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Sixth Form

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Course Directory 2017-18

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**All information correct at the time of
printing. Modifications are possible due
to changes in specifications.**

Introduction

You will learn to develop your visual thinking. Through exploring a variety of media, the specification aims to:

- Encourage the development of ideas and the ability to act upon them
- Develop your intellectual, imaginative, creative and intuitive powers
- Encourage experience in the use of materials, their limits and their effect on the nature of visual thinking
- Enable students to discover where their talents and interests lie
- Develop students' understanding of the role of Art & Design in its historical and cultural context and relate their own work to it.

What are the entry requirements?

You should have achieved a 'C' grade or above at GCSE. If you do not meet these requirements, you will be asked to attend an interview with a portfolio of your work.

What will I learn on this course?

In both coursework and the Externally Set Assignment, you must ensure that you meet four Assessment Objectives. These are:

- (AO1) record from direct observations, experiences, ideas and imagination in forms that are appropriate to intentions
- (AO2) analyse and evaluate images, objects and artefacts showing understanding of context
- (AO3) investigate and develop ideas using a range of media, processes, visual and other resources reviewing, modifying and refining work as it progresses.
- (AO4) present a personal response, realising intentions and making informed connections with the work of others

Throughout the course there will be organised visits to galleries to help develop your understanding of art and support your individual development. You will also be expected to visit galleries on your own in order to support your investigations.

How is the course assessed?

During the AS course you will carry out a unit of coursework and an externally set assignment.

During the A2 level course you will carry out a unit of coursework and an externally set assignment.

You will carry out a range of work in different media covering Drawing, Painting, Sculpture, Printmaking, Textiles and Ceramics.

You will complete a number of pieces of work building a sketchbook of developmental work. The years study will culminate in an exam, where you will produce a final piece of work based on your pre exam studies carried out during a 8-12 week period.

Finally you will exhibit your work for assessment.

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

You could carry out a Foundation course at Art College or University leading to a degree course specialising in 2D design, 3D design, fashion, graphics, advertising etc. On completion of the degree students can enter many various professions ranging from footwear/sportswear design, product design, telephone communication design, hat design, ceramic design and many others.

Examination Board: EDEXCEL

Available at AS & A2

Introduction

This AS and A2 course encourages you to:

- develop a critical understanding of organisations, the markets they serve and the process of adding value. This should involve consideration of the internal workings and management of organisations and, in particular, the process of decision-making in a dynamic external environment;
- be aware that business behaviour can be studied from the perspectives of a range of stakeholders including customer, manager, creditor, owner/ shareholder and employee. In addition, students should be aware of the economic, environmental, ethical, governmental, legal, social and technological issues associated with business activity. Students should understand that Business Studies draws on a variety of perspectives and disciplines, and that these perspectives and disciplines are interrelated;
- acquire a range of skills including decision making and problem solving in the light of evaluation and, where appropriate, the quantification and management of information.

What are the entry requirements?

In addition to the general entry requirements for sixth form, it is essential that you have a grade 5 in GCSE Mathematics and English. GCSE Business Studies is not a pre-requisite for this course

What will I learn on this course?

The main areas covered at both AS and A2 are as follows:

- What managers do
- Decision making to improve marketing performance
- Marketing and Operations Management
- Decision making to improve Financial performance
- Human Resource Management

Some of the Topics covered in AS/A2

- Managing strategic change
- Analysing the strategic position of a Business
- Investigating Business
- Marketing Plan
- Business Aims and Objectives
- Business Planning
- Choosing Strategic direction

At AS, the course is :

- 100% Externally assessed Examination

At A2, the assessment is as follows:

- 100% Externally assessed Examination (please note AS grades does not count towards the A2 grade)

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

This course will prepare students for entry into employment in the business sector or to progress to further business education courses.

Examination Board: AQA (Business Studies)

Available at AS & A2

Introduction

The new Drama and Theatre Studies A level from Edexcel offers an exciting range of opportunities to approach drama and theatre studies as a practical, intellectual and artistic subject.

What are the entry Requirements?

5 A* - C grades at GCSE, achieving an A or B in Drama or related subject and a level 5 in English.

What will I learn on this course?

There are four units, the first two of which comprise the AS level qualification, normally covered by all students during the first year of the course. They provide the opportunity to study plays from the point of view of a director, designer, performer and critic. The AS qualification is designed to enable students to acquire a knowledge and understanding of the language of drama and theatre as well as to develop their performing and analytical skills.

Units Three and Four will be studied to achieve the full A level qualification in year two. This section of the course aims to extend the knowledge, skills and understanding acquired in the AS units by enabling students to apply what they have learned in their own creative work. In performing theatre, students are required to apply their knowledge, skills and understanding within the structure of a director's interpretation of a play and to operate at a highly intellectual level as well as at a highly skilled practical level. In brief, during the second year, students devise an original piece of drama for an audience, complete an in-depth study of a play which culminates in a performance of an appropriate scene or montage of scenes, and a written paper on two prescribed plays.

What could I do at the end of my course?

The A level course provides an excellent qualification route into higher education and degree programmes in Performing Arts, Drama and Arts Administration to name a few. The Edexcel qualification has the support of higher education institutions as a specialist qualification for drama and theatre related courses but equally it provides a worthwhile experience for students wishing to use it as part of the entry requirements into other subject areas. It is also a useful qualification for students wishing to pursue a career that involves communication and people-orientated skills.

Examination Board: EDEXCEL

Available at AS & A2

AS/A LEVEL ECONOMICS

Introduction

This is a two year course, at the end of which you will have learnt how to think like an economist, how to analyse decisions made by households, firms and governments. You will be introduced to different perspectives, aspects of economic history and be encouraged to engage in current issues related to economics. Should the UK remain in the European Union? Should fuel prices be capped? What should be the highest rate of income tax? Is austerity necessary, or is it damaging?

What are the entry requirements?

You are not expected to have studied Economics previously. You will need to have a minimum of 5 Grade A-Cs at GCSE, or equivalent. Economics requires a high level of numeracy and literacy: students must have at least grade B's in Maths and English

What will I learn on this course?

We are studying the Edexcel Economics A syllabus

There are two Themes covered in the first year (and examined for an AS qualification)

Theme 1: Introduction to markets and to market failure

Theme 2: The UK economy – performance and policies

There are a further two Themes covered in the second year. All four themes are examined for the A level qualification.

Theme 3: Business behaviour and the labour market

Theme 4: A global perspective

There will be 3 lessons of 100 minutes each week. In addition, you will be expected to complete at least 5 hours of private study each week. The 5 hours of private study should include:

Reading ahead, and making notes, for the next lesson

Completing tasks set

Researching the topic in books and on the internet

Following economic stories in the press and in the media.

Researching, planning and writing answers to exam-style questions.

It is recommended that all students read the economics and business sections of a quality national newspaper ("The Guardian", "The Telegraph", "The Independent") on a regular basis. "The Economist", is also a good source of information.

How is the course assessed?

AS (Year 12) - 2 exams of 1.5 hours; multiple choice and short-answer questions, and one data-response question.

A Level (Year 13) – 3 exams of 2 hours: as for the AS, but also with extended open response questions.

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

Economics is recognised as an "enabling subject" by top universities. It is an important subject in its own right and a useful complement to studies in social and political sciences, history and business studies. Students of economics are well equipped for careers in, for example, journalism, business, banking and the civil service

Examination Board: Edexcel

Available at AS/A Level

Introduction

Do you enjoy exploring the texts you read and working out what motivates characters? Do you like thinking about the ideas a writer is exploring? Do you enjoy debating issues related to texts? Do you enjoy research and writing up your findings? Are you expecting to achieve B grades or above for GCSE English and Literature? If the answer is yes to these questions, English is definitely the subject for you to study at AS level.

Through the study of English Literature at KS5, you will become an independent and discerning reader. Learning to argue in favour of a point of view, analysing how writers achieve their effects and developing formal essay writing techniques are central to the course. Moreover, these skills are vital for many subjects at advanced and degree level. So, by selecting this subject, you are signalling that you are an effective communicator who has vital transferable skills.

Many lessons are taught like university seminars involving analysis and discussion of your reading. Group work and presentations commonly feature in our lessons while Independent learning is encouraged in all lessons.

What are the entry requirements?

Grade B or above in English Language and English Literature GCSE

What will I learn on the AS course?

The AS course is composed of two units.

Unit 1: Shakespeare and Poetry pre-1900. Students will write an analytical essay on a Shakespeare play (Measure for Measure) Students will write an analytical essay on one poem given in the exam, relating it to others in the collection studied. Texts are not allowed in the examination.

Unit 2 Drama and Prose post-1900. Students will write an analytical essay on a contemporary play (Jerusalem) and will compare a prose text with an unseen text on the topic of "The Immigrant Experience." Texts are not allowed in the examination.

How is the course assessed?

The AS will be assessed in two examinations.

During each unit, you will be tested on a combination of the assessment objectives outlined below. You will therefore focus on different skills and types of question as you prepare for the end of year examinations.

You will need to demonstrate that you can:

- A01 Articulate informed, personal and creative responses to literary texts, using associated concepts and terminology, and coherent, accurate written expression.
- A02 Analyse ways in which meanings are shaped in literary texts.
- A03 Demonstrate understanding of the significance and influence of the contexts in which literary texts are written and received.
- A04 Explore connections across literary texts.
- A05 Explore literary texts informed by different interpretations.

Examination Board: AQA

Available at AS/A Level

What will I learn on the A Level course?

The A Level course is composed of two units.

Unit 1: Drama and Poetry pre-1900. Students will write a close analysis on an extract of their Shakespeare play and an analytical essay considering cultural and contextual influences on audiences. Students will write an analytical essay comparing a second drama text with their poetry collection. Texts are not allowed in the examination.

Unit 2: Comparative and Contextual Study. Students compare an unseen prose extract on the topic of "The Immigrant Experience" with their wider reading on this subject. Students will write an essay comparing two whole prose texts they have studied on the same topic. Texts are not allowed in the examination.

Unit 3: Literature Post 1900. Students will write one close analysis essay on a single contemporary text (post 2000) and an essay exploring connections between two linked texts (post 1900). This coursework folder must be on a single theme or topic and must include one poetry, one prose and one drama text.

What could I do at the end of my course?

You need English for a wide variety of careers including journalism, the media and law. It is a particularly useful preparation for any degree involving essay writing, particularly Arts, Humanities or languages courses. Success in English can lead into a range of career options, including:

Reviewer / Critic
Radio / TV Journalist
Television Presenter
Judge / Barrister
Secondary School Teacher
Website Administrator
Magazine Editor
Interpreter
Speech Language Therapist
Legal Executive
The civil service
Politics
Teaching

Interests

English is both useful and appealing if you have interests in the following:

Writing creatively – poetry, advertising, short stories, web blogs and song lyrics

Writing factually – business reports, newspaper and magazine articles.

Researching – social, business, historical and environmental issues.

Speaking – presenting proposals and persuading investors, wedding speeches, funeral eulogies, staff farewells, debating issues

Examination Board: AQA

Available at AS/A Level

Introduction

This is a stimulating and demanding course, which in its broadest sense is a study of the interrelationships between people and the environment.

What are the entry requirements?

Grade B or above at GCSE.

What will I learn on this course?

The course aims to:

- explore the challenges and opportunities which face people in a variety of different places
- highlight the dynamic nature of geography as demonstrated by human response to changing issues and environments
- increase the understanding of how decisions are made concerning the management of resources
- help students develop their own values and attitudes and to develop their critical thinking in relation to geographical questions
- equip students with a range of transferable skills.

Such a framework provides an excellent basis for understanding the world around us.

How is the course assessed?

The AS Course has three units, two of which are assessed by a written examination at the end of Year 12. These two units deal with the management of changing river and coastal environments as well as human activity in urban and rural contexts.

The third unit is an environmental investigation which is assessed by coursework. In order to undertake the necessary primary research for this, there will be a residential field course which all students must attend. Such courses are enjoyable and provide new learning experiences in a specialist setting. Students' parents or guardians will be asked to make a financial contribution towards the cost of this trip.

The A2 year is again assessed through two written examinations and a coursework report. The content of this part of the course deals with aspects of physical and human geography such as atmospheric processes, ecosystems, global population and economy, pollution, health and welfare, to name a few examples.

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

A level Geography is well regarded by universities as part of the entrance requirements for degree courses. As with any worthwhile achievement, success in the course requires diligence and commitment.

Geographers can go on to follow a variety of interesting careers from actually teaching the subject to business, finance, geology, journalism, meteorology, town planning, travel and tourism to name a few.

Examination Board: EDEXCEL

Available at AS/A2

AS/A2 GRAPHIC DESIGN

Who is the course for?

This is a chance to extend your skills and to learn more about Graphic Designers, along with improving and developing new techniques. This course is ideal for anyone who wishes to progress to university/college or pursue a career in the Design Industry. This course is suitable for those prepared to complete extensive, consistent coursework.

What will I study on the course?

Graphics is based on ideas and designs that create thought and interest. The course is art based and it is essential that you have good drawing skills. It would not be suitable for anyone interested in technical drawing or product design. The course is structured so that students gradually acquire skills within a disciplined approach. Students are encouraged to solve creative problems with flair, imagination and personal initiative.

Components of the course include:

- Drawing
- Printing
- Collage
- Advertising campaigns
- Digital photography
- Packaging design
- Illustration
- Typography
- Design history
- Contextual study for A2 level candidates only
- Computer imaging/graphics

What other skills will I acquire?

The course will develop your communication and research skills, your ability to solve problems, your visual observation skills.

What will I need for the course?

You will need at least five GCSEs grades A-B, to include either Art and/or Graphics, along with an ability to produce extensive coursework and work to tight deadlines.

How will I be assessed?

Your work on the programme is assessed by a range of methods, which includes projects, assignments, case studies, coursework, essays, exhibitions and presentations. The AS course consists of coursework and an externally set assignment. A2 consists of a written contextual study, further coursework and an externally set assignment. AS units constitute 50% of your final qualification or can be awarded as a discrete qualification in their own right. A final exhibition is assessed by an external examiner.

How long is the course?

The course runs over two years.

Can this course lead to University entrance?

Yes. With the full A level qualification you can progress onto HND, Foundation Degree and degree courses in Art and Design related areas.

Can this course lead directly to a job?

Yes, the course prepares you for employment in such areas as:

- Graphic and lens-based media
- Illustration
- Graphic design
- Product/package design
- MAC operator
- Creative direction
- Three dimensional design

Examination Board: AQA (Applied A Level)

Available at AS & A2

Introduction

History is a fascinating and exciting subject. It is also challenging and demanding. Advanced level study rewards students with a unique perspective from which to view the world and with which to make sense of many apparently confusing issues.

By the end of the course the successful student will have gained new knowledge and understanding and will have learned how to evaluate and analyse information, how to weigh up evidence and how to communicate effectively. The student will be used to dealing with complex ideas. These are skills which are much valued by employers and universities.

What are the entry requirements?

In order to be successful at A level, it is essential that prospective students are able to express themselves well orally and in writing. At least a Grade B in GCSE English is needed if full benefit is to be gained from the course. Students also need an enquiring mind as well as an interest in the past and its possible links with current affairs. Grade B or above in GCSE History.

What will I learn on this course?

We study the theme of revolutions from early to more modern times. We will study the causes, course and outcomes of the English and Russian revolutions.

We follow the Pearson's Edexcel specification,

Paper 1: Option 1C: Britain 1625–1701: conflict, revolution and settlement

Paper 2: **2C.2:** Russia in revolution, 1894–1924

Paper 3: 39.1: Civil rights and race relations in the USA, 1850–2009

How is the course assessed?

AS (Year 12)

Paper 1	Breadth study with interpretations	2 hours 15 minutes	60% of the AS
Paper 2	Depth Study	1 hours 30 minutes	40% of the AS

A Level (Year 13)

Paper 1	Breadth study with interpretations	2 hours 15 minutes	30% of the A Level
Paper 2	Depth Study	1 hours 30 minutes	20% of the A Level
Paper 3	Themes in breadth with aspects in depth		30% of A Level
Coursework			20% of the A Level

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

A level History is an excellent preparation for further study in a range of subjects at degree level. History graduates often become lawyers, teachers, data analysts, journalists or enter the world of business..

History is versatile, it is highly academic and as it isn't subject specific it opens many doors to careers and opportunities.

Examination Board: EDEXCEL

Available at AS & A Level

AS/A2 MATHEMATICS

Introduction

Mathematics at AS and Advanced GCE is a course worth studying not only as a supporting subject for the physical and social sciences, but 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 higher education courses.

While studying Mathematics you will be expected to:

- use mathematical skills and knowledge to solve problems
- solve quite complicated problems by using mathematical arguments and logic.
- understand and demonstrate what is meant by proof in mathematics
- simplify real-life situations so that you can use mathematics to show what is happening and what might happen in different circumstances
- use the mathematics that you learn to solve problems that are given to you in a real-life context
- use calculator technology and other resources (such as formulae booklets or statistical tables) effectively and appropriately; understand calculator limitations and when it is inappropriate to use such technology.

What are the entry requirements?

GCSE grade A or A* are preferred. Students may be considered with a B in exceptional circumstances.

What will I learn on this course?

Mathematics at AS and Advanced GCE is modular in structure. There are 6 units. These are divided into the three branches of Mathematics:

- Pure Mathematics = C1, C2, C3, C4
- Mechanics = M1
- Statistics = S1

How is the course assessed?

In order to get an AS (Advanced Subsidiary) you will need to take three units. If you want a full Advanced GCE you will need to take a further three units. Each unit is equally weighted and has a 1 hour 30 minute examination paper.

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

Higher Education courses or careers that either require Advanced GCE Mathematics or are strongly related include economics, medicine, architecture, engineering, accountancy, teaching, psychology, environmental studies, computing, information and communication technology. If you wanted to continue your study of mathematics after Advanced GCE you could follow a course in mathematics at degree level or even continue further as a postgraduate and get involved in mathematical research.

Examination Board: EDEXCEL

Available at AS & A2

Introduction

This is an AS/A2 level course. Students will learn to develop a critical understanding of the mass media and its audiences. You will also gain practical skills in using technology to create media products of a professional standard. You will be using digital cameras and video cameras, computers and software packages to produce your work and if you choose to work in the field of film you will also learn to use editing software.

What are the entry requirements?

The La Retraite course requirement for level 3 courses applies, including a Grade B at GCSE in English.

What will I learn on this course?

AS level consists of two units.

Unit:1 Investigating Media

Unit 2 Creating Media

Unit 1 and Unit 2 provide an integrated and complementary introduction to the study of the media and the contemporary media landscape. The content of both units is underpinned by a set of key media concepts (Forms, Representations, Institutions, Audiences) and media platforms (Broadcasting, Digital/web-based media (e-media), Print).

A2 Level consists of two units.

Unit 3 Media: Critical Perspectives

Unit 4 Media: Research and production

At A2 candidates will build on their AS work to look more fully at the contexts of media production and consumption, why as well as how texts are created as they are. As well as building on the concepts studied at AS, candidates will look at some or all of the following debates and theories as appropriate: Media Debates: Representation, Media effects, Reality TV, News Values, Moral panics, Post 9/11 and the media, Ownership and control, Regulation and censorship, Media technology and the digital revolution-changing technologies in the 21st century Media Theories: Media analysis, Politics and the Media, Consumption and Production.

How is the course assessed?

Assessment is by coursework for units 2 and 4 and written examination for units 1 and 3.

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

A media studies qualification can lead in a variety of directions. Many students will study media at University. Others may choose to use their skills in the field of law, education, computing, art, English, sociology or psychology.

Examination Board: OCR

Available at AS & A2

AS/A2 MFL: FRENCH

Introduction

The aim of this course is to develop an understanding of the spoken and written forms of French from a variety of registers. You will learn to communicate confidently, clearly and effectively in French through both the spoken and written word, using increasingly accurate, complex and varied language. You will increase your sensitivity to language and language learning and develop further positive attitudes to foreign language learning.

Why study French in the Sixth Form?

- A qualification in a language is becoming increasingly important as careers opportunities in the European Union become widely available.
- A huge number of college and university courses offer a language with Subjects such as Business Studies, Accountancy, Science, Engineering, Law, Mathematics, Politics, History of Art and Information Technology.
- AS or A level French combine well with a variety of other subjects allowing you to remain flexible when it comes to choosing a career.
- Competence in a foreign language can distinguish you from another candidate with similar qualifications and experience.

What are the entry requirements?

In order to study French at AS/A2 level, candidates should have acquired the knowledge, understanding and skills equivalent to GCSE at Higher Tier (grades A */A or B)

What will I learn on this course?

The AS units in Year 12 represent 50% of the A level. You will cover a wide variety of topics including youth issues, health, media, sport and the Arts. In Year 13, you will develop interpreting and translating skills, and will also be required to study topics in greater depth and produce longer pieces of written work about society or literature.

How is the course assessed?

AS Assessment Units		Listening, Reading & Writing	
• Unit 1		Written paper	2 hours
35% of the total A level mark		140 marks	
• Unit 2		Speaking Test	35 Minutes
15% of the total A level mark		60 marks	
A2 Assessment Units		Written Paper	
• Unit 3		(Listening, Reading, Writing)	2 hours 30 minutes
35% of the total A level mark		140 marks	
• Unit 4		Speaking Test	35 Minutes
15% of the total A level mark		60 marks	

The Advanced level Subsidiary and Advanced level Criteria state that A level specifications must include synoptic assessment (representing at least 20% of the total A level marks).

What could I do at the end of my course?

AS and A level courses in French provide a suitable foundation for further study and a sufficient basis for the further study of French at degree level, whilst allowing also for a coherent, satisfying and worthwhile course of study for students who may not wish to progress to further study in this subject

Examination Board: AQA

Available at AS & A2

This is offered by the SL6**Introduction**

Learning another language and improving the skills that you already have in another language is a demanding yet rewarding pursuit. You will already have some aptitude for language study and you will have an interest in another culture and way of life. By the end of your chosen course you will have learnt to communicate effectively and with a considerable degree of accuracy in the language.

Course Content

AS level: Unit 1

Areas covered are food, diet and health; transport, travel and tourism; current affairs and media; relationships, family and youth concerns; social issues such as law and justice; leisure and the arts; education, training and employment.

A2 level: Unit 2

AS areas are revisited and we also study energy, pollution and the environment; politics and citizenship; campaigning organisations and charities; the European Union; global issues as well as the history and a selection of the literature of Portugal. Grammar plays an important part of both the AS and the A2.

Assessment

All Units are assessed by examination.

Course Requirements

- Course requirement for level 3.
- Courses applies, including a Grade B in Portuguese.

What could I do at the end of my course?

A gateway to reading languages at University, studying a modern foreign language will be extremely valuable in a huge range of career paths, including teaching, banking, finance and service industries, leisure and tourism, journalism and law.

Introduction

The aim of this course is to develop an understanding of the spoken and written forms of Spanish from a variety of registers. You will learn to communicate confidently, clearly and effectively in Spanish through both the spoken and written word, using increasingly accurate, complex and varied language. You will increase your sensitivity to language and language learning and develop further positive attitudes to foreign language learning.

Why study Spanish in the Sixth Form?

- A qualification in a language is becoming increasingly important as careers opportunities in the European Union become widely available.
- A huge number of college and university courses offer a language with Subjects such as Business Studies, Accountancy, Science, Engineering, Law, Mathematics, Politics, History of Art and Information Technology.
- AS or A level Spanish combine well with a variety of other subjects allowing you to remain flexible when it comes to choosing a career.
- Competence in a foreign language can distinguish you from another candidate with similar qualifications and experience.

What are the entry requirements?

In order to study Spanish at AS/A2 level, candidates should have acquired the knowledge, understanding and skills equivalent to GCSE at Higher Tier (grades A */A or B)

What will I learn on this course?

The AS units in Year 12 represent 50% of the A level. You will cover a wide variety of topics including youth issues, health, media, sport and the Arts. In Year 13, you will develop interpreting and translating skills, and will also be required to study topics in greater depth and produce longer pieces of written work about society or literature.

How is the course assessed?

AS Assessment Units		Listening, Reading & Writing	
• Unit 1		Written paper	2 hours
35% of the total A level mark		140 marks	
• Unit 2		Speaking Test	35 Minutes
15% of the total A level mark		60 marks	
A2 Assessment Units		Written Paper	
• Unit 3		(Listening, Reading, Writing)	2 hours 30 minutes
35% of the total A level mark		140 marks	
• Unit 4		Speaking Test	35 Minutes
15% of the total A level mark		60 marks	

The Advanced level Subsidiary and Advanced level Criteria state that A level specifications must include synoptic assessment (representing at least 20% of the total A level marks).

What could I do at the end of my course?

AS and A level courses in Spanish provide a suitable foundation for further study and a sufficient basis for the further study of Spanish at degree level, whilst allowing also for a coherent, satisfying and worthwhile course of study for students who may not wish to progress to further study in this subject

Examination Board: AQA

Available at AS & A2

Introduction

The *A Level General Music* is a two year course consisting of the study of musical history, the analysis of set works, the study of compositional techniques, and training in aural perception. The course also includes the preparation of a short solo performance and the opportunity to prepare a dissertation or/and a folio of compositions.

"Studying music is fun but at the same time you still have to work hard and it stretches your brain. Music is the subject that can lead to your big dreams" - Katrina Marsh.

"Music is more useful than most people think, for example it helps in maths. Music comes from the past and is going to the future!" - Candice Bryson.

What are the entry requirements?

Grade A to B (preferably A or A*) in Music GCSE.

What will I learn on this course?

This course follows a traditional path involving: performing, composing, aural skills and analysis. It is designed to allow students to study music in an integrated way with the opportunity to specialise at Advanced GCE. It allows students to study music as a practical, intellectual subject with specialist pathways in performing and composing. It is designed to have the rigour of Advanced GCE in terms of the breadth, depth and scope of the content as well as in the challenges posed in the assessment tasks. It recognises that we live in an age of cultural diversity and the Areas of Study cover a wide range of music: classical, world, popular and jazz.

How is the course assessed?

The exams have a two-unit structure. Unit One comprises the AS qualification. The level of AS is that expected after one year of post-GCSE study. Units One and Two make up the whole Advanced GCE qualification.

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

Studying music at university level: singing, performance, composition, production, studio work, music management, etc. Music also opens doors to many different opportunities career-wise, both in further education and in employment.

Examination Board: OCR

Available at AS & A2

Introduction

Religious Studies gives you the opportunity to study some of the fundamental questions which people have always asked about life: why are we here, how should we behave and what happens to us when we die?

What are the entry requirements?

It would be helpful if you have studied Religious Studies or Religious Education at GCSE, but this is not essential and you will not be at a disadvantage if you have not studied this subject before. This course is available to people of any religious belief, or none; you do not have to be religious to succeed in Religious Studies.

What will I learn on this course?

This course involves you learning about the Philosophy of Religion and Religious Ethics. The first two units of the A Level examination and will lead to an AS pass after one year. If you are thinking of taking the subject at A2, then you will continue with the A2 papers.

To get a certificate at the end of the first year (Advanced Subsidiary), you will be assessed on your performance in the two AS units. To gain a certificate for Advanced GCE, you will need to have studied for and been assessed on your performance in the two AS unit AND the two A2 units. This is an examination based course; there is no coursework.

For the AS examination, you will study the following units:

G571: AS Philosophy of Religion

Ancient Greek influences on philosophy of religion; Judaeo-Christian influences on philosophy of religion; Traditional arguments for the existence of God; Challenges to religious belief.

G572: AS Religious Ethics

Ethical Theories; Applied ethics topics

For the A2 examination, you will study the following units:

G581: A2 Philosophy of Religion

Religious language; Experience and religion; Nature of God; Life and death; Miracle.

G582: A2 Religious Ethics

Meta-ethics; Free will and determinism; Conscience; Virtue ethics; Applied ethics topics.

A detailed content of the syllabus will be displayed in the appropriate room.

How is the course assessed?

Each unit is assessed by examination. Each examination is one and a half hours in length. Each unit has four questions and you will be expected to answer any TWO.

All GCE units are awarded A-E. The Advanced Subsidiary GCE is awarded A-E. The Advanced GCE is awarded on the scale A-E with access to A*. In order to be awarded an A*, candidates will need to achieve a grade A on their full A level qualification and an A* on the aggregate of their A2 units.

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

Many other subjects would go well with Religious Studies: for example, English, History, Sociology, Geography, Psychology and Politics. Religious Studies can also be a useful complement to science subjects, particularly for those who wish to follow a career in medicine. With a qualification in Religious Studies, you could go on to Higher Education, at college or university. The skills developed in Religious Studies could be particularly useful for careers in law, education, social work, politics, medicine, administration or the media.

Examination Board: OCR

Available at AS & A2

Introduction

The main purpose of any course in photography is to develop your ability to appreciate the visual world and respond to it in a personal and creative way.

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 and publishing.
- Students who have an interest and aptitude for the subject, but do not intend to take the subject beyond the AS or A level.

What are the entry requirements?

Students should have a genuine interest in photography and should have ideally followed a GCSE Art course achieving a grade C or above.

What will I learn on this course?

The skills you will develop will be varied. Among them you will develop a working knowledge of materials, practices and technology within photography. You will develop the skills to interpret and convey your ideas and feelings using photography. You will develop your imaginative and creative powers and your experimental, analytical and documenting skills. You will also develop a specialist vocabulary and the knowledge and understanding of the place of photography in history and in contemporary society.

Students will develop skills to enable project based thematic enquiry and response, sequential development of ideas, expressive response offering unrestricted exploration and development. Visual research, analysis, observation and recording offering opportunities to work in a range of media. Critical appraisal and analysis are key to success in this course.

How is the course assessed?

AS (year 12)

- Unit 1 - Thematic Enquiry (AS 30%, A2 15%)
- Unit 2 - Expressive Enquiry (AS 30%, A2 15%)
- Unit 3 - Externally Set Assignment (AS 40%, A2 20%)

A2 (year 13)

- Unit 4 - Contextual Study (15%)
- Unit 5 - Problem-Solving (30%)
- Unit 6 -Independent Study (20%)

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

There are many careers in Photography. 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.

Most students wishing to take Photography 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 photography.

Examination Board: EDEXCEL

Available at AS & A2

Introduction

The broad and multi-disciplinary nature of Physical Education and its application to a wide range of current issues, call upon candidate's ability to demonstrate the transferability of their knowledge, understanding and skills.

What are the entry requirements?

Grade 'B' or above in Science or Biology or Chemistry.

Grade 'B' in Physical Education (if taken at GCSE). You should be competing at a club in the sport you wish to pursue for 'A' level practical.

What will I learn on this course?

AS Year 12:

Unit 1—Healthy and Active Lifestyles and Opportunities and Pathways

The development of active leisure and recreation; healthy lifestyles; effects of exercise (responses/adaptations of the body systems), fitness and training, fitness assessment.

The development of competitive sport; performance pathways, lifelong involvement, long-term athlete.

Unit 2—The Critical Sports Performer— completion of four tasks

Personal Performance, Local Study, National Study and Performance Analysis

ASSESSMENT

Unit 1 = 1hr 30mins written exam—50% of course

Unit 2 = coursework—4 tasks (practical/theoretical) - 50% of course

A2 Year 13

Unit 3— Preparation for Optimum Sports Performance

Long/short term physiological preparation; long/short term psychological preparation; long/short term technical preparation; fatigue and recovery process; centres of excellence; technical support

Unit 4— Developing Sports Performer—completion of four coursework tasks.

Development Plan, international Study, Progressive Participation and Life Plan

ASSESSMENT

Unit 3—2hr written exam—50% of course

Unit 4— coursework—4 tasks (practical/theoretical) - 50% of course

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

This course will provide a good understanding and choice of careers available in the following sector are: sports management/medicine/journalism, events management, sports massage/physiotherapy/nutritionist. Teaching and coaching.

Examination Board: Edexcel

Available at AS and A2

Introduction

This is a two year course, at the end of which you will know a lot more about how Britain, and indeed the world, is governed, about the political ideas that affect our lives and about how you can take part in the democratic process. You will also have developed a critical awareness of events and issues and the skills to argue your case convincingly.

What are the entry requirements?

You are not expected to have studied Politics previously. You are expected to have a keen interest in current affairs.

You will need to have a minimum of 5 Grade A-Cs at GCSE, or equivalent.

Politics demands a high level of literacy: priority will be given to students with a grade 6 in English.

What will I learn on this course?

There are five units studied over the two years

- **UK Politics** - The topics are: democracy and participation, political parties, elections, voting behaviour and the media.
- **UK Government** - This introduces the major branches of UK government
- **Core Political Ideas**. The ideologies of liberalism, conservatism and socialism
- **Optional Political Ideas** - Students will study in depth one ideology from: anarchism, feminism, ecologism, nationalism and multiculturalism
- **Global Politics** - This gives students an opportunity to develop an understanding of the local, national, international and global dimensions of political activity

There will be 3 lessons of 100 minutes each week. In addition, you will be expected to complete at least 5 hours of private study each week.

The 5 hours of private study should include:

- Reviewing, making and revising notes
- Reading ahead for the next lesson
- Completing tasks set
- Researching the topic in books and on the internet
- Following the issues in the press and in the media.
- Researching, planning and writing answers to the topic questions.

It is recommended that all students read the politics and comment sections of a quality national newspaper ("The Guardian", "The Times", "The Telegraph", "The Independent") on a regular basis. Weekly magazines such as, "The Economist", "The New Statesman" and, "The Spectator" are good sources of information.

How is the course assessed?

AS (Year 12) - 2 exams. Each of ninety minutes. Covering UK Politics and UK Government.

(Not all students will be entered for AS)

A Level (Years 12 & 13) - 3 exams. Each of two hours. Assessing all five units

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

Success in a Politics "A" Level is proof of your ability to develop awareness of contemporary issues and to write analytically about them. It is good preparation for many degrees, including Politics, Law, Modern History and Economics. Many journalists, civil servants, lawyers, public relations executives, management consultants and campaigners will have studied Politics at some stage.

Examination Board: EDEXCEL

Available at AS & A2

AS/A LEVEL PSYCHOLOGY

Introduction

If you are fascinated by the idea of understanding the brain - if you want to grasp the complexities of human behaviour - A level Psychology is for you. In lessons, you will be exploring the different psychological perspectives, focusing on issues such as: memory, child and adult developmental stages, social behaviourism, abnormalities in behaviour, physiological responses and psychological research methods.

As you progress you will learn more about critical issues related to the mind, behaviour by exploring the physiological and psychological explanations on specific issues such as biological rhythms, aggression, gender identity and psychological disorders.

What are the entry requirements?

Minimum GCSE grade B or above in Mathematics, English and Science.

What will I learn on this course?

- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of psychological concepts, theories, research studies, research methods and ethical issues in relation to this content.
- Explore and understand the relationship between psychological knowledge, theories and methodology and their relationship to social, cultural, scientific and contemporary issues.
- Analyse, interpret and evaluate psychological concepts, theories, research studies and research methods
- Evaluate therapies and treatments including in terms of their appropriateness and effectiveness.
- Design, carry out and statistically analyse practical research

How is the course assessed?

AS (Year 12) - Paper 1: Introductory topics in Psychology (compulsory content)

Social Influence

Memory

Attachment

Psychopathology

Assessment: written 2 hour paper being 33.3% of the A-Level

AS (Year 12) - Paper 2: Psychology in context

Approaches in psychology

Biopsychology

Research methods

Assessment: written 2 hour paper being 33.3% of the A-Level

Year 2 – Issues and options in Psychology

Issues and debates in Psychology

Aggression

Schizophrenia

Gender identity

Assessment: written 2 hour paper being 33.3% of the A-Level

Both AS and A2 courses are 100% exam based and as such there is no coursework.

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

Psychology compliments all areas and subjects. Its focus on human mind, behaviour and thinking is attractive to all employment and areas of work involving human resources. The subject also instils skills in research, analysis, communication and organisation that go well beyond the value of the material covered. It is, of course, relevant to those interested in Psychology at degree level, but also popular amongst students who plan to follow other paths.

Examination Board: AQA

Available at AS and A Level

Introduction

Biology involves the study of a wide range of exciting topics, ranging from molecular biology to the study of ecosystems and from microorganisms to mammoths. Biology is never far from the headlines either. Biology at A level will enable you to acquire a systematic body of biological knowledge and develop an appreciation of its significance. It will sustain and develop your enjoyment of, and interest in, biology. The course develops many of the topics you have already studied and will help you gain an insight of the dynamic and exciting nature of biology today. You will realise how an understanding of many of today's contemporary issues requires the knowledge and understanding of underpinning biological principles. Biology is a practical science so you will develop experimental skills and further understanding of the scientific method. Teaching is based around practical and tutorial sessions. Problem solving and communication skills are developed through class and independent study. Students are expected to analyse factual information and communicate their ideas in writing.

What are the entry requirements?

Minimum B grade in Biology GCSE or AA in Double Science

What will I learn on this course?

The specification is divided into topics, each covering different key concepts of biology. Teaching of practical skills is integrated with the theoretical topics and they're assessed through the written papers. For A Level only, the Practical Endorsement will also support the development of practical skills. Biology A is split into six teaching modules: Modules 1 to 4 constitute the stand-alone AS Level qualification; Modules 1 to 6, combined with the Practical Endorsement, constitute the full A Level.

Modules

Module 1: Development of practical skills in biology – this module underpins the whole of the specification, and covers the practical skills that students should develop throughout the course. The practical skills in this module can be assessed within written examinations and (for A Level only) within the Practical Endorsement.

• **Module 2:** Foundations in biology – covering key concepts required throughout the remaining modules. To include Biological molecules, Cell division, Cell Membranes and Cellular organization.

Modules 3 and 4: AS Level topics—Exchange and transport; Biodiversity, evolution and disease.

• **Modules 5 and 6:** A Level only topics—Communication, homeostasis, and energy; Genetics, evolution and ecosystems.

Assessment

At AS Level:

AS Papers 1 and 2 can assess any content from Modules 1 to 4. Paper 1—Multiple choice questions covering theory and practical skills (50%); Paper 2—Structured and extended questions covering theory and practical skills (50%)

At A Level:

A Level Paper 1 assesses the content from Modules 1, 2, 3 and 5. Multiple choice questions and Structured and extended questions covering theory and practical skills (37%)

A Level Paper 2 assesses the content from Modules 1, 2, 4 and 6. Multiple choice questions and Structured and extended questions covering theory and practical skills (37%)

A Level Paper 3 assesses the content from Modules 1 to 6. Unified Biology— Structured questions and extended response questions covering theory and practical skills (26%)

Non-exam assessment—Practical Endorsement for Biology

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

Medicine or science based degree courses including, biomedicine, biodiversity, ecology, biology, forensics, genetics, biochemistry, pharmacology and zoology which can then lead to law, accountancy or any other graduate course, as well as science - based careers. It is also excellent companion to any traditional A Level to go on and study a degree course at a top Russell Group University.

Examination Board: OCR Biology
Available at AS and A2

AS/A LEVEL SCIENCE: CHEMISTRY

Introduction

The study of A level Chemistry will enable you to develop essential knowledge and understanding of the concepts of Chemistry, and the skills needed for the use of these in new and changing situations. It will sustain and develop your enjoyment of, and interest in, Chemistry. The course develops topics that you have already studied. It will help you gain an appreciation of the contributions of chemistry to society and the responsible use of scientific knowledge and evidence. Practical work is an important part of the course and you will develop your understanding of the link between theory and experiment.

What are the entry requirements?

Grade B or above in Chemistry or AA in Double Science

What will I learn on this course?

The course is split into six modules:

Modules 1 to 4 constitute the stand-alone AS Level qualification; Modules 1 to 6, combined with the Practical Endorsement, constitute the full A Level.

Module 1: Development of practical skills

In this unit you will be given the opportunity to plan and carry out experiments, collect sufficient amount of data which you will then analyse and evaluate. You will keep a log book of all the work you have carried out. You will use this for the preparation for the Chemistry A level exam and will be used as evidence for the practical endorsement.

Module 2: Foundations in Chemistry

In this unit you will be introduced to the key concepts that underpin Chemistry. You will look at how the theory of the atoms has developed, how the structure of the atoms affects all chemical reactions and the properties of substances. You will also be introduced to the concept of amount of substance and how chemists use this.

Module 3: Periodic table and energy

In this unit you will learn about the periodic table, factors that affect the rates of reactions, reversible reactions and how altering conditions can affect the yield. You will also learn about the applications of energy use to everyday life and industrial processes, and current environmental concerns associated with sustainability.

Module 4: Core organic chemistry

In this module you will be introduced to organic chemistry and the role this plays in everyday life. This includes finding alternatives to using hydrocarbons as fuels, finding ways to process plastic waste efficiently, and looking at avoiding the use of ozone-depleting chemicals. You will also learn about some analytical techniques used to identify organic compounds.

Module 5: Physical chemistry and transition elements

In this module you will study in detail about the factors that affect rates of reaction and how reversible reactions can be controlled. You will also study in detail the theory of acids and bases, transition elements and their role in chemistry.

Module 6: Organic chemistry and analysis

In this module you will study in more detail organic chemistry. You will study the wide variety of compounds in organic chemistry, their reactions and how chemists use these reactions to synthesise chemicals. You will also learn in more detail about analytical techniques used to identify substances.

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

Medicine or science based degree courses, which can then lead to law, accountancy or any other graduate course, as well as science - based careers. It is also excellent companion to any traditional A Level to go on and study a degree course at a top Russell Group University.

How will the course be assessed?

AS Chemistry A (H032) - to be examined June 2016					
Paper			Marks	Duration	Weighting
Paper 1	Breadth in Chemistry		70	1 hour 30 minutes	50%
	Section A	Multiple choice	20		
	Section B	Structured questions and extended response questions covering theory and practical skills	50		
Paper 2	Depth in Chemistry		70	1 hour 30 minutes	50%
	Structured questions and extended response questions , covering theory and practical skills		70		

A level Chemistry A (H432) - to be examined June 2017					
Paper			Marks	Duration	Weighting
Paper 1	Periodic table, elements and physical Chemistry		100	2 hour s 15 minutes	37%
	Section A	Multiple choice	15		
	Section B	Structured questions and extended response questions covering theory and practical skills	85		
Paper 2	Synthesis and analytical techniques		100	2 hours 15 minutes	37%
	Section A	Multiple choice	15		
	Section B	Structured questions and extended response questions , covering theory and practical skills	85		
Paper 3	Unified Chemistry		70	1 hour 30 minutes	26%
	Structured questions and extended response questions , covering theory and practical skills		70		
Non-examination assessment	Practical skills: Teacher-assessed component		0	Non-exam assessment	Reported separately
	Candidates complete a minimum of 12 practical activities to demonstrate practical competence. Performance reported separately to the A Level grade		0		

Examination Board: OCR
Available at A level

AS/A LEVEL SCIENCE: PHYSICS

Introduction

Physics is a core discipline in science and is a great way to understand and explore the universe that we live in. Physics is both significant and influential science, in part because advances in its understanding often translate into new technologies, but also because new ideas in physics often resonate with other sciences, mathematics and philosophy.

What are the entry requirements?

Grade B in Physics GCSE or AA in Double Science

What will I learn on this course?

The A-Level units are:

Module 1 – Development of practical skills in physics

Module 2 – Foundations of physics

Module 3 – Forces and motion

Module 4 – Electrons, waves and photons

Module 5 – Newtonian world and astrophysics

Module 6 – Particles and medical physics

Assessments

At AS Level:

Papers 1 (Breadth in Physics) - Multiple choice questions covering theory and practical skills (50%);

Paper 2 (Depth in Physics) can assess any content from Modules 1 to 4- Structured and extended questions covering theory and practical skills (50%).

At A Level:

- Paper 1 (Modelling physics) assesses content from Modules 1, 2, 3 and 5; Multiple choice questions and Structured and extended questions covering theory and practical skills (37%)

- Paper 2 (Exploring physics) assesses content from Modules 1, 2, 4 and 6; Multiple choice questions and Structured and extended questions covering theory and practical skills (37%)

- Paper 3 (Unified physics) assesses content from Modules 1 to 6; Structured questions and extended response questions covering theory and practical skills (26%)

Practical endorsement – Ongoing practical work will be recorded and marked in lessons through your lab book to count towards the practical skills qualification (reported separately to the A-level).

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

Physics can lead to a range of exciting and vibrant careers.

A Physics 'A' level will show admissions offers or employers of a rigorous academic background in both science and maths. It is favoured by a huge range of or sometimes surprising courses such as Physics, Maths, Engineering, Veterinary science, Law, Accountancy, Design and Creative Media.

The reason that it is so highly regarded as a subject is because of the focus on key skills that span all aspects of modern life; with a focus on; problem solving, taking an analytical/scientific approach and strong background in numerical methods. It is also an excellent companion to any traditional 'A' level to go on and study a degree course at a top Russell Group University.

Examination Board: OCR

Available at AS and A Level

Introduction

The broad and multi-disciplinary nature of sociology and its application to a wide range of current issues calls upon candidates' abilities to demonstrate the transferability of their knowledge, understanding and skills.

What are the entry requirements?

Minimum Grade B in English Language or a Humanities subject

What will I learn on this course?

AS Level (Year 12)

Paper 1 Education with Methods in Context.

An investigation into Sociological explanations of the role and functions of the education system, including its relationship to the economy and class structures: reasons for differential educational achievement of social groups by social class, gender and ethnicity in contemporary society including the impact of relationships and processes within schools, teacher/pupil relationships, pupil identities and subcultures.

An understanding of the significance of educational policies, including policies of selection, marketisation and privatisation, and policies to achieve greater equality of opportunity or outcome, for an understanding of the structure, role, impact and experience of and access to education; the impact of globalisation on educational policy.

Paper 2 Research Methods and Families and Households.

Students are expected to be familiar with sociological explanations of the following content:

The relationship of the family to the social structure and social change, with particular reference to the economy and to state policies: changing patterns of marriage, cohabitation, separation, divorce, childbearing and the life course, including the sociology of personal life, and the diversity of contemporary family and household structures: gender roles, domestic labour and power relationships within the family in contemporary society: the nature of childhood, and changes in the status of children in the family and society; demographic trends in the United Kingdom since 1900: birth rates, death rates, family size, life expectancy, ageing population, and migration and globalisation.

Key themes – The key themes of Social Class, Ethnicity and Gender run through the study of Sociology along with the concept of Power. In all units these key themes are explored in an attempt to allow students to investigate where power lies in our society.

How is the course assessed?

AS (year 12)	Paper 1 = Education with Methods in Context. 1 hour 30 minutes Paper 2 = Research Methods and Families and Households 1 hour 30 minutes
A Level (year 13)	Paper 1 = Education with Theory and Methods. 2 hours Paper 2 = Families and Households & Sociology of Beliefs. 2 hours Paper 3 = Crime and Deviance with Theory and Method. 2 hours

Examination Board: AQA

Available at AS & A Level

A Level (Year 12&13)

All material covered in the AS course will be assessed at a higher level in the A Level examinations. In addition the following new material will be assessed:

Sociology of Beliefs

Students are expected to be familiar with sociological explanations of the following content:

Ideology, science and religion, including both Christian and non-Christian religious traditions: the relationship between social change and social stability, and religious beliefs, practices and organisations: religious organisations, including cults, sects, denominations, churches and New Age movements, and their relationship to religious and spiritual belief and practice: the relationship between different social groups and religious/spiritual organisations and movements, beliefs and practices: the significance of religion and religiosity in the contemporary world, including the nature and extent of secularisation in a global context, and globalisation and the spread of religions.

The Sociology of Crime and Deviance

Students are expected to be familiar with sociological explanations of the following content:

crime, deviance, social order and social control: the social distribution of crime and deviance by ethnicity, gender and social class, including recent patterns and trends in crime: globalisation and crime in contemporary society; the media and crime; green crime; human rights and state crimes: crime control, surveillance, prevention and punishment, victims, and the role of the criminal justice system and other agencies.

Sociological Theory and Methods

Students must examine the following areas:

quantitative and qualitative methods of research; research design: sources of data, including questionnaires, interviews, participant and non-participant observation, experiments, documents and official statistics: the distinction between primary and secondary data, and between quantitative and qualitative data: the relationship between positivism, interpretivism and sociological methods; the nature of 'social facts': the theoretical, practical and ethical considerations influencing choice of topic, choice of method(s) and the conduct of research: consensus, conflict, structural and social action theories: the concepts of modernity and post-modernity in relation to sociological theory: the nature of science and the extent to which Sociology can be regarded as scientific: the relationship between theory and methods: debates about subjectivity, objectivity and value freedom: the relationship between Sociology and social policy.

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

Civil Service	The government often uses sociological research when forming policy and as a result they often employ sociologists.
Social Services -	Many Social Workers, Youth Workers or other professionals within the social services have Sociology degrees.
Business -	Understanding how society works will always be useful within business. Sales, Marketing and Advertising all draw upon this knowledge and hence a large number of sociology graduates head down this path.
Teaching -	A fair number of us become teachers to pass on the knowledge to the next generation and use their understanding of the education system to try and improve opportunities for those that miss out.

There are other avenues to follow, but these were the four key areas in the last ten years according to the Association of Teachers of Social Sciences who track graduates and their careers.

The Extended Project Qualification

Introduction

This course allows you to get an AS qualification in a subject of your own choice. The Extended Project is a unique course where you decide what you will do. It rewards you for your own ideas. You decide on a topic and produce a completed project.

Previous projects include:

- Why have cupcakes and baking become fashionable?
- Why do black boys underachieve in education?
- What was the Bauhaus movement?
- What impact can Nanotechnology have?

What are the entry requirements?

Grade C and above in English are the minimum requirements. This course has been designed to support a range of students and their chosen qualifications. It is open to all. We welcome students who are studying 4 AS subjects and students doing a combination of AS, vocational subjects and GCSEs.

What will I learn on this course?

You will attend two lessons per week. These sessions are known as the Taught Elements. You will develop skills and knowledge in a range of skills including:

- Planning your project
- How to do research
- Time management
- Working under ethical guidelines
- Plagiarism
- Harvard Referencing
- How to do effective presentations

How is the course assessed?

This is a coursework based qualification. You are assessed on submitting a completed project. This could be a 5000 word written report OR something that you have made (an artefact) along with a 1000 word written commentary.

You will also complete a log book and deliver a 20 minute presentation on your chosen topic.

Assessment Objectives: The Extended Project Qualification is broken down into the 4 main objectives.

- A01: Manage
- A02: Use Resources
- A03: Manage and Realise
- A04: Review

What could I do at the end of my course?

This unique qualification allows you to stand out from the crowd.

- It prepares you for University level work (research and creative thinking skills)
- It shows employers that you are able to be self-motivated and work independently
- It gives you a real focus on what your interests are and your curiosities about the world

Examination Board: AQA

Available as an AS qualification but assessed according to A2 marking standards.

This AS course enables you to achieve a grade A* at AS.

EDEXCEL BTEC LEVEL 3 APPLIED SCIENCE

Exam board is Edexcel

Course: Vocational, continually assessed course. Students study a set of compulsory and optional units starting with:

Unit 1: Fundamentals of Science; in this unit you will carry out a range of chemical reactions, investigate different types of energy, describe and learn about different types of cells and communicate different types of scientific information effectively. This includes looking at journals, press releases and a museum visit.

Unit 2: Working in the Science Industry; in this unit you will investigate procedures and communications that take place in the scientific workplace, design a scientific laboratory, learn about lab information systems and demonstrate safe practice in the laboratory

Unit 3: Scientific investigation: plan and carry out various investigations, collate and analyse results from investigations and draw conclusions from investigations

In Year 13 students will also take three optional units from: *Medicinal chemistry* where you will learn about the components and action of medicine and how it is prepared, *Diseases and infections* where you will learn about different types of infections and how they are spread, treated and the impact of them in society, *Clinical psychology* where you will learn about mental disorders and how they are explained, diagnosed and treated, and *Human physiology* where you will learn about the circulatory, lymph, digestive and respiratory system and *Criminology*.

The course will also include work experience in the scientific workplace and visits to various scientific companies and places of interest e.g. The National History Museum, The Royal London Hospital and a Bio-chemical plant.

It will prepare students for University courses and careers in: Applied Science, Nursing, Midwifery, Pharmacy services, Psychology, Lab Technicians in schools, hospitals, and Pharmaceutical companies, Biology, Physiology, Teaching, Radiology, Phlebotomy and can be used as UCAS points towards applicable courses.

Entry requirements: 5 A*-C GCSE at GCSE and a C grade double science or a pass at BTEC level 2

Examination Board: EDEXCEL

Introduction

This course is the BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Health & Social Care.

BTEC have been a recognised awarding body for many years. They are well known by employers, industry and educational establishments.

The BTEC diploma is a practical work-related course and is equivalent to **TWO** A levels. It now entails two exam units and one task based unit, in addition to optional units.

Take the qualification either

- On its own
- With an additional AS Level (Good complementary subjects include Sociology, Psychology, English)

What will I learn on this course?

Over the two year period you will study the following units:-

- Human Lifespan Development*
- Working in Health and Social Care*
- Enquiries into Current Research in Health and Social Care
- Physiological Disorders and their Care
- Caring for Individuals with Dementia

You will also take additional units. These are :-

- Meeting Individual Care and Support Needs
- Work Experience in Health and Social Care
- Principles of Safe Practice in Health and Social Care
- Nutritional Health

Work experience placements, work shadowing and practical activities form an integral part of the course.

You will be visiting organisations such as hospitals, nurseries and health clinics and will get the opportunity to meet and work with professionals from different care sectors. You will also carry out extended projects and assignments.

Course Coverage:-

Diploma-(720GLH)

- 6 Mandatory units
- 2 optional units

Extended Diploma- (1080 GLH)

- 8 Mandatory units
- 5 optional units. specialist units are done in line with career pathway

This course is for you if you are.....

Interested in a career in the health or care industry such as social work, teaching, nursing, early years.

Organised, motivated when working on extended projects and assignments. Prefer coursework based assessment to exams.

Please see Mr Blake for further information or for an informal chat about the course.

* Exam Units

The aim of the one-year course is for you to obtain those extra qualifications necessary for various courses and careers. You will be offered the core GCSE subjects of English and Mathematics.

The GCSE retake course is suitable for: students who have narrowly missed achieving 5 A * -C grades in their first attempt; those who have failed to achieve grade C in one of the core subjects on offer; and students who are joining the sixth form from overseas, if their previous qualifications are not equivalent to GCSE. This is an intensive course, and a high level of commitment is required in order to ensure success.

ENGLISH

Examination Board: AQA

Available at Foundation & Higher Tier

Introduction

The course will further develop students' skills in speaking and listening, reading and writing. As well as continuing to develop a range of writing styles, students are encouraged to improve their technical accuracy and grasp of standard English.

What are the entry requirements?

Grade D at GCSE and a full coursework folder at grade C.

What will I learn on this course?

There is a range of prescribed reading including poetry, Shakespeare, and non-fiction and media texts. Students will write in different styles and for different purposes. There will be varied opportunities for different kinds of oral work.

How is the course assessed?

Students will sit two 2 terminal examinations which are worth 60% of the final grade. Speaking and listening work is assessed in class by the teacher and counts for 20%. The other 20% is awarded for four coursework assignments which are teacher assessed and externally moderated.

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

A pass at GCSE English is a requirement for the vast majority of jobs and further courses of study. Many employers and colleges require a high-grade pass at C or above. Many students following this course aim to improve on grades previously gained.

MATHEMATICS

Examination Board: EDEXCEL

Available at Intermediate Tier

Introduction

The course aims to develop students' knowledge and understanding of mathematical concepts, together with their ability to apply this knowledge in a variety of contexts.

What are the entry requirements?

Grade D at GCSE.

What will I learn on this course?

The course covers the content of the National Curriculum in Mathematics, including numbers, algebra, shape, space and measure, and data handling.

How is the course assessed?

The course is linear, with two examinations in June. In addition, there is a coursework element which carries 20% of the available marks.

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

A GCSE in mathematics is seen as a valuable qualification for all courses in further education and for employment, and is often as essential requirement.