

SHERBURN HIGH SCHOOL



Achieve your potential

*Achievement for all...
Post 16 subjects*



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Introduction



This booklet sets out the details of subjects available and advice on taking them as option choices for September 2019.

A wider than ever range of subjects is offered at Level 3. This gives you an opportunity to specialise in certain subjects according to your aptitude, interests and future career aspirations. You can keep breadth in your studies should you wish to. You should consider your choices carefully and decide on your plans before the deadline of Friday 11th January 2019

We also offer an Improvers course to provide students, who need to spend more time working at Level 2, an extra year in which to build on their GCSE achievements.

Why Choose Now?

Choices must be made now to allow school sufficient time to prepare option pools and the timetable for September 2019. Once choices have been made we will create option pools based on the best fit for the majority of students who have submitted their forms by Friday 11th January

Can I apply or change my mind later?

Students who apply after that date, or who wish to change their choices will have to do so within the confines of the options already established. Students can change their mind on their choices at any time up to the start of their course.

What is a "non-viable" option?

If the number of students choosing a particular option is not sufficient to make an appropriate size of group, that option becomes non-viable and it may be withdrawn. If you have been unfortunate enough to choose one of these, you will be asked at a later stage to re-choose.

How many subjects should I choose?

The majority of students choose three subjects through to completion at the end of Year 13. Those academically capable can choose four subjects.

What do I do if I need help choosing options?

You can seek help from Mr Ralphs, or Miss Oates.

(All members of Year 11 will have the opportunity of a one to one discussion later in the Spring term to discuss plans for the future).

Art, Craft & Design



Curriculum Leader: Mrs L Jamieson
Subject Teacher: Ms S Silver

Introduction

Art, Craft and Design gives you the skills and knowledge to create personal and imaginative work. You can choose to focus on a specialist area of study from a variety of exciting processes and media to suit your individual interests and abilities. This can result in degree opportunities and careers ranging from painting portraits to producing exotic fashion costumes or designing futuristic architecture. If you have an adventurous, creative and enquiring mind and are excited by shaping and determining the visual world around us, there is a career opportunity waiting for you.

Progression Opportunities

A career in the creative industry sector is one of the most lucrative and competitive employment opportunities you can take. Many of our students move on to study a Foundation Diploma in Art and Design or go straight on to a degree course at university. The creative opportunities for employment include: animation; architecture; art therapy; exhibition designer; fashion design; furnishings; graphic design; illustration; interior design; landscaping; make-up; packaging design; photographer; set design; teacher; advertising; web-design; sign writing; special effects or in film and television work. Some will go on to work as an artist.

This is a 2 year linear course which is examined at the end of Year 13.

Programme of Study

Year 1 – The Portfolio

You will produce a portfolio of work for component 1 which is 100% practical work exploring a range of different media, processes and techniques. Thematic projects enable students to develop individual responses and strengthen skills in preparation for Year 13. AS and A-level are practical courses in which you learn by doing, so you will be able to create imaginative personal work. You will develop your creativity and independent thought, learn to express yourself visually and let your imagination flourish.

Second Year Units – A2 Qualifications

Personal Investigation

This unit provides you with an opportunity to explore an independent theme of your choice.

Alongside your sustained practical investigation and responses, you must produce a written, illustrated essay (1000-3000 words). This is a critical and contextual study that will support your practical work.

The Externally Set Assignment (exam)

This is the culmination of the course. The exam board release a number of themes you will select and respond from the theme of your choice. You are given a preparatory period to produce a sketchbook full of practical investigations and developments supported by influences from other artists/designers. You will have 15 hours supervised time to produce an ambitious creative response to your theme, connecting to your development work from your sketchbook.

Study methods

Where timetabling allows we try to group the Year 12 and 13 art students together to create a collaborative studio environment reflecting an art college atmosphere. Students are allocated individual pods to work in the sixth form studio. All students can share ideas and support each other throughout the course. This has a truly beneficial effect on stimulating new ideas and approaches. We want you to develop into independent learners who use their creative skills and are willing to take risks with their work.

Method of Assessment

Year 1

Component 1 - Portfolio

100% practical assessment

Year 2 – A2 Qualification

Personal Investigation 60%

Externally Set Assignment (15 hours) 40%

Entry Recommendations

The most important requirement is enthusiasm for Art, Craft and Design. A background in Art at GCSE level is a clear advantage at level 4, or above. We will consider students from other creative disciplines or those that can demonstrate ability in this subject area

Qualification

GCE Art and Design

Awarding Body

AQA



Curriculum Leader: Mr C Hampton

Introduction

Biology is an innovative and inspiring subject working from context to content. Whilst challenging, it is thought provoking and it tells us about the world around us and how we fit in to it. Have you ever wondered how we replace the 40,000 skin cells we lose every minute? How we discovered the function of each brain region? How can DNA be used in forensic science? These are just a few examples of the kind of questions that as biologists we attempt to answer.

Progression Opportunities

Biology is an A level which works well both as a science and a complementary subject to many other disciplines. It can lead to employment or higher education opportunities in biological sciences, biochemistry, pharmacology, genetics, agriculture, dentistry, medicine, research, ecology and the environment, food industries and many more.

Programme of Study

Year 1

There are 4 topics in the AS course.

Topic 1- Lifestyle, Health and Risk. This topic focusses on how lifestyle and health is linked with cardiovascular diseases and the risks associated.

Topic 2 – Genes and Health. Develops understanding of the role of genes in the context of cystic fibrosis.

Topic 3 - The Voice of the Genome. This topic concentrates on the cell cycle and how development is controlled.

Topic 4 – Biodiversity and Natural Resources. The focus of this topic is how organisms become well adapted and reasons why organisms are on the brink of extinction.

Year 2

There are 4 topics in the A Level course.

Topic 5 – On the Wild Side. This topic investigates the effect of climate change on the environment.

Topic 6 – Immunity, Infection and Forensics. This topic concentrates on analytical techniques used in forensics and the immune response in the body.

Topic 7 – Run for your Life. This topic is centred around the biochemical requirements for respiration.

Topic 8 – Grey Matter. Brain imaging and regions of the brain are explored in this topic alongside the structure and function of the nervous system.

Study methods

The course is supported with a textbook and a website which has animations, tutorials, interactive test and end of topic tests, plus links to useful websites. There is practical work incorporated throughout the course.

Method of Assessment

A Level Qualification

Paper 1, 2 and 3 are assessed by written examinations of 2hrs (100 marks). They each contribute 33.3% towards the final mark. These papers consist of questions from all 8 topics covered over the 2 years. The examinations will also include questions that target mathematics and conceptual and theoretical understanding of experimental methods.

Additionally, an internally assessed practical endorsement is completed throughout the 2 year course. This assesses the competency of practical skills.

Entry Recommendations

We would recommend that you achieve a level 6 or above in GCSE Combined Science or a level 6 in Biology and one other Science. You also need at least a level 6 in both Maths and English.

Qualification

GCE A level Biology

Awarding Body

Edexcel



Curriculum Leader: Miss S Oates

What is Business Studies?

It is difficult to escape the effects of the world of business as every aspect of our lives is touched by the work of profit and non-profit making organisations. Business Studies provides the opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of how organisations function and manage their resources in order to meet a range of tactical and strategic objectives.

Why should I study Business?

An understanding of Business Studies is becoming increasingly important in a world where advances in technology and communication have taken centre stage. This course is designed to give you the chance to explore real business situations and to be practical in the application of business concepts that affect the world in which we live.

A-Level Business

With a focus on helping you to become a good **decision maker, you'll learn essential managerial** skills, alongside techniques to help you become an analytical problem solver. You will become more aware of the world in which you live and the strong influence that Business can have on all of us. The course has a strong quantitative content designed to develop your mathematical skills in a Business context. These skills are all highly sought after and valued in a wide range of careers.

Progression Routes

Many students go on to take Business related courses at university, or go into careers in Marketing, Human Resources, Finance, Fashion, Sports marketing, Customer Service as well as Administration and Law. This course can enhance whatever further study or employment you choose.

Programme of Study

The AQA A-Level Business Studies programme will be assessed externally and focusses on 10 units.

Year 1 – 6 units

Unit 1 - What is business?

Unit 2 - Managers, leadership and decision making

Unit 3 - Decision making to improve marketing performance

Unit 4 - Decision making to improve operational performance

Unit 5 - Decision making to improve financial performance

Unit 6 - Decision making to improve human resource performance

Year 2 – 4 units

Unit 7 – Analysing the strategic position of a business

Unit 8 – Choosing the strategic direction

Unit 9 – Strategic methods

Unit 10 – Managing strategic change

Study methods

Business Studies is a vocational skill as well as an academic subject. You must be prepared to put a lot of time into working on practical case studies, improving your knowledge of current affairs, as well as essay technique, quantitative skills and lots of revision to ensure success.

How will I be assessed?

100% examination - 3 examinations at the end of Year 13

Paper 1: 2 hour exam (33.3%) -

Includes 15 multiple choice questions, short answer questions and two essay questions

Paper 2: 2 hour exam (33.3%) – 3 data response questions worth around 33 marks each consisting of 3 or 4 part questions.

Paper 3: 2 hour exam (33.3%) – One case study followed by approximately 6 long answer questions.

Entry Recommendations

You need to have met the standard school entry requirements including a level 4, or above in English and Maths. It is preferable that you have taken Business at GCSE before but not essential.

Qualification

A Level Business Studies

Awarding Body

AQA

Chemistry



Curriculum Leader: Mr C Hampton

Introduction

Chemistry is the science of the material world. It is concerned with the structure and interactions of all matter in the universe. Chemists use their knowledge and skills to benefit and protect the human race. Our life would be very different without the developments that have been made to fuels, smart materials and medicines!

Progression Opportunities

Chemistry is a subject which can be studied further at degree level or as an excellent foundation for a wide variety of higher education courses or careers. These include Medicine, Pharmacy, Finance, Forensic Science, Law, Physiotherapy, Sports Science and many more. Students often do not realise they need A level Chemistry to study for many Biology related degrees.

Programme of Study

Year 1

Modules include: Inorganic Chemistry (Transition metals, Group 2 metals and Periodicity), Physical Chemistry (Atomic structure Bonding, Acids and Bases) and Practical skills.

Year 2

Modules include: Organic Chemistry (Alcohols, Esters and Alkanes/alkenes), Physical Chemistry (Bonding, Energetics and Kinetics) and Practical skills.

These modules and the practical skills that you have developed will be assessed through three examinations. There will be a teacher assessment of your competence in 12 practical activities although this will not contribute to your final grade.

Study methods

The AQA course has been designed to incorporate modern developments in Chemistry and also the impact of Chemistry on modern society and resources. There is an increased emphasis on understanding and

application rather than recall.

The course and activities within it have been designed with an emphasis on developing transferable problem solving and literacy skills. Typical activities include practical work, group work, modelling, presentations and research exercises.

Method of Assessment

A Level	Inorganic and Physics Chemistry	2 hour written exam with short and long answer questions.
A Level	Inorganic and Physics Chemistry	2 hour written exam with short and long answer questions.
A Level	Practical skills in Chemistry	2 hour written exam with practical based questions, data analysis and multiple choice questions.

Entry Requirements

A minimum of level 6 in GCSE Chemistry or level 6 in GCSE Combined Science. Also a level 6 in Mathematics.

Qualification

A Level Chemistry

Awarding Body

AQA

Cyber Security with ICT



Subject Leader: Ms P Ma

Introduction

In today's world, where ICT is constantly changing, individuals will increasingly need technological and information literacy skills that include the ability to gather, process and manipulate data and digital media technologies. These skills are now as essential as the traditional skills of numeracy and literacy. The impact of ICT on society is enormous and as the percentage of businesses and households connected to communication networks such as the internet grows, so does the need for individuals who can master and manipulate these new technologies. As well as the rapid development of new technologies that gather, organise and share information, familiar technologies like television, multimedia, telephone and computers are evolving and being expanded by digitised information, causing a convergence of technologies.

Progression Opportunities

Digital Media at this level is a popular choice. The skills gained in this qualification allow students to enter further or higher education, or the workplace with a rigorous ICT and Digital Media skill set. Students obtaining this qualification have gone on to study graphic design, computing and game design, Media and Communications, Digital Marketing at University.

Programme of Study

The course consists of six units completed over two years. The first units are;

Media products and audiences (Exam)

The aim of this unit is for you to develop your understanding of how different media institutions operate in order to create products that will appeal to specific target audiences. You will therefore learn about the different ownership models within media industries, and you will learn how to analyse different media products within the sector in order to understand the fundamentals of how meaning is created for audiences.

Pre-production and planning

By completing this unit, you will understand the pre-production process the creative media industry follows when creating a product. You will learn how to carry out research in the planning stage of a media production and about the various acts of legislation that need to be considered.

Create a media product

This aim of this unit is for you to develop knowledge and understanding of the production processes of producing a media product from one of the following:

Print-based product

Audio-visual product

Audio product

Interactive media product

By completing this unit you will understand how interactive multimedia products are used for a range of purposes and across a range of platforms. You will learn how to design and create an interactive media product and test it using both technical and user tests.

Other units include:

Create a digital animation

Graphic design for digital media products

Social media and globalisation

Method of Assessment

There are 2 written exams, 1 controlled assessment and 3 units of coursework

Entry Recommendations

A grade 4 at GCSE in ICT and the standard requirements for entry into Sixth form.

Qualification

Cambridge Technical Introductory Diploma

Awarding Body

OCR

Design Technology - Product



Curriculum Leader: Mrs L Jamieson

Introduction

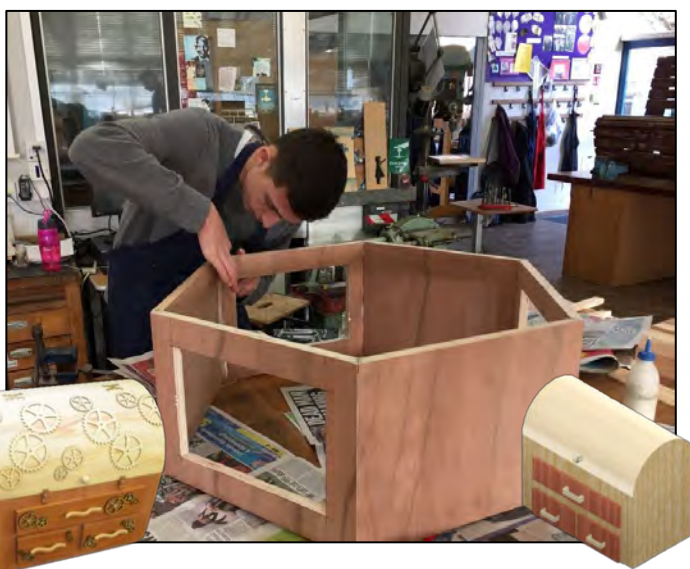
If you have enjoyed the challenge and innovation of GCSE Design Technology and would like to develop and sustain these skills, then this is the course for you. Product Design is a subject that provides the opportunity to study, propose and bring to life prototype solutions closely linked to the real world of product manufacture in a range of material areas. Some students lean towards particular areas such as resistant materials, textiles, graphics, or a combination of materials.

This course will encourage you to initiate design solutions and to develop, test and trial working models and prototypes. Using your imagination, innovation and flair, you will work with concepts and materials, developing an understanding of contemporary design and technological practices and consider the uses and effects of new technologies and modern materials.

Progression Opportunities

There are many different routes available after studying A Level Product Design. Product design could take you into a variety of exciting career paths. Students have the opportunity to go onto studying degree courses in a wide range of design areas. The course will also provide students with valuable skills for practical apprenticeships.

All of the following careers can be accessed through taking Product Design as an A Level: Product Designer, Furniture Designer, Engineering, Automotive Design, Graphic Designer, Set Designer, Interior Designer, Architect, Marketing Consultant, Advertising, Jewellery Designer, Exhibition and Retail Designer, Image Consultant, Animator, Web and Media Designer, Illustrator and Model Maker. All products are designed by someone – why not you?



Method of Assessment

A-level: Specification at a glance

Written Paper 1: Technical Principles 30% 2 h 30

- 120 marks
- Mixture of short and extended response
- Maths questions in a D&T context

Written Paper 2: Designing and Making Principles 20% 1h 30

- 80 marks
- Mixture of short and extended response
- Product analysis questions
- Commercial manufacture questions

Non Examination Assessment (NEA) 50% 45 hrs

- Single substantial design and make task
- Written or electronic portfolio. Must include photographic evidence of practical outcome.
- The context of the possible task will be set by AQA and allow students to select from a list issued to schools. The contexts will change every year and will be released on 1 June in the year prior to the assessment being submitted.

Section	Criteria	Marks
Section A	Exploration	25
Section B	Designing	30
Section C	Making	30
Section D	Analysis and Evaluation	15

Entry Recommendations

You should have at least a level 4 in the following subjects: Resistant Materials or Product Design and Maths. Students who have not taken these subjects at GCSE are also able to apply and a decision will be taken as to suitability from their GCSE levels

Qualification

GCE A-Level Design and Technology: Product Design

Awarding Body

AQA

English Language



Curriculum Leader: Mrs D Davies

Introduction

The English Language 'A' Level course is designed to enable you to develop and apply your understanding of the concepts and methods appropriate for the analysis and study of the English language. You will develop your own skills as producers and interpreters of language.

You will have the opportunity for independent investigation work related to language in use from a range of contexts. You will study the changes in English Language from the past to **the present day; children's acquisition of language**; the use of language in different regions and groups and the way language might be used to assert power and shape social groups. You will look at both written and spoken language and some multi-modal language.

Progression Opportunities

English Language 'A' level provides a basis for further specific study in higher education or provides a qualification that can be used to support other qualifications for access to other areas of study. Many of our students use English Language A-Level as a qualification for entry into higher education. Career routes that may follow from the study of English Language include: journalism and the media; childcare and teaching; publishing; advertising; legal work and any job where there is an emphasis on communication.

Programme of Study

First Year Units

Language Diversity: this unit studies the way different groups in society use language in different ways. These groups might be regional, social, occupational, or gender groups.

Language and the Individual: this unit studies the way that language can be used to represent different people or groups and the ways that individuals use language to express themselves. Both units teach you terminology and concepts about language use that you can apply to texts.

Second Year Units

Units in the second year are the same topics as those in the first year but with additional concepts and content built on. For example, language change over time, child language acquisition and your own journalistic writing are studied in Year 13 as well as undertaking a language investigation into a topic of your choice.

Study methods

A wide range of learning and study methods will be employed ranging from direct teaching; group work; discussion and independent investigative work. Teaching is shared between two members of the department.

Method of Assessment

The course is 80% exam and 20% coursework.

Entry Recommendations

You should have achieved a sound GCSE in English Language: 4 minimum but ideally at grade 5 or Higher.

Qualification

GCE A Level English Language

Awarding Body

AQA

English Literature



Curriculum Leader: Mrs D Davies

Introduction

The English Literature 'A' Level course is designed to enable you to develop awareness and appreciation of a range of literary forms, genres and texts. If you have enjoyed the study and analysis of English Literature in the past and enjoy reading widely then this subject is likely to be for you. You will have the opportunity for independent investigation work on novels, poetry and drama. You will extend your ideas through reading in breadth and depth and through writing, presentations and discussion. You will develop your own skills in analysing and comparing texts and their contexts. You will investigate texts of different genres or periods.

Progression Opportunities

English Literature 'A' level is a facilitating subject and provides a basis for further specific study in higher education or provides a qualification that can be used to support other qualifications for access to other areas of study. Many of our students use English Literature 'A' Level as a qualification for entry into higher education. Career routes that may follow from the study of English Literature include: journalism and the media; teaching; publishing; advertising; legal work and any job where there is an emphasis on reading background materials and interpreting them. It is highly respected as a subject by many academic institutions.

Programme of Study

First Year Units –

Literary genres: this unit studies several texts from the genre of tragedy, looking at what the common features of this genre are and how writers from different periods and in different contexts have interpreted and created works in this genre. You will study one of Shakespeare's famous and often considered greatest tragedies: *Othello*; the modern masterpiece by American playwright Arthur Miller: *Death of a Salesman* and the selected poetic works of the Romantic poet John Keats.

You will analyse the techniques used by writers and the effects they create as well as their

intended themes and ideas as well as the ways that the contexts they write in have shaped their work. You will develop the skills to confidently interpret literary works and the technical knowledge of how they are constructed.

Second Year Units

The second year units build on the ones studied in Year 12 by adding additional content to them and introducing a coursework element.

Elements of political and social protest writing: you will explore the ways writers have shaped the genre and used literature for political means. Texts will include: the ultimate dystopian work of fiction of the modern era: *The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood; *The Kite Runner* by Afghan-American author Khaled Hosseini and *Songs of Innocence and of Experience*, an illustrated collection of poems by the wonderful William Blake.

Coursework: wider reading about critical theory is used here to interpret chosen texts through the lens of feminist, Marxist or other literary criticism.

Study methods

A wide range of learning and study methods will be employed ranging from direct teaching; group work; discussion and independent investigative work. Teaching is shared between two members of the department.

Method of Assessment

80% exam and 20% coursework

Entry Recommendations

You should have achieved a sound GCSE in English Literature. A minimum of a 5 but ideally a grade 6 or higher and also have your GCSE in English Language.

Qualification

GCE A Level English Literature

Awarding Body

AQA



Curriculum Leader: Mrs S Sismondi

At 'A' level we build on the basic skills acquired at GCSE to use language in more complex situations whether it is enjoying a film, talking about politics or winning an argument.

We base the course on an up-to-date course book with listening material which is written for the AQA specification. Lessons are also supplemented with a huge variety of other materials.

See the world: travel abroad is far more interesting when you can speak the language of the country you are visiting. In French and German lessons, you will learn more about the countries where the language is spoken. There will be opportunities to visit France and Germany during your studies.

Languages mix well: languages go really well with a wide range of topics/ courses that you also choose at 'A' level.

Why do Languages?

Languages can help you get a good job: **"the need for people with language skills in UK businesses has never been higher"/ "one in five UK companies is losing business because it lacks language or cultural skills"** – Independent unemployment rates are low among those who study a language at university.

Average unemployment rate amongst graduates at the end of their graduation **year is 7% - for French graduates the figure drops to 4% - Bangor University**

Assessment

Year 12	Weighting	Examination
Unit 1 Listening, reading and translation into English	45% of AS	1hr 45 mins
Unit 2 Translation into target language and writing	25% of AS	1hr 30 mins
Unit 3 Speaking test	30% of AS	12-14 mins
Year 13		
Unit 1 Listening, reading, translation into English and into target language	50% of A level	2 hr 30 mins
Unit 2 Written paper; 1 question on the film and 1 question on the book	20% of A level	2 hrs
Unit 3 Speaking test	30% of A level	21-23 mins

Entry requirements
Level 5 in your respective language at GCSE

Qualification
GCE A Level Language

Awarding Body
AQA

Further Mathematics



Curriculum Leader: Miss L Beardsworth

Introduction

Further Mathematics is a stimulating, challenging extension to the Mathematics course. As such, it is only available to students who have opted to take 'A' level Mathematics. It is strongly advised for students who wish to study Mathematics or Mathematics related subjects beyond the Sixth Form.

If you are a natural mathematician with a desire to be absorbed into the subject, and study Mathematics or a directly Mathematics related degree course at university, then Further Mathematics is for you.

Progression Opportunities

In recent years, students followed Further Mathematics at 'A' Level with degree courses in Mathematics at highly prestigious universities.

Further Mathematics is particularly useful for anyone intending to go on to study Computing, Physics and Engineering.

Programme of Study

The Further Mathematics programme of study is designed to take place over two years, leading to a full 'A' level qualification

The Further Mathematics course consists of three equally weighted modules; two pure mathematics modules and one applied module.

The pure module covered in year one includes the study of complex numbers, further algebra and functions, further calculus, further vectors, polar coordinates and hyperbolic functions.

This is supplemented in year two with proof, matrices, differential equations, trigonometry and coordinate geometry.

The applied module will include the study of two of the following: statistics, mechanics and decision mathematics.

- Statistics provides a toolkit to analyse trends in data and probability; it links closely to subjects such as Biology, Geography and Psychology.
- Mechanics is the study of forces and motion. It links closely to Physics.
- Decision Mathematics looks for optimal solutions to real world problems. It has become increasingly popular in recent years due to its applications in Computer Science.

Study methods

Teacher led tutorials, including presentations, group and paired work and investigations, form the basis of the methods of study. Individual work, where you take the techniques that you have learned and apply them to a variety of problems, is essential to ensure that you are fully familiar with their applications and uses.

Method of Assessment

100% examination.

There are three exams each lasting two hours.

Entry Recommendations

You must have a grade 8 or 9 at GCSE and a love of the subject if you are to enjoy and cope with the demands of Further Mathematics.

In addition, you must take 'A' level Mathematics.

Qualification

GCE A Level Further Mathematics

Awarding Body

AQA



Curriculum Leader: Mr D Sladen

Introduction:

Are you interested in the physical world around you and how it has been shaped? Do you want to know more about the challenges that we face in the 21st Century? Are you interested in how these challenges affect people around the world differently? Would you like to investigate ways in which we can manage these challenges? Geography is a diverse and engaging subject which covers issues relevant to **today's world**.

Progression Opportunities

Did you know, Geography is in the top 5 for most employable subjects (92.6% employment rate)? Studying Geography leads to an understanding of people, society and the environment. It allows us to understand the complexities of how human activities and environments impact on each other, and the **challenges this creates for 'stakeholders'**. **Geographers have always been "marketable" because** of their ability to gather a wide range of information, analysis, synthesise it and then make appropriate suggestions as to the way forward. People who study Geography at 'A' level or beyond can be found across all fields of employment and professions. It can also lead directly to careers in environmental management; cartography; Geographical Information Systems (GIS); urban planning; transport management and many more.

In each area of study students are encouraged to consider their own values and attitudes to the issues being studied and support their learning of ideas through the study of specific case studies. Students will develop a variety of geographical skills which will broaden and deepen existing knowledge.

Programme of Study

A2 Geography

A2 Geography develops and extends on the range and breadth of study from GCSE.

The course is divided into three sections

– Physical Geography and Environment, Human Geography and an Independent Geographical Investigation – which build on and **develop candidates' subject knowledge and** understanding of key environments, human processes and contemporary issues.

The Physical and Human components allow students to study a range of relevant core contemporary

geographical issues. Additional areas of study focus on the interaction between the human and physical dimensions, and the challenges and issues this presents. The investigation component requires students to complete at least four days of fieldwork (*currently a UK weekend residential, and a collaborative Barcelona trip with Tadcaster Grammar School*), devise and conduct their own geographical investigation.

Study methods

Students are assessed entirely through three assessed units in Year 13. Assessment is done through a mixture of two examinations and one piece of coursework. To gather a diverse and up-to-date working knowledge of the subject, students are expected to be adept at independent study and wider reading and research.

Method of Assessment

A2 Qualification

Component 1: Physical geography (*Water and Carbon Cycles/Coastal Systems and Landscapes/Hazards*). Written paper, 2.5 hours. 40% of total A2 marks

Component 2: Human geography (*Global Systems and Global Governance/Changing Places/Contemporary Urban Environments*). Written paper, 2.5 hours. 40% of total A2 marks.

Component 3 Geographical Investigation 3,000-4,000 word geographical fieldwork investigation defined and developed by students. 20% of total A2 marks.

Entry Recommendations

5 GCSEs at level 4+ (including English & Maths) with a level 4 in Geography

Qualification

GCE A Level Geography

Awarding Body

AQA

Health & Social Care



Subject Leader: Miss C Dodd

Introduction

Most people will gain employment where they are working with people. Over 40% of the working population are employed by caring organisations either in the statutory sector i.e. The NHS and Social Services including schools or the independent sector, through private and voluntary organisations. BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Health & Social Care will provide you with some of the skills you will need for a career in the caring professions

Progression Opportunities

The course will provide a good foundation for students who are considering a career in the Health Service, Social Services, the Police Service, Teaching or any career in which there is an element of working with people.

Programme of Study

First Year Units –

Unit 1 - Human Lifespan Development

This unit will develop your knowledge and understanding of patterns of human growth and development, and the experience of health and well-being. You will learn about factors that can influence human growth, development and human health. Some of these are inherited and some are acquired through environmental, social or financial factors during our lifespan.

Unit 5 – Meeting Individual Needs

In this unit, you will learn about the values and principles of meeting care and support needs and look at some of the ethical issues that arise when personalising care. You will examine factors that can impact the professionals who provide the care and support, and the challenges that must be overcome to allow access to good quality care and health services.

Second Year Units -

Working in Health and Social Care

This unit will help you to understand what it is like to work in the health and social care sector. You will

begin by looking at the range of roles and general responsibilities of people who work in health and social care settings. You will learn about the organisations that provide services in this sector, and the different settings in which these services are delivered according to the needs of the service user.

Unit 14 – Physiological Disorders

In this unit, you will learn about the signs and symptoms of physiological disorders and how they are investigated and diagnosed. You will also learn about the different types of treatment and support available for individual service users, including surgery, rehabilitation and complementary therapies.

Study methods

Students will sit one examination in each year. They will also be assessed in two portfolio/coursework units.

Method of Assessment

Year 1

Unit 1 – Human Lifespan Development - Examined

Unit 5 – Meeting Individual Needs – Coursework Based

Year 2

Unit 2 – Working in Health and Social Care – Examined unit

Unit 14 – Physiological Disorders – Coursework Based

Entry Recommendations

A minimum of 5 GCSE's at level 4, or above including English. Students should have achieved, if studied, at least a Merit at Level 2 in Health and Social Care although intervention will be put in place for those without this requirement.

It would be useful but not essential if students studied Biology or Psychology alongside Health & Social Care.

Qualification

BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Health and Social Care – 1 A Level Equivalent.

Awarding Body

Pearson Edexcel



Curriculum Leader: Mr K Shanks

Introduction

Some of the biggest problems in present day society revolve around the legacy of economic crisis, the debates about the role of the state in the lives of ordinary people, the impact of so-called 'populist' nationalism and the problems of overcoming racial and class divides in our society. The roots of these issues are all explored in **our exciting 'A' level History curriculum**, therefore enabling students to have a firm grasp of the vital historical developments of the past 200 years while understanding the problems faced by governments and the broader population in the modern world.

COURSE CONTENT

Exam board: Edexcel

The course consists of three exams and one piece of coursework. For the Year 12 content we follow Edexcel Route G, exploring Nationalism, Dictatorship and Democracy in Twentieth Century Europe. All of the content is assessed at the end of Year 13. The topics are as follows:

Year 12 content	<p>Paper 1G: Germany and West Germany 1918-1989 (2hr 15 minute exam)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Political and Governmental Change 1918-89</i> <i>Opposition, Control and Consent 1918-89</i> <i>Economic Development and Policies 1918-89</i> <i>Aspects of life in Germany and West Germany 1918-89</i> <i>INTERPRETATIONS: Hitler's foreign policy and the outbreak of World War II.</i> 	<p>Paper 2G: The rise and fall of fascism in Italy c1911-1946 (1hr 30 minute exam)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The Liberal State 1911-18</i> <i>The rise of Mussolini and the creation of a fascist dictatorship 1919-26</i> <i>The fascist state 1925-40</i> <i>Challenges to, and the fall of, the fascist state 1935-1946</i>
Year 13 content	<p>Coursework: Martin Luther King and the Civil Rights Movement in the USA 1954-1968</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Students complete a 3,500-4,000 word essay focusing on historians' interpretations of the civil rights movement.</i> <i>We cover a range of relevant content in the short taught course, before then developing student skills in preparation for researching and writing the assignment, which must be completed by the Easter Holidays of Year 13.</i> 	<p>Paper 3: The British Experience of Warfare c1790-1918</p> <p><u>Aspects in Breadth</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Changes in organising the military</i> <i>Changes in weaponry and the role of the people</i> <p><u>Aspects in Depth</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Britain and the French Wars 1793-1815</i> <i>The Crimean War 1854-56</i> <i>The Second Boer War 1899-1902</i> <i>Trench Warfare on the Western Front 1914-1918</i> <i>The war in the air 1914-1918</i>

Entry Requirements

5 GCSEs at level 4+ (including English & Maths) with a level 4 in History

Mathematics



Curriculum Leader: Miss L Beardsworth

Introduction

'A' level Mathematics builds on and extends the skills and knowledge that you have developed during the study of GCSE Mathematics. As such, some of the topics for example trigonometry and algebra will already be familiar to you, whilst others, such as calculus, will present you with a fresh perspective on Mathematics.

By studying Mathematics, you will not only learn about Mathematical concepts and techniques, but will develop your problem solving and logical thinking skills. **As such, mathematics is an 'A' level** highly prized by universities and employers (according to the London School of Economics people who studied 'A' level mathematics earn an average of 11% more than people who did not).

Progression Opportunities

A level Mathematics is helpful for many careers and university courses, particularly those relating to science and engineering as well as financial services including banking and accounting. Possible future routes following A level Mathematics include Medicine, Accountancy, Computer Science, Economics and Business Studies, Psychology, Sports Science, Geography and, of course, further Mathematical study.

Programme of Study

The Mathematics programme of study spans two years and is examined purely through exams at the end of these two years.

'A' level Mathematics combines the study of Pure Mathematics with its applications in both Statistics and Mechanics.

The Pure Mathematics is what most people think of when they hear maths. It includes proof, algebra and functions, coordinate geometry, sequences and series, trigonometry, exponentials and logarithms, differentiation, integration and vectors.

In 'A' level you then learn how to apply this to both Statistics and Mechanics.

- Statistics provides a toolkit to analyse trends in data and probability; it links

closely to subjects such as Biology, Geography and Psychology.

- Mechanics is the study of forces and motion. It links closely to Physics.

Study methods

Teacher led tutorials, including presentations, group and paired work and investigations, form the basis of the methods of study. Individual work where you take the techniques that you have learned and apply them to a variety of problems is essential to ensure that you are fully familiar with their applications and uses.

Method of Assessment

100% examination.

This consists of three exams sat at the end of year 13, each lasting 2 hours.

One exam is solely on Pure Mathematics.

Another combines Pure Mathematics with Statistics.

The final combines Pure Mathematics with Mechanics.

Entry Recommendations

A level Mathematics builds on GCSE Mathematics. As such, it is essential that you have a grade 6 or higher in GCSE Mathematics.

Students who have achieved a grade 4 or 5 and wish to continue to study Mathematics in post-16 should consider the Core Maths course.

Qualification

GCE A Level Mathematics

Awarding Body

AQA

Media Studies



Leader of Sixth Form Media: Mrs D Davies

Introduction

Most of the information we receive from the world is mediated – it is selected and organised in particular ways before it is re-presented to us. A large proportion of this information comes from the mass media: television, radio, the internet, the press and many other forms, many of which have developed rapidly over the last few years due to the boom in digital technology. In Media Studies you learn to read media texts across this broad range, and understand the real messages behind these varied products, and the reasons why they have been produced this way.

The Media Studies course does help to develop creative and practical skills; students produce media texts using video, photography and desktop publishing technology. However, it is mainly an academic subject with written analytical essay answers and independently researched theory and debates. It is a theoretical and analytical subject covering political, social and current affairs so this will aid a range of other subjects and careers where insight, critical analysis and hypothesising, as well as reading and extended written communication are involved.

Progression Opportunities

As well as providing a grounding for students who wish to enter a career in media areas such as television, radio, film or web production, Media Studies is excellent for developing critical, analytical and creative skills. It is therefore a good choice for students who wish to study Drama, Art or English Literature courses at university, as well as courses directly linked to the media such as journalism or film studies. Moreover, as the course requires students to look in depth at the factors influencing how media texts precisely target their audiences, it is a useful choice for students who wish to enter a career in business or marketing.

Programme of Study

First Year Units

Component 1: Exam based unit in which you watch or read an unseen media text analysing the way it has been constructed and the underlying

messages it sends. Compare this with a range of media texts studied for the exam covering advertising, film, videogame, music video, radio and newspapers

Component 2: Exam based unit in which you study several texts in more depth in relation to various theoretical frameworks, studying institutions audiences, media language and representations within the text as well as theoretical views such as feminism, postmodernism and Marxism. The form studied are TV drama, magazines and their online presence and online journalism or blogging.

NEA: Practical coursework unit in which you have to produce two or three media products using your own technical and creative skills. You must also write an analysis of the practical work, evaluating its strengths and weaknesses.

The course is a 2 year linear course. 70% is exam based and 30% coursework.

Study methods

A range of study methods are used from independent research and presentations, to discussion, group work and written responses. Practical skills are built by presenting learning in practical ways as well as traditional essays.

Method of Assessment

70% is exam based and 30% coursework. Exams are essay based.

Entry Recommendations

A minimum of level 4 in GCSE English Language but ideally a 5.

Qualification

GCE A Level Media Studies

Awarding Body

Eduqas

Performing Arts



Teacher of Performing Arts: Miss N Dennis

Introduction

The Extended Certificate in Performing Arts is designed for learners who are passionate about drama and interested in learning about the Performing Arts sector alongside other fields of study. This course will enable students to gain a practical experience of Performing Arts, developing a range of skills and techniques in various disciplines and further explore Theatre Practitioners' work. The course aims to equip learners with transferable knowledge and skills for progression to Higher Education and Drama Schools.

Progression Opportunities

Performing Arts is a facilitating subject that provides a strong basis for further study in Higher Education, both at University and Drama School or can be a complementary qualification to access other academic areas of study. Many Higher Education establishments are impressed when a student has continued with a subject they are passionate about and find that confidence gained from studying a Performing Arts course is attractive to potential employers. There are a wide range of potential vocations in the Performing Arts sector aside from Professional Acting, such as; Theatre Management, Directing, Television and Radio Production, Media, Journalism, Marketing and Communications.

Programme of Study

Investigating Practitioners' Work - Externally Assessed.

Students will carry out an investigation and critical analysis of a set task based on a Theatre Practitioner. They will complete a piece of extended writing that demonstrates their understanding of contextual factors that influence **practitioners' work. Students will produce the writing based on critical analysis, knowledge and understanding of performance, production and repertoire needed for the sector.**

Developing Skills and Techniques for Live Performance – Internally Assessed.

Learners explore technical performance skills with a focus on developing skills and techniques in at

least two performance styles. For actors, dancers and singers, **the 'tools' are the body, the voice** and the creative and intellectual skills needed to interpret the performance material to communicate with and entertain an audience. Employment opportunities in performing arts often require the performer to demonstrate skills in more than one style, for example the ability to perform in classical texts or repertoire as well as contemporary works. This unit will allow student to develop skills and knowledge in a range of styles and techniques for Live Performance.

Other Units of the course include: Performing Arts in the Community, Writing for Performance, Screen Acting, Theatre Directing, Acting Styles, Improvisation and Physical Theatre Techniques.

Study methods

A wide range of learning and study methods will be employed ranging from direct teaching, practical exploration, student led workshops, independent group rehearsal and independent research and preparation.

Method of Assessment

There are 4 assessed units; 2 of which are mandatory and 2 are chosen by staff based on **student's strengths and abilities.**

Mandatory content (83%).

External assessment (58%).

Entry Recommendations

You should have achieved a sound GCSE or Level 2 BTEC qualification in a Performing Arts subject.

Qualification

BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Performing Arts (*Equivalent in size to one A Level*)

Physical Education



Curriculum Leader: Mr D Grannon

Introduction

This 'A' Level is a challenging and rewarding course. Students will look at a range of issues from movement and motion to psychology, sociology and physiology.

Progression Opportunities

This course will allow you to study at university. If you are interested in physiotherapy, sports massage, coaching, teaching or working in sport then this course is the right one for you.

Programme of Study

This course is made up of three sections. The first section has an exam on factors affecting participation in physical activity and sport, which includes: applied anatomy and physiology, skill acquisition, sport and society.

The second section has an exam on factors affecting optimal performance in physical activity and sport, which includes the following topics: exercise physiology and biomechanics, sport psychology, sport and society, technology in sport.

The 'non-exam assessment' (NEA) element of the course requires students to be assessed as a performer or coach in the full sided version of one activity. There will also be a written/verbal analysis of performance.

Study Methods

You will have different teachers who specialise in different topics and you will study each topic alongside each other. The practical work will be done in school but if you specialise in a sport outside of school (skiing for example) then you can use that sport. The coursework element requires you to use all of the theory work you have covered, to analyse and evaluate performance.

Methods of Assessment

The exams for both sections are two hours long and will include multiple choice, short answer and

extended writing tasks for all the different topics covered in the course.

How it's assessed:

Two written exams:

- 2 hours
- 105 marks
- 35 % of A-level

Non-exam assessment (NEA):

- Internal assessment, external moderation
- 90 marks
- 30 % of A-level

Entry Recommendations

For this course you will need 5 Level 4+ grades, with at least a 4+ in English. Students need to be organised, hardworking, independent and have a love of sport.

Qualification

A-Level Physical Education

Awarding Body

AQA Exam Board

Photography



Curriculum Leader: Mrs L Jamieson

Subject teacher: Ms S Silver

Introduction

Photography is about looking, learning, thinking and communicating ideas. It inspires creative thinkers.

Photography means 'drawing with light' and that is what photographers do when they take a picture. Many photographers have explored various techniques to create images that make a personal statement about things that have interested or concerned them. The most exciting aspect of photography is that you are capturing the world as you see it.

Progression Opportunities

Many of our students move on to photography degrees at university, or to study a Foundation Diploma in Art and Design. Photography students can consider a career in any of the following areas: fashion; graphic design; architectural; illustration; forensic; journalism; studio based photography; wedding photographer, teacher; advertising; web-design; Photoshop specialist in special effects or in film and television work. Many photographers become self-employed and establish their own business.

This is a 2 year linear course which is examined at the end of year 13

Programme of Study

Year 1 - The Portfolio

You will be encouraged to develop your knowledge of how your camera works and apply this knowledge to your own photographs. You will research different photographic techniques together with learning about photographers that have influenced each process. Projects are thematic and will include: Traces, Places and Spaces – composition, a sense of place and a **sustained project 'Covert and Obscure'**. There will be opportunities to shoot on location and in the studio learning about lighting techniques. Photoshop skills will also be developed and experimentation encouraged.

Second Year Units – A2 Qualifications

Personal Investigation

This unit provides you with an opportunity to explore an independent theme of your choice. Alongside your sustained practical investigation and responses you must produce a written, illustrated essay (1000-3000) words.

This critical and contextual study that will support your practical work.

The Externally set Assignment

This is the culmination of the course. The exam board release a number of themes you will select and respond from the theme of your choice. You are given a preparatory period to produce a sketchbook full of practical investigations and developments supported by influences from other artists/designers. You will have 15 hours supervised time to produce an ambitious creative response to your theme connecting to your development work from your sketchbook.

Study methods

We want you to develop into independent learners who use their creative skills and are willing to take risks in their work. We encourage a collaborative studio environment reflecting an art college atmosphere. You will want to develop your technical skills and be able to apply new techniques and follow your own ideas. Do you need your own camera? – Yes, it helps, but we have some you can experiment with. There may be a need to make a voluntary contribution to material costs e.g. printing/photographic paper.

Method of Assessment

AS Qualification

Component 1 100% internally assessed

A2 Qualification

Personal Investigation 60%

Externally Set Assignment (15 hours) 40%

Entry Recommendations

The most important requirement is enthusiasm for Photography. A background in Art at GCSE level is a clear advantage and if you have followed Art to GCSE level you should have at least a level 4. We do consider students who have not taken Art but show the right aptitude and attitude towards the subject.

Qualification

GCE Photography

Awarding Body

AQA



Curriculum Leader: Mr C Hampton

Introduction

Physics is everywhere in our modern world. From improving our performance in sporting events and enhancing our experience of music, to developing food production and refining our health care. Life would be very different without our understanding of Physics!

Progression Opportunities

Physics qualifications develop many sought after skills which are transferable in the work place. These include problem solving, numeracy and the ability to analyse and evaluate information. Physics is a highly regarded qualification for other degree courses and also in the jobs market. This course will help you to access Physics at degree level along with many other Science and Engineering courses. There are a massive range of career opportunities which can be accessed through Physics including Medicine, Engineering, Architecture, Forensics, Computing, Meteorology, Law, Finance and Journalism.

Programme of Study

Year 1

The modules included are:

- Working as a Physicist.
- Good enough to eat.
- Higher, faster, stronger.
- Technology in space.
- The Sound of music.
- Digging up the past.
- Spare – part surgery.

Year 2

In addition to the AS modules, the following modules are included:

- Transport on track.
- The medium is the message.
- Probing the heart of the matter.
- Build or bust?
- Reach for the stars.

Study methods

The Edexcel 'A' Level Physics course is a context driven course that explores the Physics in everyday life. Through these contexts students learn about the underlying laws, theories and models of Physics.

The context of the course is often modelled through experimentation, and these facilitate a teaching approach which is based on problem solving. In addition to practical work, typical activities include group work, presentations and research exercises.

Method of Assessment

The examination papers will include a variety of question styles from: structured; extended response; calculation based; multiple- choice and problem- solving.



Additional Courses offered and held at Tadcaster Grammar School

2019 - 2021



A Level Computer Science

About the Course

Computer Science has computational thinking at its core; thinking that provides solutions to problems, designs systems and recognises the nature of human and machine intelligence. Students embarking on this course should have previous programming experience and an interest in how computers actually work and how they are used to solve problems.

Progression Opportunities

Whether you choose to go into employment or university education, the opportunities available to you are vast. Game development, web design, app development, network security and network engineering are just some of the possibilities associated with having studied Computer Science.

Entry Requirements

Computer Science

- A minimum of a 5 in GCSE Computer Science
- Or, if you did not study GCSE Computer Science, you must have previous programming experience (you will need to meet with the subject leader to discuss your experience)

Mathematics

- As the course has a strong mathematical underpinning, a minimum of a 6 is recommended in GCSE Mathematics. We may accept a 5 if you meet with the subject leader before embarking on the course.

Awarding Body:

OCR

Qualification code H446



Course Content

Component 01 - Computer Systems

This component will introduce learners to a range of topics including:

- The internal workings of the CPU (central processing unit)
- How software is developed
- How data is exchanged between computers and software
- Networks and web technologies
- Data structures used in programming
- Boolean algebra and floating point numbers
- A range of legal, moral and ethical issues involved in this rapidly changing field

Component 02 - Algorithms and Programming

This unit will build on the knowledge and skills developed in component 01. Students will develop their understanding of:

- Computational thinking - this includes the range of techniques used to break down and solve problems
- Programming techniques - where you will learn about the various tools and techniques programmers use
- Algorithms - which will introduce you to a range of algorithms used by developers, and how to program them. You will learn about algorithms that could help you program a solution to a maze, and ones that will help you sort lists efficiently, as well as others.

Component 03 - Programming project

Learners will be expected to analyse, design, develop, test and evaluate a program written in any one of the approved languages. The actual problem is one that each student gets to choose (with guidance from their teacher), allowing them to focus on an area of interest. Students will apply the principles of agile development to their project.

Study Methods

For components 01 and 02 students will receive a mixture of taught theory lessons which will be delivered in various formats, including lectures, research tasks, practical experiments and studying existing products. These lessons will build upon the core knowledge developed at GCSE.

For the programming project, students will work on their chosen project for an extended period of time, applying knowledge and skills gained in the other parts of the course along with skills gained due to their own research and experimentation.

Method of Assessment

Computer Systems - Written Paper (40%)

Algorithms and Programming - Written Paper (40%)

Programming Project - Non Examination Assessment (20%)





A Level Drama & Theatre Studies

About the Course

Drama and Theatre Studies is an art, a practical activity and an intellectual discipline. You will develop a range of theatre-making skills as well as refining your analytical thinking, your collaborative working skills and your approach to research. The course is academically challenging but also develops practical acting, directing and design skills. You are expected to understand the social, cultural and historical contexts in which theatre is created and be able to interpret theatre for a 21st Century audience whilst remaining aware of the text's original performance conditions and context. In today's working environment, the ability to think creatively, present ideas confidently and communicate effectively is vital. Drama and Theatre Studies will extend your Interpersonal skills and will equip you for an increasingly communications-based society. In addition to preparing you for further study or a possible career in the performing arts, this course offers the opportunity to develop key transferable skills and explore this exciting art form which examines human interaction, improves imagination, fosters creativity and helps us to make sense of the world.

Progression Opportunities

The A Level Drama and Theatre Studies qualification can lead to further study of the Arts and Performance at University or Drama School. It complements a range of subjects e.g. English, Psychology, Art, Music, History, Sociology and can also broaden the portfolio of students studying Science/Maths/Business/Language courses. The course helps prepare students for careers in a wide range of fields e.g. PR, Law, Teaching, Media, Advertising. It is ideal for those interested in working in theatre, film, television, the music industry and the arts.

Entry Requirements

Enthusiasm and passion for the Theatre is the most important requirement. It is not necessary to have studied Drama at GCSE as long as you can demonstrate your interest in the Theatre and performance.

Awarding Body

AQA

Qualification code 7262



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Course Content

Drama and Theatre – written examination (40% of qualification). This is an externally assessed open book 3-hour written examination in three sections. Section A asks you to answer one extended question on a set text. Section B asks you to answer a three-part question on an unseen text extract from a second set text. Section C is an extended question on a live theatre production. For this examination you will study two set texts and see a third text in performance.

Creating Original Drama – practical unit (30% of qualification). You will devise an original piece of theatre from a stimulus for performance to an audience which takes into account the ideas of a recognised drama practitioner. You can be assessed as a performer or designer or director. Assessment is by portfolio (written and/or recorded evidence) and the devised piece itself (either your performance, directing or design realisation).

Making Theatre – practical unit (30% of qualification). You will take on a role in a performance of a text extract, either as an actor, director or designer. In preparation for this component you will study and explore three play texts. For the examination (assessed externally) you will perform/present one extract from one of the texts influenced by the methodology of a key theatre practitioner and submit ideas for the performance of extracts from the other two texts in a reflective report.

Study Methods

During the course you will study in depth a minimum of five full play scripts and at least two influential theatre practitioners. Plays are studied through a mixture of practical workshops, discussion, presentations and lectures. The course is highly practical and you should be prepared to take on the roles of actor, designer and director as well as studying texts and practitioners theoretically and academically. You must develop an excellent grasp of theatrical history and the social, cultural and historical contexts as well as honing your practical skills. In addition to timetabled study, you will be expected to attend live theatre productions and workshops/talks delivered by professional theatre practitioners. The course includes a substantial element of personal research and independent lesson preparation which may include planning workshop sessions, rehearsals and preparing presentations. You must be willing to read around the subject and make notes to back up your learning in timetabled lessons. A pre-requisite for success is that you need to have a genuine passion for the Theatre and go to see as many live productions as possible. It is helpful if you take part in plenty of extra-curricular drama either as a performer, designer or technician. You must be prepared to work closely with others both in and out of lessons as there is a substantial amount of group work involved in the course.

Method of Assessment

One component (devising) is teacher assessed and moderated externally. The other two components (one practical examination and one written examination) are externally examined.





A Level Economics

About the Course

If you study Economics you will find out how economists view the world. Something as seemingly uninteresting as drinking a Cappuccino in a shop would be interesting to an economist. An economist would see players in an intriguing game of signals and negotiations. The game is for high stakes; some of the people who worked to get that coffee in front of you made a lot of money, some made very little. The economist knows the Cappuccino is the product of an incredible team effort.

While economists are constantly thinking about the things going on around them, they are not limited to discussing local matters. If you talked to an economist you might point to the gap between the world's rich countries and the world's poor ones and say it's appalling. An economist would share this injustice but also tell you why rich countries are rich and poor countries are poor and ways the gaps could be bridged.

Progression Opportunities

Economics graduates are highly sought after. Economists develop skills of data handling and analysis which are vital in today's workplace.

Entry Requirements

Any student gaining a grade 5 or better in GCSE Mathematics and English would be automatically accepted onto the course. Students gaining a grade 4 would only be accepted subject to an interview with a representative of the Business and Commercial Subjects Faculty to determine suitability. Students do not need to have studied the subject at GCSE.

Awarding Body

AQA

Qualification code 7136



Course Content

Year 12

Module 1

You will study the generation of markets and market failure. This will cover the economic problem and price determination as well as looking at how goods and services are produced. You will study competitive and concentrated markets, you will also look at the market mechanism, market failure and government failure.

Module 2

This module looks at the national economy in a global context. To this end, you will study the macroeconomic performance indicators of inflation, unemployment, economic growth and the balance of payments. You will analyse how the economy works and the macroeconomic policy instruments available to a government under monetary, fiscal and supply side policy.

Year 13

Module 3

Covers the Year 12 context of Module 1 expanding upon competitive and non-competitive markets looking at competition, imperfect competition and monopolies in greater detail. You will also study the labour market and the distribution of income and wealth in the UK and poverty and inequality.

Module 4

Covers the Year 12 context of Module 2 expanding upon the areas covered; in particular going into greater detail with regard to macroeconomic performance and the role of UK financial markets.

Study Methods

In Economics you will learn largely by doing. You will take part in the Bank of England's Target 2.0 competitions and a student investment competition. These learning experiences help to generate a great deal of economic understanding. In addition you will be encouraged to contribute your views and ideas in class. Most importantly, you will be given the examination practice to ensure top grades.

Method of Assessment

Paper 1: Market and Market failure - 2 hour paper (33.3%)

Paper 2: National and International Economy - 2 hour paper (33.3%)

Paper 3: Economic Principles - 2 hour paper assessing the whole course (33.3%)



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A Level Law

About the Course

You probably have your own view of lawyers, perhaps received from a family member, friend, or even from your favourite television programme. You may wish to be a successful lawyer in order to enter into politics, business, international finance and banking or simply practice law in your home town or city. Studying law can often be considered a smart career move as it commands status, prestige, employment, and promotion prospects.

The course is aimed at helping you to develop an understanding of legal methods and reasoning. To develop the techniques of logical thinking and the skills necessary to analyse and solve problems, by applying legal rule. You will also develop the ability to communicate legal arguments and conclusions, with reference to appropriate legal authority. Finally it is aimed at creating a critical awareness of the changing nature of Law in society.

Progression Opportunities

A large proportion of students who have studied A-level Law at TGS have continued onto study Law and other degrees at a range of Universities including Cambridge, Durham, Manchester and Hull. The study of Law also opens opportunities to work in the police service, courts or any job requiring logical and reasoning skills.

Entry Requirements

Any student gaining a grade 5 or better in GCSE English Language would be automatically accepted onto the course. Students gaining a grade 4 would only be accepted subject to an interview with a representative of the Business and Commercial Subjects Faculty to determine suitability.

Awarding Body

AQA

Qualification code 7162



Course Content

Year 12

The Nature of Law and the English Legal System

In this unit you will examine the distinction between enforceable legal rules and principles and other rules and norms of behaviour. You will also gain an understanding of the criminal and civil court system, together with the people who work within the legal systems including judges, barristers and juries.

Criminal Law

Your study will include; rules and principles concerning general elements of criminal liability and liability for non-fatal offences against the person, for example, assault and battery.

Tort Law

This is the study of negligence for physical injury to people and damage to property and occupier's liability.

Year 13

This builds on all three topics studied in Year 12 and includes; law and morality, murder and manslaughter, economic loss and psychiatric injury together with a module on the law of contract.

Study Methods

The results of the faculty pay testament to the effectiveness of the teaching. Results in Law are well above similar schools and national averages. You are encouraged to be independent and are taught how to be effective learners.

Method of Assessment

- Paper 1: English Legal System, Nature of Law and Criminal Law
- 2 hours (33.3%)
- Paper 2: English Legal System, Nature of Law and Tort Law
- 2 hours (33.3%)
- Paper 3: English Legal System, Nature of Law and Contract Law
- 2 hours (33.3%)





A Level Music

About the Course

Music may well be your first choice subject. You may be aiming for further study at College or University, or for a career in the music industry. On the other hand, you may simply enjoy music and wish to continue your studies. It is viewed highly by universities and indicates that you are both academic and have wider interests.

Progression Opportunities

A Music A level can lead to:

- Single study and joint arts courses at university
- Study at specialist music conservatoires
- Music Technology/sound production courses
- Music instrument repair and construction courses
- Music Therapy courses

Careers in media, teaching, theatre, film, television and music administration.

Entry Requirements

Students will need to achieve a grade 6 in GCSE music or grade 5 instrumental/ vocal with grade 5 theory.

Awarding Body

AQA

Qualification code 7272



Course Content

Performance

Throughout the course you will consider practice routines and individual performance targets. You will complete mock performances which will be marked to the examination board criteria.

Assessment: A ten minute solo performance to be completed after 1 March in Year 13.

Composing

You will develop your composing skills through a series of short free composing activities and harmony exercises which gradually link into larger scale works.

Assessment: Two compositions are completed in Year 13 which have a combined duration of at least 4 and a half minutes. One composition is a free composition and the other is in response to a brief set by the examination board.

Appraising Music

Knowledge and understanding of musical elements, context and language. You will apply this knowledge through studying the following topics: The Baroque Concerto, The Marriage of Figaro, Jazz and Blues and Music for Theatre. The final examination is a combination of listening exercises and essays.

Study Methods

The skills you will develop through the course include not only the obvious ones of listening, composing and performing, but also analysis, criticism, organisation, decision making, communication and presentation. Music students benefit from being taught in small groups and are encouraged to work independently. You will be offered a free instrumental lesson on your main instrument or a second study for the duration of the course.

Method of Assessment

Performing	Externally assessed (35%)
Composing	Externally assessed (25%)
Appraising	One written paper (40%)





A Level Psychology

About the Course

Psychology is the scientific study of behaviour. It encompasses a variety of approaches to try to fully explain the causes of human (and animal) behaviour. Topics can range from the social causes of aggression to the biochemical basis of depression. Psychology involves finding out what psychologists have discovered about behaviour. It is therefore necessary to support any theory with evidence and the examination will require you to quote named studies to support your answers. There is rarely a single view in Psychology, so as well as a sound knowledge base, you will need the ability to formulate a rational argument and use critical thinking to justify a point of view.

Progression Opportunities

Leading to specific careers such as a Clinical or Forensic Psychologist and supporting many other career routes through Medicine, Nursing, Business, Industry and Public Services, Psychology is rarely an essential A Level for University entrance but is always an excellent subject to have in your portfolio. Psychology is classified as a Science A Level for most degree courses. The A Level will tell you what to expect in a Psychology degree and help develop analytical and evaluative skills needed for a range of University subjects.

Study Methods

You will develop a number of skills over the course including analysis, evaluation and commentary. You will also be expected to use research findings to good effect in constructing and developing coherent arguments. Lessons are a mix of teacher input, discussion of prepared topics, student presentations, use of video clips and small scale investigations. Students are expected to participate... this is not a passive subject! Homework tasks will include reading and note taking as well as practice questions.

Entry Requirements

Students will need to achieve a grade 5 in GCSE Mathematics and English Language.

Awarding Body

Edexcel

Qualification code 9PSO



1537
Tadcaster
Grammar School

Course Content

Year 12

Social Psychology and Cognitive Psychology

Different groups of Psychologists have different ways of explaining behaviour. In this topic we focus on two areas of Psychology - Social and Cognitive. You will learn how different behaviour can be explained by looking at specific theories; for example Asch's study on conformity or Baddeley's model of working memory. You will also consider how each approach has been applied to a form of therapy as well as discussing how psychology can explain and apply theories to current events, such as why militants are conforming in the Middle East alongside the methods it uses to investigate behaviour.

Biological Psychology and Learning Theories

In this topic we focus on the biological and learning theories of behaviour- is behaviour genetic or developed? For Example, Raine's famous brain scanning research reveals that murderers have different levels of brain activity compared to a control group; in contrast Bandura's Social Learning Theory would argue that aggression is learnt through role models. Again you will look at specific theories and therapies that can be used to treat abnormal behaviour. You will learn to apply what you know to current issues, such as analysing whether media and celebrity influence are the cause of anorexia.

Year 13

Clinical Psychology and Criminal Psychology

This topic develops the knowledge, application and evaluation of Psychological theory. You will look at the theories, causes and treatment options for abnormal psychological illnesses and behaviours. For example, what is the best way to treat schizophrenia - are criminals born or made? You will develop a broad knowledge of both of these topic areas covering a range of abnormal behaviour as part of the Clinical topic, and explaining a variety of issues that occur in Criminal psychology, such as can we trust eyewitness testimony?

Psychological Skills

In the Psychological Skills section you will consolidate knowledge drawn from earlier study and apply it to wider controversies and issues such as gender and culture bias and the scientific nature of Psychology. This topic area also has a more practical emphasis as you demonstrate your ability to make good design decisions as they suggest methods to investigate psychological phenomena. We will also consider in more detail the scientific and ethical issues in the design and implementation of an investigation into behaviour, such as the ethics of using non human animals in psychological experiments.

Method of Assessment

Paper 1: Foundations of Psychology Social, Cognitive, Biological and Learning Theories 2 Hours (35%)

Paper 2: Application of Psychology Clinical and Criminal Psychology - 2 Hours (35%)

Paper 3: Psychological Skills Methodology and review of studies- 2 Hours (30%)





BTEC Science

About the Course

If you enjoyed the practical side of Science at GCSE level, this course could be for you. The skills and knowledge learned can provide improved job prospects and also support those considering Higher Education.

The Edexcel BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate is a qualification that sits alongside A levels, but is more focussed on preparing students for the workplace. Learners will acquire technical and employability skills. The qualification does include an examination as part of the assessment. If you are worried about examinations, this could still be the course for you. The examination and coursework are all included in your final grade, so coursework can compensate for examination performance if needed.

Progression Opportunities

Degree level university courses or employment.

Entry Requirements

Students will need to achieve at least two grade 4s from GCSE Combined Science, Biology, Chemistry or Physics.

Awarding Body

Edexcel

BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Applied Science

Qualification code TVL18 QAN 601-7436-5



Course Content

Year 12

Principles and Applications of Science (examined unit)

- A re-cap of the science most relevant to use in industry

Practical Scientific Procedures and Techniques (internal coursework)

- Some key technical skills focussed on equipment and measurement techniques

Year 13

Science Investigation Skills (externally assessed coursework)

- A series of investigations spanning all three sciences.
- One other unit, on a subject decided at the end of Year 12.

Study Methods

Year 12 will be spent developing useful practical laboratory skills, using a wide range of technical laboratory equipment. This will be assessed on a coursework basis. There will also be lesson content on all three Sciences assessed by an examination.

In Year 13, students will carry out a number of interesting practical investigations. A final investigation at the end of the year will be assessed. There will be an additional coursework unit on a completely different Science topic.

Method of Assessment

The qualification is based on a mixture of coursework and an examination.

In Year 12, 50% of the course will be assessed by coursework based on useful practical laboratory skills. The other 50% will be based on three 1 hour examinations; one examination covering each of the three Sciences. **Students can then be awarded a BTEC Level 3 Certificate in Applied Science.**

In Year 13, Students will carry out a number of practical investigations receiving feedback along the way. At the end of the year they will have to carry out an investigation set by the examination board. A written booklet about the investigation will be externally marked. This will be worth 2/3 of the Year 13 course, the final 1/3 being written **coursework marked by teachers on an optional topic. Students can then be awarded a BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate in Applied Science.**

This is equivalent to an A Level qualification.

Students will be awarded a Distinction, Merit or Pass (these carry equivalent UCAS points to an A, C and E grade at A-Level respectively).





A Level Sociology

About the Course

Why should you study Sociology? Sociology looks to involve you in an objective and analytical study of advanced industrial societies like the United Kingdom. You will investigate and discuss political, economic and social dimensions of society, and will regularly consider the way in which contemporary governments respond to the demands of things like the provision of welfare to the population and problems created by crime. Sociology will help to stimulate your interest in a broad range of issues which affect our lives, and in so doing will provide a link between theoretical type perspectives and practical responses to current social problems.

Progression Opportunities

The study of Sociology requires you to think objectively about a broad range of issues and problems highly relevant to our lives today. Such a contemporary awareness will be seen as important in many types of occupations and careers, ranging from employment in local government and the civil service, to work in finance or the social services sector. Universities too, value students with a mature awareness of contemporary issues, and who can offer considered viewpoints on subject matter such as taxation and welfare spending, or responses to problems created by poverty.

Entry Requirements

Students will need to achieve the standard Sixth Form entry requirements as detailed in the prospectus.

Awarding Body:

AQA

Qualification code 7192



Course Content

Year 12

Families and Households

In this area we focus on the relationship of the family to the social structure and changes in society. You will learn about changing patterns in marriage, cohabitation and separation alongside the diversity of contemporary family and household structures. You will look at specific theories behind these changes as well as justifying why the family has changed with reference to gender roles, domestic labour and power relationships.

Education and Sociological Research Methods

This topic explores the role and purpose of education in contemporary society. You will compare how educational achievement varies depending on social class, gender and ethnicity. Alongside this specific theories will examine the specific role of education and who benefits from it. For example, Marxists claim that education is a way of providing capitalism with an obedient workforce. Through sociological research methods you will gain an insight into how sociologists gather their research and develop a thorough understanding of the practical, ethical and theoretical factors influencing choice of methods and topic.

Year 13

Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods

This topic develops the knowledge and application of sociology. You will look at theories for the causes of crime and deviance alongside issues such as social control and order. We will explore the social distribution of crime and deviance by ethnicity, gender and social class. You will gain an in depth understanding of the effect of the media, human rights campaigns, criminal justice system and punishment systems on crime and deviance rates both within the UK and globally.

Study Methods

Study approaches are varied and will often depend upon the nature of the topics being covered. A general theme which will run throughout the course is the encouragement of classroom discussion, and objective decision making processes, with the aim of helping you to formulate judgements which can be supported by empirical evidence and sound theoretical arguments. On a general level, the objective of reading more widely will be promoted, as will the need to be more aware of current news items, particularly those linked to domestic United Kingdom based issues.

Method of Assessment

There are three examination papers:

Paper 1: 2 hours Education/Theory and Methods* (33%)

Paper 2: 2 hours Work, Poverty and Welfare/The Media (33%)

Paper 3: 2 hours Crime and Deviance/Theory and Methods* (33%)

* The questions relating to this topic (Theory and Methods) will be linked to the subject context of the examination paper; linked to Education on paper one; and Crime and Deviance on paper three.

