

COURSE GUIDE



**ABBNEYFIELD
SCHOOL**
*Creative
Education
Trust*

“Students are courteous, friendly to members of staff and to visitors, and take a pride in their appearance.”

OFSTED

ART AND DESIGN (FINE ART)

LEVEL: A Level

EXAMINATION BOARD: EDEXCEL

INTRODUCTION: Students will be introduced to a variety of experiences exploring a range of two and three-dimensional media, processes and techniques. They will explore both traditional and new technologies, relevant images, artifacts and resources relating to a range of art, craft and design, from the past and from recent times, including European and non-European examples. This will be integral to the investigating and making process. Their responses to these examples will be shown through practical and critical activities, which demonstrate their understanding of different styles, genres and traditions.

WHERE DOES IT LEAD? The course can lead into an Arts foundation course, leading into a degree in Fine Art, Fashion, Textiles and Design etc. Careers include the media industries, design, education, galleries, interior design, architecture and fashion design.



WHAT DO I NEED? Students should have studied Art at GCSE level and gained a grade B or higher. Students should have displayed an enjoyment of art and demonstrated the ability to work independently and generate their own ideas. Students must also be aware that the course requires written, theoretical work to support practical work.

COURSE DETAILS: Students will become aware of the four assessment objectives and will explore drawing using a variety of methods and media (including oil paint) on a variety of scales. Following the Fine Art endorsement means students will have the opportunity to develop skills in drawing/painting and printmaking. Students will predominately use sketchbooks/workbooks/journals.

Component 1

Personal Investigation (coursework) = 60% of qualification made up of supporting studies and personal outcome. Create a personal study of minimum of 1000 words.

Element 2

Art and Design Externally Set Assignment (ESA) = 40% of qualification made up of supporting studies and personal outcome based on ESA.

BIOLOGY

LEVEL: A Level

EXAMINATION BOARD: OCR

INTRODUCTION: First and foremost you must have a genuine interest in how the living world works, appreciate how society makes decisions about scientific issues & how the sciences contribute to the success of economy and society.

The course will explain things like; how you can fit 1m of DNA into the nucleus of a cell? How do Mung beans respire? How does a heart generate its own beat? Do the lungs really have a surface area the size of two tennis courts?

WHERE DOES IT LEAD? Biology is essential for many subjects including Medicine, Veterinary Science and Pharmacy.

A level Biology will enable entry onto degree courses such as Biochemistry, Molecular Biology & Microbiology. It can lead onto many careers such as: Medicine, Physiotherapy, Dietician, Forensic Science, Hotel and Catering Management, Ophthalmic's, Laboratory work, PE teacher.

WHAT DO I NEED? GCSE Biology at grade A; GCSE Chemistry at B grade or above, GCSE English at grade C or above & GCSE maths at grade B or above. A genuine interest in Biology and a willingness to learn.

COURSE DETAILS: The course will involve working both independently and as a group, applying problem solving skills to both practical & theoretical situations.

The A level comprises of modules 1-6 combined with the practical endorsement.

MODULES:

1. Development of practical skills
2. Foundations in Biology
3. Exchange & Transport
4. Biodiversity, evolution and disease
5. Communication, homeostasis & energy
6. Genetics, evolution and ecosystems

HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE

BTEC NATIONAL AWARD NQF – EXTENDED CERTIFICATE

LEVEL: 3

EXAMINATION BOARD: EDEXCEL

INTRODUCTION: This course is designed to develop knowledge and understanding required in Health and Social Care sectors. It provides an opportunity for learners to gain a nationally recognised qualification to either enter employment or progress to further education courses. It is also recognised as a NVQ level 3 qualification which is worth 1 GCE A Level at "C" grade or above.

WHERE DOES IT LEAD? The course will enable the learner to either continue in further education or use the qualification to enter employment.

WHAT DO I NEED? 5 GCSEs at C Grade or above. An interest in all aspects of Health and Social Care and the ability to work independently using a variety of resources. Must be able to meet deadlines.

COURSE DETAILS: The length of the course is two years, you will have portfolio assessments that are internally and externally assessed and you will learn:

EXTENDED CERTIFICATE:

Unit 1 Human Lifespan Development
(Externally Assessed in year 12)

Unit 6 Meeting Individual Care and Support Needs
(Internally Assessed in year 12)

Unit 2 Working in Health and Social Care
(Externally Assessed in year 13)

Then one of the following Internally Assessed Units:

Unit 14 Sociological Perspectives

Unit 15 Psychological Perspectives

Unit 16 Supporting Individuals with Additional Needs

Unit 18 Physiological Disorders and their Care

BTEC SCIENCE

LEVEL: BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate

EXAMINATION BOARD: EDEXCEL

INTRODUCTION: The level 3 certificate is a mixture of all three sciences and builds on the GCSE courses adding depth and breadth. It also offers the opportunity to have a more hands on approach to studying science. The units are based on real life work and studies, allowing them to develop skills they can take into the workplace.

WHERE DOES IT LEAD? The BTEC route offers the opportunity to practice and gain a large variety of skills that help students who are wanting to either progress to higher education or go into employment.

WHAT DO I NEED? Grade c or above in GCSE science and an additional core science. The ability to problem solve. Be interested in finding out about the use of science in everyday life and enjoy working independently.

COURSE DETAILS:

BTEC Level 3 Extended certificate includes:

1 year – includes Cells and their functions, use of microscopes, making up chemical solutions for analytical purposes, energy transfers and types of energy. This will be assessed as a unit of coursework and a 90min exam.

2 years – The same as the certificate plus a number of specialised units varying from forensic science and microbiology to using science in the workplace, electricity and more. This will be assessed as a controlled investigation and a unit of coursework.

Lessons are a mixture of experiment and learning activities and students are expected to read topic covered and carry out research to supplement their classroom notes.

BUSINESS STUDIES

LEVEL: A Level

EXAMINATION BOARD: AQA

INTRODUCTION: Excellent subject to study if you want to understand the business world as a consumer, an employee or as a potential entrepreneur. A popular subject at university (either on its own or as part of another degree). Helps to develop skills (knowledge, application, analysis and evaluation). Highly relevant to the real world, especially in A-level where real business situations will be studied.

WHERE DOES IT LEAD? Ideal for students considering the following careers: Banking, Accounts, Management, Teaching, Retail, Production. Excellent preparation if considering a degree in the following subjects: Business, Marketing, Accountancy, Management or Enterprise.

WHAT DO I NEED? Suitable for students obtaining 5 GCSE grades C or above including English Language. You do not need to have studied Business at KS4 to be able to take this course.

COURSE DETAILS:

A Level 3 exams each 2 hours.

SUBJECT CONTENT:

Year 1

What is business?

Managers, leadership and decision making

Decision making to improve marketing performance

Decision making to improve operational performance

Decision making to improve financial performance

Decision making to improve human resource performance

A LEVEL

Analysing the strategic position of a business

Choosing strategic direction

Strategic methods: how to pursue strategies

Managing strategic change

The lessons will vary, but expect: Discussions; Presentations; Group Work Case Study analysis; Visiting Speakers.

BUSINESS BTEC LEVEL 3

EXAMINATION BOARD: EDEXCEL

INTRODUCTION: Business enables students to develop creative and analytical thinking through investigating businesses: their products, services, customers and day-to-day activities. The course is well recognised at Higher Education and in the workplace.

WHERE DOES IT LEAD? Ideal for students considering the following careers: Banking, Accounts, Management, Teaching, Retail, Production.

Excellent preparation if considering a degree in the following subjects: Business, Marketing, Accountancy, Management or Enterprise.

WHAT DO I NEED? Suitable for students obtaining 5 GCSE grades C or above. You do not need to have studied Business in KS4.

COURSE DETAILS:

Year 1

- Exploring Business- studying the purpose of business, structures, the effect of the external environment and how they need to be dynamic and innovative to survive.
- Developing a Marketing Campaign-understand how a marketing campaign is developed.

Year 2

- Personal and Business Finance - looking at the importance of personal and business finance.
- Recruitment and Selection Process - understand how the recruitment process is carried out in a business.

Assessment

- Coursework
- Controlled assessment
- Exam

The lessons will vary, but expect:

- Discussions
- Presentations
- Group Work
- Research Activities
- Tutorials/Seminars/ Visits
- Visiting Speakers

CHEMISTRY

LEVEL: A Level

EXAMINATION BOARD: OCR

INTRODUCTION: The course builds on the knowledge gained in the GCSE course, adding depth and breadth. It also offers the opportunity for candidates to devise and plan experimental or investigative activities and interpret, explain, evaluate and communicate the results of these. Students will also gain an awareness of the ethical, environmental, technological and economic aspects of the subject.

WHERE DOES IT LEAD? The chemistry course prepares candidates to progress into further or higher education and to follow courses in Chemistry, Medicine, Biochemistry, or one of the other sciences. A variety of careers require Chemistry as an entrance qualification including Medicine, Research Chemist, Pharmacist, Vet, etc. Chemistry is very highly regarded as a good academic qualification by employers and universities.

WHAT DO I NEED? Grade A in GCSE Chemistry; Grade B or above in GCSE Biology or Physics, grade C or above in GCSE English and grade B or above in GCSE maths. You need to enjoy problem solving and be able to work safely with dangerous chemicals and manipulate apparatus.

COURSE DETAILS:

A Level: Two years

The three branches of Chemistry are studied: Organic (drugs, biological systems etc.) Physical (Why can't pure alcohol be distilled? etc.) Inorganic (elements of the Periodic Table). Lessons are a mixture of practical's and learning activities. Students are expected to read about topics covered and carry out research to supplement their classroom notes.

EXAMINATIONS: Three papers and a practical endorsement for chemistry.

Organic chemistry studies aromatics, polymers and analysis of chemicals. Inorganic chemistry studies equilibria, energy and transition elements.

DANCE

LEVEL: A Level

EXAMINATION BOARD: AQA

INTRODUCTION: A level Dance allows students to acquire experience of performance and choreography and to engage in critical thinking about dance. This course can foster imagination, creativity and promote personal and social development.

You will learn a wide variety of techniques; these include Contemporary, Jazz & Ballet.

Topics include; Safe Practice, Interpreting & communicating and Performing with Others. Choreography is an important aspect of the course.

WHERE DOES IT LEAD? The skills gained from the course will allow you to improve your kinaesthetic awareness and the understanding of Dance as an art form. If you enjoy Dance as a fun activity then this course will further develop your passion to continue. If you are looking to progress onto the career avenue, pursuing Dance or other performing art subjects, this course is ideal in providing a stepping stone to take the knowledge and technical skills gained into your future education or career choice.

WHAT DO I NEED? C grade or above in GCSE Dance or Audition.

COURSE DETAILS:

COMPONENT 1: PERFORMANCE AND CHOREOGRAPHY

WHAT'S ASSESSED

- Solo performance linked to a specific practitioner within an area of study
- Performance in a quartet
- Group choreography

HOW IT'S ASSESSED

- Practical exam
- 80 marks
- 50% of A Level

COMPONENT 2: CRITICAL APPRECIATION

SECTION A – Students will study one compulsory set work and area of study.

- Set work: Rooster Choreographed by Christopher Bruce
- Area of study: Rambert Dance Company 1966-2002.

SECTION B – In addition to the compulsory set work and area of study, students must select one set work and the corresponding area of study from the following four options.

| Option | Set work | Area of study |
|--------|---|--|
| 1 | <i>Giselle</i> (Jean Coralli and Jules Perrot, 1841) | The romantic ballet period |
| 2 | <i>Appalachian Spring</i> (Martha Graham, 1944) | The origins of American modern dance 1900–1945 |
| 3 | <i>Singin' in the Rain</i> (Stanley Donen and Gene Kelly, 1952) | American jazz dance 1940–1975 |
| 4 | <i>Sutra</i> (Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui, 2008) | The independent contemporary dance scene in Britain 2000–current |

WHAT'S ASSESSED

- Knowledge, understanding and critical appreciation of a compulsory set work and its location within a corresponding area of study.
- Knowledge, understanding and critical appreciation of one optional set work and its location within a corresponding area of study.

HOW IT'S ASSESSED

- Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes
- 100 marks
- 50% of A Level

Students will be required to respond to both short answer and essay questions on the compulsory set work **and** corresponding area of study in the written exam.

DRAMA & THEATRE STUDIES

LEVEL: Level 3 Advanced GCE

EXAMINATION BOARD: EDEXCEL

This course is challenging and exciting, interesting and thought-provoking. You will be expected to work hard, in and out of the taught sessions. You will need to commit to after school rehearsals, after school theatre trips and have a keen interest in learning more about the theatre and its evolution and place in our society.

The new Edexcel Level 3 Advanced GCE in Drama and Theatre consists of two coursework components and one externally examined paper. You will look at the work of established Theatre Practitioners and have the opportunity to look at several plays that are both classical and contemporary.

INDUCTION: The year starts with an induction into some of the key skills needed to successfully participate in the course; learning lines, performance skills, note-taking, research and presentation skills.

**COMPONENT 1 – DEVISING.
COURSEWORK – 40% OF THE QUALIFICATION.
80 MARKS.**

This component is broken into two parts; the performance and the portfolio. You will devise an original performance piece using one key extract from a performance text and a theatre practitioner as a stimuli. This unit is internally assessed and externally moderated. You will be required to produce a portfolio that is worth 60 marks.

**COMPONENT 2 – TEXT IN PERFORMANCE.
COURSEWORK – 20% OF THE QUALIFICATION.
60 MARKS.**

This component is broken down into two parts; a group performance of one key extract from a text and the

performance of a monologue of one key extract from a different text than that used for the group performance. This unit is externally assessed by the visiting examiner. The group performance is worth 36 marks and the monologue is worth 24 marks.

**COMPONENT 3 – THEATRE MAKERS IN PRACTICE.
WRITTEN EXAMINATION: 2 HOURS 30 MINUTES.
40% OF THE QUALIFICATION.
80 MARKS.**

This component is broken down into 3 sections:

Section A. (20 marks): Live Theatre Evaluation. You will answer one question where you will be required to analyse and evaluate a live theatre performance you will have seen.

Section B. (36 marks): Page to Stage: Realising a Performance Text. You will answer two questions based on an unseen extract from a play you will have studied. You will be required to demonstrate how you as a theatre maker intend to realise the extract in performance. You will answer from the perspective of a performer and theatre designer.

Section C. (24 marks): Interpreting a Performance Text. You will answer one question from a choice of two on your chosen text. You will be required to demonstrate how your re-imagined production concept will communicate your ideas to an audience. You will also need to outline how the work of your chosen theatre practitioner has influenced the overall production concept and demonstrate an awareness of the performance text in its original performance conditions. You will be allowed an un-annotated copy of your chosen play in the exam.

GCSE in Drama at grade B or above is required. A Grade B in English at GCSE is desirable.

“Abbeyfield has made me achieve many goals in my life.”

SIXTH FORM STUDENT



ENGLISH LITERATURE

LEVEL: A Level

EXAMINATION BOARD: AQA

INTRODUCTION: English Literature is a stimulating and challenging subject. Universities regard this subject highly and it is sometimes required for Law degree courses. English Literature A level provides the study skills which combine well with all other subjects.

WHERE DOES IT LEAD? Excellent preparation for all universities and is highly regarded by every university. Law degrees often prefer students to have studied English Literature at A level.

WHAT DO I NEED? 5 GCSEs A*- C including Level 5 (B grade) in English Literature and Language. You need to enjoy reading and thinking for yourself as these are essential requirements for the study of English Literature at AS or A level.

COURSE DETAILS:

The A Level will be assessed through examinations (80%) and coursework (20%).

Year 12 – Comedy. You will study comic texts such as *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Emma*, and *Taming of the Shrew*. You will also complete your coursework pieces which will include looking at narrative theory in a range of poetry and exploring the Literary Canon and literary value.

Year 13 – Crime. You will study crime fiction texts such as *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd*, *When Will There Be Good News*, and poetry including the works of Crabbe, Browning and Wilde.



FRENCH

LEVEL: A Level

EXAMINATION BOARD: WJEC

INTRODUCTION: This course provides an engaging and exciting opportunity for students to build on their previous study of French. Through social, intellectual, historical and political cultural themes students will be able to develop their linguistic knowledge and cultural understanding of the countries/communities where the language is spoken.

An opportunity to study literature and film will allow students to undertake a deeper analysis of language structures and increase their cultural awareness as part of an integrated approach to language learning.

WHERE DOES IT LEAD? You can continue with French at university by choosing a combined course which includes a language. It will enable you to spend some time studying in France or in a French speaking country.

You will be able to access some of the best jobs, as being able to offer a language is a great asset. Business Managers are more likely to hire someone with good language skills and pay them more.

The ability to speak another language can earn you £145,000 more on average in a lifetime.

WHAT DO I NEED? Students will need to have at least a B grade at French GCSE. You must enjoy learning languages and have enthusiasm, commitment and willingness to learn.

COURSE DETAILS:

Themes studied include Travel and exploration, Contemporary youth culture, Diversity and difference and France between 1940 and 1950.

This qualification is made up of three components:

Component 1 is a speaking assessment.

Component 2 combines listening, reading and translation.

Component 3 assesses the learners' response to the study of two works: Either two literary works or one literary work and a feature film.

“Year 12 was excellent, brilliant teaching, great social life, great community, listened to our views and acted upon them.”

SIXTH FORM STUDENT

FURTHER MATHEMATICS

LEVEL: A Level

EXAMINATION BOARD: AQA

INTRODUCTION: Further Maths is ideal if you are interested in broadening and deepening your knowledge of mathematics beyond the A-level Mathematics syllabus. It is of particular use to students wishing to study Mathematics or Engineering at degree level or in work-based study, as well as many other maths-related subjects.

WHERE DOES IT LEAD? Further Mathematics is almost essential for most Mathematics degree courses and some Science and Engineering courses. It provides a foundation for further studies in any Science or Maths based course ranging from Computer Science, Medical Science and Psychology to Statistics, Management and Actuarial Science.

WHAT DO I NEED? Students will need to have a Grade 7 (A) at the higher level Maths GCSE as well as their teacher's recommendation. They need to pass an initial algebra test. An ability to face challenging work and solve problems is also an advantage.

COURSE DETAILS:

| Paper 1 | Paper 2 | Paper 3 |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| Proof | Proof | Any 2 of these 3 papers: Discrete Mechanics Statistics |
| Complex Numbers | Complex Numbers | |
| Matrices | Matrices | |
| Further Algebra & Functions | Further Algebra & Functions | |
| Further Calculus | Further Calculus | |
| Further Vectors | Further Vectors | |
| Polar Coordinates | Polar Coordinates | |
| Hyperbolic Functions | Hyperbolic Functions | |
| Differential Equations | Differential Equations | |
| Trigonometry | Trigonometry | |
| Coordinate Geometry | Coordinate Geometry | |

GEOGRAPHY

LEVEL: A Level

EXAMINATION BOARD: AQA

INTRODUCTION: Students of Geography will study the meaning, causes, impacts and management of global challenges. They will investigate how we can influence global challenges through our own lives.

A range of topics will be studied over the 2 years, some of these include Ecosystems under stress and Changing Places. There will be an opportunity for students to attend field study days where they will collect data that will be used as part of their coursework. Students will also develop a range of transferable skills such as critical thinking, team work, communication and debating whilst studying the course.

WHERE DOES IT LEAD? Geography links well to a range of different University courses and career paths. A qualification could lead into any of the following sectors: Environmental Science, Meteorology, Town Planning, Management and Education, plus many others.

WHAT DO I NEED? You should have studied Geography at GCSE and will have gained at least a B grade in the subject. Students should have a curiosity about both the physical and human world and be interested in current affairs.



COURSE DETAILS:

A LEVEL MODULES

Component 1 – Physical Geography

Section A: Water and carbon cycles

Section B: either Hot desert environments and their margins **or** Coastal systems and landscapes

Section C: either Hazards **or** Ecosystems under stress **or** Cold environments

Topic 2 Human Geography

Section A: Global systems and global governance

Section B: Changing places

Section C: either Contemporary urban environments **or** Population and the environment **or** Resource security

Component 3 – Geographical Investigation

Students complete an individual investigation which must include data collected in the field. The individual investigation must be based on a question or issue defined and developed by the student relating to any part of the specification content.

HOW ITS ASSESSED

- Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes
- 96 marks
- 40% of A Level

- Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes
- 96 marks
- 40% of A Level

- 3,000–4,000 words
- 35 marks
- 20% of A Level
- marked by teachers
- moderated by AQA



GRAPHIC COMMUNICATION

LEVEL: A Level

EXAMINATION BOARD: AQA

INTRODUCTION: This course is ideal if you have career aspirations in the design world such as Graphic Designer, Illustrator, Advertising, Marketing or Film/Theatre Design.

If you enjoy exploring **why**, rather than just **how**, things are designed in a certain way, then Graphic Communication would be ideal for you. It will develop your strong independent study skills and you will learn how to dig deeper into topics and exploring themes to their full potential.

WHERE DOES IT LEAD? It is good preparation for higher education and professions within design related fields. The Skills acquired will include self-sufficiency and self-motivation as well as a willingness to explore new techniques. You will develop a good body of work for application to design based subjects at university.

WHAT DO I NEED? A keen interest in design, as well as a reasonable level of drawing and a good imagination. Must have some experience in an Art or Design and Technology-based subject or ample work that shows ability. You need to be motivated and be a good independent learner and enjoy designing by hand and using design software on computers.

COURSE DETAILS:

This is a coursework based subject made up of 2 units, you will learn:

- The Design Process'. This covers research, experimentation, development, designing, exploring potential and evaluating success.
- Research skills including finding out about a target audience, similar designs, designers, techniques and images that can inform your own projects.
- How to use a variety of materials, media processes and techniques.
- How to develop your ideas through traditional media & using a PC.
- How our designs are affected by constraints placed by clients, society & media.
- Different types of design ie advertising, publishing, typography, illustration.

HISTORY

LEVEL: A Level

EXAMINATION BOARD: OCR

INTRODUCTION: History supplies students with important transferable skills that will be looked for by potential employers. Universities also like students with History A level, especially when students are applying for courses such as Law and Journalism.

WHERE DOES IT LEAD? History is a qualification that universities like to see as it shows a student's ability to analyse and evaluate events. It trains people to view both sides of arguments. University courses such as Law and Criminology see History A level as vital.

WHAT DO I NEED? Minimum B grade at GCSE. Students need to be confident of their own opinions. They must be prepared to ask questions and analyse events. Above all, they should be prepared to come to lessons in a positive frame of mind ready to enjoy themselves whilst learning.

COURSE DETAILS:

Two years - 3 exams and one piece of coursework.

During Year 12 students will study Britain during the Tudors, examining how Edward VI, Mary I and Elizabeth dealt with their different problems and personalities, controlled the country. Germany is the other main topic with students studying the period 1919 – 1963.

In Year 13, the coursework will focus on Elizabeth I and how she managed to stabilise the country after taking control. The examined unit will focus on how Americans improved their civil rights from the end of the civil war until 1992. Students will find out about women's rights and Native Americans, as well as the struggle for the rights of black Americans.

Lessons come in a number of forms such as debating, producing displays and source analysis. Above all History attempts to produce lessons where students enjoy learning whilst being stretched and challenged to really make progress in their ability to analyse information and come to their own conclusions about areas of controversy over the periods studied.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

BTEC NATIONAL AWARD

LEVEL: BTEC

EXAMINATION BOARD: EDEXCEL

INTRODUCTION: With this course you will be given the opportunity to demonstrate and develop the practical application knowledge and understanding of ICT.

WHERE DOES IT LEAD? This qualification will give you a choice of opportunities:

- **Employment** where you can put your practical skills to use in the workplace.
- **Further education** such as a higher-level qualification at college.
- **Higher Education** such as a degree course at university as they have UCAS points.

WHAT DO I NEED? 5 GCSE grades C or above.

COURSE DETAILS: This is a BTEC qualification and involves six units and is 100% coursework.

Year 1 Certificate

- Communication and Employability Skills for IT
- Computer Systems
- E-commerce

Year 2 Subsidiary Diploma

- Information Systems
- Database Design
- Spreadsheet Modelling

The lessons will vary, but expect: discussions, presentations, group work, research activities, tutorials, seminars, visits and visiting speakers.



MATHS

LEVEL: A Level

EXAMINATION BOARD: AQA

INTRODUCTION: Maths complements the study of several other advanced courses, in particular Science. The content includes some Mechanics and Statistics as well as Pure Maths, which is algebra based. There is an emphasis on problem solving, modelling and reasoning.

WHERE DOES IT LEAD? These modules will prepare you for university education, particularly degrees in Mathematics, Physics, Engineering and Computer Science. Employers will be keen to have you.

WHAT DO I NEED? Students will need to have a Grade 7 (A) at the higher level Maths GCSE as well as their teacher's recommendation. They need to pass an initial algebra test. An ability to face challenging work and solve problems is also an advantage.

COURSE DETAILS: Two year course, with 3 two-hour exams to be taken at the end of the course. All papers are weighted equally and include a mix of question styles, from short, single-mark questions to multi-step problems.

| Paper 1 | Paper 2 | Paper 3 |
|--|---|--------------------------------|
| Proof | Vectors | Statistical Sampling |
| Algebra & Functions | Quantities in Mechanics | Data Presentation |
| Coordinate Geometry | Units in Mechanics | Data Interpretation |
| Sequences & Series | Kinematics | Probability |
| Trigonometry | Forces & Newton's Laws Moments | Statistical Distributions |
| Exponentials & Logarithms | | Statistical Hypothesis Testing |
| Differentiation & Integration Numerical Methods | Papers 2 and 3 may also include content from Paper 1. | |

Lessons will reflect a variety of teaching and learning styles and independent learning / research will be encouraged.

MEDIA STUDIES

LEVEL: A Level

EXAMINATION BOARD: WJEC

INTRODUCTION: This course aims to help students achieve media literacy, to understand how the mass media works and the effects on the population. The course can provide a taster for anyone wanting to enter the world of media or study the media further. It is useful to you in a wide range of professions and industries as knowledge of the media is increasingly valued in an information-rich society. You will learn things like how to analyse and question the mass media. How to research independently and communicate using media technology. You will develop your own interests in different areas of the media.

WHERE DOES IT LEAD? You will be capable of deconstructing texts and become highly analytical. Many jobs in the media industry (journalism, TV, radio, advertising) all require a thorough knowledge of current and past media. It puts students in a preferable position if they go on to study media at university.

WHAT DO I NEED? Grade C at English GCSE. An awareness of and interest in all types of the mass media.

COURSE DETAILS:

- Length - 2 years
- 70% Examination
- 30% Coursework

Component 1: Meanings and Representations in the Media

- 2 hours
- 30% of qualification

This component covers all of the following media forms: music videos, video games, advertising, film marketing, newspapers and radio news/current affairs programmes. The exam consists of three sections.

a) Media Language and Meanings: One extended response question based on two media products, either from the same form or from two different forms.

- b) Representations and Meanings:** One extended response question based on two media products, either from the same form or from two different forms. There will be a choice of two questions. One question in Section A or Section B will be based on evaluation of relevant theories.
- c) Contextual Study - Representations:** One extended response question based on two media products, either from the same form or from two different forms.

Component 2: Media Forms and Products in Depth

- 3 hours
- 40% of qualification

This component assesses knowledge and understanding of media language, representation, industry and audiences. The exam consists of three sections:

- a) Television in the Global Age:** Study one option from a choice of three including two set products. One two-part question based on both of the set products studied.
- b) Magazines: Mainstream and Alternative Media:** Study one option from a choice of three including two set products. One two-part question based on both of the set products studied.
- c) Media in the Online Age:** Study one option from a choice of three including two set products. One two-part question based on both of the set products studied.

Component 3: Cross-Media Production

- Non exam assessment
- 30% of qualification

An individual cross-media production based on two forms in response to a choice of briefs set by WJEC, applying knowledge and understanding of the theoretical framework and digital convergence.

“Relationships between members of staff and students are very good. This helps to create an atmosphere in lessons which has a positive impact on students’ attitudes to learning and on the progress they make.”

OFSTED

PHILOSOPHY

LEVEL: A Level

EXAMINATION BOARD: AQA

INTRODUCTION: The new A level Philosophy course is designed to address many of life’s key questions.

- Are you sure about what you know?
- Is there such a thing as right and wrong?
- Is this a true reality?

You will develop the ability to be clear and precise in your thinking and writing. Analysing and evaluating the arguments of others and constructing and defending your own arguments will be a key focus in lessons.

WHERE DOES IT LEAD? Studying Philosophy can make a significant contribution to any job that requires you to think well, organize your thoughts and act quickly based on the knowledge you have. Big business – the City firms, the banks, the management consultancies, the chartered accountants – is enthusiastic about people who have studied Philosophy, because they know how to think clearly. Philosophy students also go into law, politics, social services and the civil service. Journalism is a logical career path, since you have to be able to write well and present ideas logically and clearly. Advertising is another choice, and of course, last but not least in this very incomplete list, there’s always education!

WHAT DO I NEED? A minimum of a B grade in GCSE English. Students need to be confident of their own opinions. They

must be prepared to ask questions and analyse evidence. Above all, they should be prepared to come and open their minds to new ideas and debate their beliefs with others.

COURSE DETAILS:

2 years with 2 final exams.

Epistemology is our first topic, including questions such as; what is knowledge, how reliable are reason and perception as a source of knowledge, and what are the limits of knowledge? Set texts include Plato and Descartes.

We will then focus on the issue of morality; what are the true meanings of right, wrong, good and bad and can these concepts be universalised? Specific areas of study include simulated killing within computer games and films and the morality of telling lies.

The question of the existence of God will be covered with the main arguments along with the issues and objections to each argument. The question of how God’s existence can be reconciled with the problem of evil and mankind’s free will is also covered.

Finally we will study the metaphysics of the mind. Questions will arise such as; is the mind able to exist without the body? Is a zombie world conceivable? Is our mental state linked to behaviour and can we have knowledge of this?



PHYSICS

LEVEL: A Level

EXAMINATION BOARD: OCR (A)

INTRODUCTION: There are two big questions for Physics: what is everything made of and why does it behave the way that it does? You must have a genuine interest in 'how things work', appreciate how society makes decisions about scientific issues & how the sciences contribute to the success of economy and society.

The course will build upon the ideas you met at GCSE but take them all further. For example as well as knowing about protons, neutrons and electrons you will enter the exciting world of particle physics and learn about quarks, leptons, hadrons, mesons etc. You will also look at the real-world physics that scientists are doing at CERN in Geneva. Your study of forces and motion will focus upon why moving objects such as cars are designed the way that they are and why they behave the way that they do.

WHERE DOES IT LEAD? Physics is essential for all aspects of engineering and design and is a key qualification for many areas of work in other scientific fields.

Recent A level Physics students have gone on to study a range of subjects including electrical engineering, mechanical engineering, meteorology and accountancy.

WHAT DO I NEED? GCSE Physics at grade A; GCSE, GCSE English at grade C or above & GCSE maths at grade B or above. A genuine interest in Physics and a willingness to learn.

COURSE DETAILS:

The course will involve working both independently and as a group, applying problem solving skills to both practical & theoretical situations.

Two years – Modules 1-6 combined with the practical endorsement, constitute the full A level.

Modules:

1. Development of practical skills
2. Foundations of Physics
3. Forces and motion
4. Electrons, waves and photons
5. Newtonian world and astrophysics
6. Particles and medical physics

“It has been interesting and has given me a great insight into what I want to pursue my future career in.”

SIXTH FORM STUDENT

PSYCHOLOGY

LEVEL: A Level

EXAMINATION BOARD: EDEXCEL

INTRODUCTION: It will give you an insight into your behaviour and the behaviour of other people around you. Although it is challenging, it is also really interesting and we study aspects of behaviour like obedience, memory, aggression, crime and mental illness, as well as research methods used in psychological research.

WHERE DOES IT LEAD?

- Psychology can be studied at university either as a Science or an Arts Degree.
- It will serve you well if you are considering any career that involves working with people.
- A higher proportion of social science graduates are in managerial and senior official roles than graduates of STEM or arts-humanities subjects, at the same point in time.
- A higher proportion of social science graduates are employed in the ‘professional, scientific and technical’ and ‘financial’ industries than STEM or arts-humanities graduates.
- Employers, in both the public and private sectors, are keen to recruit social science graduates because they have the skills of analysis and communication.

WHAT DO I NEED?

- Grade B in GCSE Maths and English; GCSE average score above 5.4

- A genuine interest in human behaviour, along with a willingness to accept new ideas.

COURSE DETAILS: In the new A level course there are three components and three two-hour papers in your second year of study. You will study the following topics over the two year course:

- 1. Research methods.** You will develop knowledge and understanding of the process of planning, analysing and reporting psychological research. 10% of the examination involves mathematical skills such as using a formula in a statistical test. You will conduct practicals such as questionnaires, experiments and observations which you may get examination questions on.
- 2. Psychological themes through theories and studies.** For each area of Psychology (Social, Cognitive, Learning and Biological Psychology) in the first year you will learn about a classic and a contemporary study. You will develop sound understanding of the studies and strong evaluation skills. You will gain an insight into how theory can be applied to real-life situations.
- 3. Applied Psychology.** In the second year you will study Criminal Psychology and Clinical Psychology and consider psychological issues and debates such as whether Psychology is a science and the nature-nurture debate.

SOCIOLOGY

LEVEL: A Level

EXAMINATION BOARD: AQA

INTRODUCTION: Sociology is a fun, interesting and contemporary subject that offers an insight into the world you live in. It will give you an inside look into day to day life that have a bearing on us. It will serve you well if you are considering a career that involves working with people, like teaching, policing, nursing or social work, where you will be coming across social problems Also jobs such as media, marketing and sales. You will:

- Study topics such as family, education, global development, crime, media, research methods and sociological theory. Within these we study two core themes; socialisation, culture and identity; and social differentiation, power and stratification.
- The lessons involve note-taking, discussions, debate, presentations, active learning and project work as well as elements of personal research.
- Outside of lessons you will be expected to read and re-read material in preparation for or following a lesson, to undertake research or to think about some of the topics covered.

WHERE DOES IT LEAD? It is a good general subject for students as most professional careers require students to have some knowledge of Sociology and Social Theory.

Jobs where Sociology may be useful include Community Worker, Housing Manager, PR, Journalist, Lecturer, Personnel Manager, Welfare Advice Worker, Police Officer, Prison Governor, Probation Officer, Social Researcher, and Social Worker.

- A higher proportion of social science graduates are in managerial and senior official roles than graduates of STEM or arts-humanities subjects, at the same point in time.

- Employers in both the public and private sectors, are keen to recruit social science graduates because they have the skills of analysis and communication.

WHAT DO I NEED? English Language at Grade B or above; GCSE average of 5.0 or above.

A genuine interest in British society, along with a willingness to accept and express new ideas.

COURSE DETAILS:

The course is two years long; you will be assessed at the end of the two years with three exams covering all topics studies in Year one and two.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

About social relationships between people; within families, education, aspects of the media, crime, beliefs systems and on a global scale. Also the various research methods used by sociologists when conducting their studies. You will learn there are no right or wrong answers when it comes to studying the way that people live together. It is important for a sociologist to evaluate and choose between possible explanations. Be open minded!

Year 1:

You will study 4 key areas which are; Education, Families and Households, Research Methods and Social Theory.

Year 2:

You will study 3 key areas which are; Crime and Deviance, Beliefs in Society or Global Development. You will also spend time extending your knowledge of Research Methods and Social Theory.



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