theory and develop relevant practical skills throughout the course.

What will I learn on this course?
A level Physics aims for students to
- sustain and develop their enjoyment of and interest in, Physics
- develop essential knowledge and understanding in Physics
- develop the skills needed for the use of this knowledge and understanding in new and changing situations where appropriate
- develop an understanding of the link between theory and experiment
- appreciate how Physics has developed and is used in present day society
- show how Physics links with social, philosophical, economic, industrial and environmental matters
- recognise the quantitative nature of Physics
- understand how mathematical expressions relate to physical principles
- bring together knowledge of ways in which different areas of Physics relate to each other
- study how scientific models develop

What kind of student is this qualification suitable for?
A level Physics is suitable for students who
- have a real interest in, and enjoy Physics
- want to find out about how things in the physical world work
- enjoy applying their mind to solving problems
- want a grounding in a relevant worthwhile qualification of recognised value
- enjoy carrying out investigations by the application of imaginative, logical thinking
- want to use Physics to support other qualifications or progress onto further studies or employment
- are taking Advanced Levels in the other Sciences and/or Mathematics or other relevant courses such as Design and Technology and want to take another course that will support their studies
Examples of Key Skills Development in Physics

Communication
- Taking part in discussions about investigations or issues
- Preparing written documents for your practical work
- Researching from books, the Internet and journals

Application of numeracy
- Planning to collect results from your experiments and investigations and analysing and presenting them in a suitable way
- Carrying out calculations on the data collected in experiments and investigations
- Interpreting the results from experiments and seeing how this relates to your plan

Information technology
- Internet and academic journal based research
- Use of Excel for data analysis of practical data
- Using word processing software to present written reports and prepare presentations

Working with others
- Discussing in a group to plan a task such as a plan for an investigation or a presentation to the group

Improving own learning and performance
- Setting targets with a timetable to improve your learning or skills
- Increasing independent learning skills using the resources at your disposal
- Seeking support and using different ways of learning
- Monitoring the marks awarded for your work, setting appropriate targets and taking action to improve them

Problem solving
- Planning practical investigations into some aspect of Physics to answer a question
- Working out at least two different ways to solve/investigate a problem
- Carrying out one of your plans and assessing suitability for the problem
- Evaluating your plan

What could I go on to do at the end of my course?

Physics leads on to a wide range of courses and careers. You could go on to use Physics to support other qualifications or progress onto further studies or employment. This could be

- Higher National programme (HNC & HND) to degree level
- Courses ranging from Physics, Engineering, Medicine and many other related programmes
- Employment in the area of radiography, civil engineering, and biotechnology as possible examples

In fact, Physics is recognised as an entry qualification for a wide range of Higher Education courses and employment.

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Entry Requirements

A grade 5 in English and a grade 5 in Mathematics is required at GCSE

Exam Board - AQA

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?
You do not need to have previously studied Psychology, although an interest in understanding human behaviour is vital. Psychology A level involves aspects of mathematics and biology, as well as some complex theoretical perspectives and issues.

What will I learn on this course?

- To be aware of and understanding of psychological theories, research, case studies and methods used to collect data
- To explore topics which reflect current contemporary issues such as memory, child development, relationships, aggression and mental illness
- To explore the different areas of psychology, and in particular cognitive, social and physiological psychology
- To participate in and conduct psychological investigations such as experiments, observations and interviews
- To analyse and interpret your own or second-hand data and evaluate the findings
- To be aware of the ethical issues in psychology, particularly in the field of research

What kind of student is this course suitable for?
This course will appeal to students who

- enjoy exploring issues dealing with how and why people behave in certain ways
- want to find out more about the link between people’s behaviour and their environment
- enjoy planning and carrying out investigations to look for any patterns and explanation in the behaviour of children and adults

What topics does the Advanced Level Course offer?

1. Social influence – students study types and explanations of conformity including internalisation, identification and compliance; explanations for obedience, and resistance to social influence
2. Memory – students are introduced to the multi-store model of memory, short and long term memory, working memory model and explanations for forgetting and accuracy of eye-witness testimony
3. Attachment – the includes caregiver-infant interactions in humans, multiple attachments, animal studies of attachment, explanations of attachment, learning theory and the concepts of a critical period and internal working model, Bowlby’s theory of maternal deprivation and the influence of early attachment on adult relationships
4. **Psychopathology** – includes abnormality, deviation from social norms, statistical deviations from ideal mental health; behavioural, emotional and cognitive characteristics of phobias; cognitive approach to explaining and treating depression; and biological approaches to treating OCD, and drug therapy

5. **Research Methods** – includes the study of methods and techniques used to conduct psychological research and apply this to student-led research.

6. **Approaches in Psychology** – studying well-known theories which make up the foundation of psychology and understanding human behaviour. Approaches include the study on Freud’s Psychodynamic approach, Classical and Operant conditioning and the biological approach to explaining human behaviour

7. **Biopsychology** – introduces students to research which has established a connection between the brain, body and behaviour

8. **Issues and Debates** – looks at the problems faced when interpreting and developing psychological theory including the tendency for research to have gender and cultural biases.

9. **Schizophrenia** – understanding the characteristics as well as biological and environmental causes of schizophrenia. Students will also explore the use of drug and cognitive therapies to treating schizophrenia and assessing their usefulness and ethics

10. **Relationships** – includes theories on why and how human relationships are formed and how the infant-caregiver relationship later moulds all future relationships. Students will further study the breakdown of relationships and psychological impacts related to this

11. **Forensic psychology** – understanding the psychological, biological and social basis of crime and deviance. Students will also explore well known methods used to solve crime in the US and UK followed by the assessment of how crime is dealt with in the US and UK and the psychological impacts of these methods. Students will apply knowledge to well known cases in forensic psychology.

**How can I develop my full range of skills by doing this course?**

As well as covering advanced level study of Psychology this course will enable you to develop some Key Skills, which will be essential to you whatever you go on to do afterwards. The Key Skills you can develop during this course are:

**Communication**

Taking part in discussions on issues such as the value of eye-witness testimony; preparing written documents for your practical work; using reference materials from books, CD-ROM and the Internet.

**Application of number**

Planning to collect results from experiments and presenting them in a suitable format; carrying out calculations on the data collected in experiments; interpreting the results from experiments and seeing how this relates to your plan.

**Information technology**

Using word processing software to present written reports and prepare presentations; planning and designing a spreadsheet to support your experiments, being able to select a suitable graphical format to show trends and patterns in your data.

**Problem solving**

Planning a psychological investigation to look at short and long term memory; trying out different questionnaires to find out information on attitudes in the work place.

**Working with others**

Planning an investigation into the effects of day care which involves all members of the group; the production of a poster to explain the findings from a survey on local attitudes to re-cycling.
Improving own learning and performance
Working out a timetable with targets to improve your data handling skills; monitoring the marks awarded for written reports.

What could I go on to do at the end of my course?
• Follow a degree course in psychology, social science, psychiatry, nursing, advertising or management, criminology, business and human resources. These are a small selection of courses with direct links. UCAS handbooks would give you further guidance.
• Enter a Higher National course in related programmes.
• Seek employment in the area of human resources, care sector, criminal justice system, education, management or advertising.
Sociology

Entry Requirements

A grade 5 in Sociology GCSE is required, or a grade 5 in English GCSE if Sociology was not studied.

Exam Board - AQA

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

No previous knowledge of Sociology is required or assumed. More vital is a desire to learn about human interaction/how society works and an interest in social issues. Sociology A-level involves some complex theoretical issues and debates.

What is Sociology?

Sociology is a social science. This means it is the study of human interaction and behaviour within society. It is the study of society. By that, we mean all the influences on us which make us act in the way that we do. Sociologists try to understand human behaviour, and to do this, they also try to understand how other people affect us.

Questions sociologists ask include
• how does society shape our lives?
• do rich people exploit poor people?
• are single parents a problem for society?
• do government policies affect families?
• how do the media affect the crime rate?

The aims of the syllabus are for students to

• develop a critical understanding of the diversity of concepts, theories and methods used within Sociology. NB - critical does not mean negative, it is about exercising good judgement in arguments for or against things
• apply Sociology to an analysis of contemporary society/social issues and to their own experiences, thus deepening their understanding
• gain experience in carrying out a sociological enquiry using sociological methods of investigation

What topics does the Advanced Level Course offer?

1. Education and Research Methods – this includes the role and function of the education system, differential educational achievement of social groups by class, gender and ethnicity, and the significance and impact of educational policies. Students we also examine research methods used by sociologists and consider these within the context of education.
2. **Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods** – this includes crime, deviance, social order and social control. Students will explore the social distribution of crime and deviance by ethnicity, gender and social class. Students will also consider crime in contemporary society, media and crime, green crime, human rights and state crimes, and issues of crime control, surveillance, prevention and punishment, and the role of the criminal justice system.

3. **Families and Households** – Students will examine changes to the structure of the family and the relationships that exist within it, and how these have been influenced by changes in society such as the decline of religion, the liberation of women, changes to the law and social policies and in relation to social structures.

4. **Beliefs in Society** – Students will evaluate the role of religion in society with a focus on the benefits it can bring for society and the individual, as well as the negative aspects such as social control and dominance over ideology. Students will explore changes in the belief systems that exist within the UK and the reasons behind these trends.

**What kind of student is this course suitable for?**

This course will appeal to students who

- have an enquiring mind and who are interested in finding out what motivates people to behave as they do
- enjoy learning through investigation and discovery (Sociology does not have all the answers but it can help us to ask appropriate questions)
- are interested in social issues and like to keep informed about events
- have a point of view on issues but like to keep an open mind
- are either humanities students who wish to combine Sociology with History, English and/or Psychology or Science students who wish to broaden their Science Advanced Level with an Advanced Level Social Science

**How can I develop my full range of skills by doing this course?**

Advanced Level Sociology will enable the student to develop both subject specific and key skills. Sociological skills fall into the following three skills domains

- **Knowledge and Understanding** of sociological concepts, theories and research data
- **Application** which refers to being able to make sense of sociological data in various contexts and to use information and arguments relevantly
- **Evaluation, Analysis and Interpretation** of evidence and arguments

Students’ key skills of effective communication, exercising objective judgement, listening to alternative viewpoints, working with others, using IT and taking responsibility for their own learning will also be enhanced.

**What could I go on to do at the end of my course?**

Any course, activity, career or profession which involves the study of working with / helping and undertaking research. Sociology Advanced Level provides a good foundation for careers in Social/Public Administration, Nursing, Hospital Administration, Social Work, Lecturing, Teaching, Research, Law, Business or Journalism. However, Sociology is a good discipline which can be applied to most occupations.