



KNELLER HALL
SCHOOL

SIXTH FORM
PROSPECTUS 2027



Welcome to KNELLER HALL SIXTH FORM

A Level Results August 2026 Raising the Bar Again!



We offer

24

subjects for you to
choose from.

Outstanding and innovative teaching underpins the A Level journey. Our teachers are passionate and knowledgeable, enthusing students with a love of their subjects. Students have the choice to study 3 or 4 A Levels.

Our highest ever percentage of A* and A grades were achieved in the 2026 A Level results.

49%

A*-A

83% A* - B

27% AAA

The A* and A grades are at a historic high for 2026

6 HOURS

of teaching time per subject each week. This is two hours per subject above the recommended amount by exam boards.

SMALL CLASS SIZES

Our class sizes rarely exceed 12, with an average of 6 per A Level class. This ensures that there is the time to build strong bonds with peers and teachers.

Wellbeing and pastoral care lays the foundation for a student driven culture of success.

WEEKLY SPORT SESSION

Our care for our learners' health and wellbeing informs the curriculum offer which ensures all have access to games and sports. All Sixth Formers participate in a Games afternoon every Wednesday, including recreational and/or formal sport.



Track your progress and plan your future.

- ✓ Frequent low stakes assessments in class
- ✓ Higher stake assessments take place throughout your time in Sixth Form
- ✓ Form tutor, Head of Careers and Sixth Form Leadership provide career guidance using assessment data.
- ✓ The Sixth Form team offer support throughout the UCAS application process.

EXTENSIVE ENRICHMENT CURRICULUM

including visiting speakers, academic interest clubs and co-curricular opportunities.

Study clinics for
extra support
or to
s t r e t c h

EPQ

The Extended Project Qualification is a fantastic opportunity for Sixth Formers to celebrate their intellectual curiosity in the form of an independent investigative study.

**Our sixth form culture ensures
that students are valued and
known.**

We are proud of our vibrant community of students, they are eager learners who are highly supportive of each other.



GEORGIA

Biology, Drama, Art, Music

"There was never a doubt in my mind that I would stay at Kneller Hall School for Sixth Form, as I have always felt completely supported and motivated by my teachers, especially in the subjects I have chosen. Moving from GCSE to A Level is a big change for anyone, but here it is made both manageable and exciting. I am truly sad to be leaving soon!"

JACK

Biology, Chemistry, Maths, Physics

"What I love most about Kneller Hall School is how my teachers have bridged the seemingly daunting gap between GCSE and A Level. I am extremely grateful for the countless opportunities and support I have received here, studying my four A Levels while still engaging in a multitude of extra- and super-curricular activities. My experiences here have instilled in me a love for my subjects, which I will carry with me far into the future."

EMILY

Chemistry, Maths, PE, and French Business Certificate

"I take Chemistry, Maths, and PE at A Level, and this is my 11th year at Kneller Hall School. What I value most about the learning environment here is the small class sizes, which mean teachers can give you all the support you need while really getting to know you, your strengths, and your areas for growth. I plan to study Sports Science at university, as I have always been very involved in the sports set-up at Kneller Hall School and have loved PE at both GCSE and A Level. I can't wait to explore the subject in greater depth."

POPPY

History, Politics, Drama, Spanish Business, EPQ

"The gap from GCSE to A-Levels is a big step but with the help from my teachers, I feel more confident with my work in preparation for my exams. I have really enjoyed learning Politics, especially due to the current political landscape, and my teachers always encourage me to ask as many questions as possible in order to gain a better understanding."



BEN

Sociology, Geography, Economics

"Studying at Kneller Hall School has really opened my mind to the socio-economic state of the world today. The thought-provoking discussions I have with my peers and teachers have helped me to grow into an empathetic intellectual."



FATIMA

Economics, Sociology and Business Studies

"I chose these subjects because I am passionate about understanding the inner workings of society and businesses, both locally and globally. Throughout my time at Kneller Hall School, I have always found teachers ready to support me at every academic milestone, and each day I feel more prepared to take the next step to university."



OUR CORE VALUES

Our four core values are not just words because they genuinely underpin everything we do.

COURAGE

We expect everyone to try their best, to have a go and to be brave in their approach to all the challenges of school and the wider world.

EXCELLENCE

We ask everyone to be their most excellent self, able to look themselves in the eye in the mirror every day and to know they could not have done any more.

PERSEVERANCE

We need to be able to persevere in order to achieve things, to maintain a positive attitude and not give up when the going gets tough.

RESPECT

We must treat each other with respect and kindness at all times, regardless of who we are or wherever our talents or weaknesses may lie.

Amy Cavilla, Principal



“

These values underpin the guiding principles by which our community operates. I chose to join Kneller Hall School because those values align with my own.

In a dynamic and complex world, such core values anchor us and guide decision-making and our actions; whether we are dealing with the day-to-day challenges of school life or the wider challenges we face – from the pandemic and its aftermath to climate change and its consequences or the growth of artificial intelligence and its impact.

”





We take the time to get to know *you*.

This ensures our advice and guidance is bespoke to your individual needs.

The transition from GCSE to A Level can be a challenging one. It is not an overnight transformation. We strive to strike the balance between stretching our students academically whilst providing the nurturing and supportive environment to allow them to achieve extraordinary feats in every field.

Tutor Groups

In Sixth Form, perhaps more than any other time in your life, high quality school-based pastoral support is vital. Small, vertical tutor groups which mix students from Years 12 and 13 encourage the supportive atmosphere and a culture of working hard from the start. Those who join the school at Sixth Form for the first time find that they are rapidly assimilated into the school's culture and quickly become known.

Reflections

We offer our pupils a bespoke programme of Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHEE) that we call 'Reflections'. Weekly sessions with tutors and guest speakers include, but are not limited to:

- Building resilience
- Understanding and owning failure
- Healthy relationships
- Consent
- Drugs and substance abuse
- Safe driving
- CV and cover letters
- Sustainability
- Leaving home and Student Finance

Counsellors & School Nurse

We have experienced counsellors who work with our pupils across the week, providing comprehensive and specialist support. This service is open to all pupils. We also have a full-time School Nurse, and a medical room in the school.

More than just A Levels...

Leadership Opportunities

- Tycoon Enterprise Competition
- Level 2 Coaching Award
- Model United Nations
- Mentoring program with the lower school
- Student Council
- Pupil Leadership Team
- Prefect Team
- House Ambassadors
- Student led clubs



Morrisby: Careers Advice & Guidance

Information about subjects, courses, apprenticeships, colleges and universities, Morrisby works with you to discover your future goals and help you to create a step-by-step career plan to get you there.

Networking Evening

An informal opportunity for you to meet a range of professionals from across a variety of fields, discuss possible career paths and ask questions about how you might best prepare to enter the world of work.

External Speakers

We run a series of external speakers, both for the whole school and tailored to specific departments. Past guests have included a survival skills instructor, musical theatre director, sports journalist, science documentary producer, Paralympian and our local MP.

Kneller Hall School is part of Dukes Education.

There are many benefits to being a part of the Dukes Education family, below are just two:

Dukes Plus

Dukes Plus is a provider of university application support, life-changing career and university experiences, day camps, tuition, and summer schools.

They provide the opportunity to explore subjects, universities, and careers alongside bespoke university applications and admissions guidance to aid students throughout their education journey.



The Dukes Club

The Dukes Club connects families across all the Dukes Education nurseries, schools and colleges. It is a space to learn, network, take advantage of exciting opportunities and amazing rewards, and make new friends.



Co-curricular

- London Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts (LAMDA)
- Duke of Edinburgh
- Business language certificate (French and Spanish)
- Annual theatrical production at Hampton Hill Theatre
- Games
- Make a Difference Day
- Huge choice of clubs
- Lower Sixth bonding trip
- Trips in every subject
- Ski trip

Sport plays a central role in the lives of our Sixth Form students. From competitive fixtures to recreational activities and programmes designed to promote a healthy lifestyle, there is something to suit every interest.

For our competitive sportsmen and sportswomen, we offer a comprehensive fixture list across netball, hockey, football, rugby, rowing and cricket. In addition to their weekly Games afternoon, all squads benefit from lunchtime and after-school training sessions led by our highly experienced and fully qualified teachers and coaches, including several Olympians and international athletes. Sixth Form squad players also receive timetabled training to help minimise clashes between academic work and sporting commitments.

Throughout the year, any student who wishes to represent the school in competitive sport has the opportunity to do so. With entries into the National ISFA (Football) Cups, county rugby, netball and hockey competitions—including the Sisters in Sport National Cups and the Rosslyn Park National Schools Sevens—our pupils regularly compete against some of the strongest school teams in the country.

Our sporting achievements have led to numerous pupils gaining county, academy and national recognition across a variety of disciplines. We are committed to supporting students in balancing their sporting ambitions with their academic studies, and several have progressed to secure sporting scholarships at universities in the United States.

However, our programme is about much more than competition. A wide range of clubs and activities is available during Games lessons and through our broader co-curricular offer, ensuring there is truly something for everyone. CrossFit, spinning, tennis, basketball and fencing are just some of the activities open to all Sixth Formers.

Performing Arts at Kneller Hall Sixth Form

Performing Arts is a vibrant and integral part of life at Kneller Hall Sixth Form, offering pupils the opportunity to develop confidence, creativity and performance skills alongside their academic studies. Whether pursuing performance at an advanced level or enjoying the arts alongside other commitments, pupils are supported to excel.

Individual peripatetic lessons are available in LAMDA (drama), singing, piano, guitar, drum kit, strings, brass and woodwind instruments. Lessons take place within the school day and Sixth Form students may arrange sessions during study periods, allowing flexibility and balance.

Sixth Form pupils are encouraged to take an active role in a wide range of ensembles, including choir, senior voices, rock band, orchestra, guitar ensemble and percussion ensemble. Drama clubs provide further opportunities to develop performance, confidence and collaboration in a creative and supportive environment.

Performance opportunities are plentiful. Pupils perform regularly in termly concerts, from the atmospheric Christmas Carol Service at St Mary's Church to the much-loved summer concert in a beautiful riverside setting. Informal concerts each term also allow pupils to showcase solo, duet and small-group performances.

The annual Senior School Musical is a highlight of the year, staged at the Hampton Hill Theatre with a live band, striking sets and professional-standard costumes. All Sixth Form pupils are warmly encouraged to audition. Recent productions include Chicago, Legally Blonde, Made in Dagenham, Our House and Sister Act.

To enrich and inspire learning beyond the classroom, regular trips are organised to concerts, theatre productions, West End musicals and residential trip to Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

Kneller Hall Laureate

The Kneller Hall Laureate, introduced in September 2023, is a new award that is designed to recognise those who have gained the necessary enrichment credits during their education with us and who have achieved their targets, both inside and outside the classroom.

Achievements are recorded electronically using a digital tool that we call a Meta-Mirror, this helps pupils to understand what they need to do next to ensure they are developing a variety of skills under the headings Academia, Enrichment, Community and Performance.

Pupils in Year 12 work towards the highest level of the Laureate, the Crown, by building on their achievements and skills from Year 11. This central record of their personal enrichment, both inside and outside the classroom, serves as useful inspiration for their UCAS university application in Year 13.



Our students are equipped to tackle the rigour of A Level study and beyond so they begin Higher Education or Higher Level Apprenticeships from a strong foundation.

LEAVERS' DESTINATIONS

University of the Arts
Aston University
University of Bath
University of Birmingham
Birmingham City University
University of Brighton
University of Bristol
Brunel University London
University of Chichester
University of Cambridge
University College London
Durham University
University of East Anglia
University of Edinburgh
University of Exeter
University of East Anglia
University of Glasgow
Goldsmiths University
Hartpury University
Imperial College London
University of Kent
Kings College London
Kingston University
Lancaster University
University of Leeds
University of Leicester
University of Liverpool
London School of Economics
Loughborough University
University of Manchester
Newcastle University
University of Northampton
University of Nottingham
Nottingham Trent University
Oxford Brookes University
University of Portsmouth
Queen Mary University
University of Reading
Royal Holloway University
University of Sheffield

University of Southampton
University of St Andrews
University of Surrey
University of Warwick
University of the West of England
University of Westminster
University of York

Grant Thornton (Accounting Network) -
Degree Apprenticeship and School Leavers
Programme
Waseda - Tokyo
Maastricht - Netherlands
Connecticut - USA
St Lawrence - USA



2026 Results

19% A*

49% A*-A

83% A*-B

93% A*-C



Jack O

A*A*A*A*EPQA*

Natural Sciences
UCL
2026 Leaver

Tom

A*A*A

History
University of Edinburgh
2026 Leaver

Georgia

A*A*AB

Taking a year out to apply for
University of Oxford
2026 Leaver

Faris

ABC

Crime and Security Science
UCL
2026 Leaver

Jack G

AAB

Geography
University of Exeter
2026 Leaver

Elli

A*AAEPQA

Ecology and Conservation Lancaster
University
2026 Leaver

Choosing your A Level subjects

Choosing the right subjects is crucial and we support students to learn to make wise decisions and choices. In determining your choices, it is important to consider the following:



Academic Passion

Consider the subjects which you are passionate about and that interest you. A Levels require a lot of independent study and this is made easier if you enjoy your subject. This is particularly important if you are undecided as to your future plans as yet, and will help give you a range of options.

Degree Requirements

If you know the degree you wish to study, you should consider any requirements or preferences that course demands. This information is available in university prospectuses or online and we have provided a summary on the next page.



Career Path Requirements

Similarly, if you have a particular career path in mind, consider how your A-Level subjects might facilitate your future aspirations. Particular A Levels develop certain skills that may be of use to you in the future.

Entry Requirements

We require a minimum of seven GCSE passes at grade 6 or above, including English Language and Mathematics, with Grade 7 in subjects to be studied at A Level.

Degree Information

Accountancy & Finance

Mathematics preferred and normally required

Archaeology and Anthropology

No specific requirements, essay-based subjects useful

Architecture

Mathematics or Physics often required, Art is useful

Art and Design

Art required with a portfolio of work

Biological, Medical and Animal Sciences

Biology and Chemistry required

Business

Business or Economics preferred

Chemistry

Chemistry and Mathematics required, additional Sciences useful

Computer Sciences

Mathematics preferred and normally required

Dentistry

Biology and Chemistry

Economics

Mathematics often required, Economics useful

Engineering (Chemistry and Mechanical)

Mathematics and Physics. Chemistry and Mathematics Physics preferred

English

English Literature required, an additional language may be of use

Geography

Geography normally required

Geology

Two sciences preferred

History

History normally required

Law

Essay-writing subjects are advantageous

Mathematics

Mathematics required, Physics preferred

Medicine

Chemistry and Biology required, Mathematics and/or Physics preferred

Modern Languages

First Modern Language in the main area of study, a second Modern Language is preferred and English literature is useful

Music

Music required

Philosophy

Essay-based subjects useful

Physics

Physics and Mathematics required

Politics

No specific requirements, Politics helpful

Psychology

Psychology and Biology useful

Sociology

History, English or Politics helpful

Sports Science

Physical Education Required

Theology

Essay-based subjects useful

Veterinary Science

Chemistry and Biology are typically required, and Mathematics and Physics often required

Extended Project Qualification

The Extended Project Qualification is a fantastic opportunity for Sixth Formers to celebrate their intellectual curiosity in the form of an independent investigative study.

What the universities say:

University of Cambridge

“We welcome the introduction of the Extended Project and would encourage you to undertake one as it will help you develop independent study and research skills and ease the transition from school/college to higher education.”

University of Warwick

“Where a department typically makes offers which include a fourth subject at AS-level the Extended Project will normally be considered in lieu of this requirement.”

University of Glasgow

“The University very much values the Extended Project and its role in preparing students for a successful higher education experience.”

Qualification Summary AQA – Level 3 EPQ (7993)

The EPQ develops intellectual curiosity, independent study, time management, critical thinking and evaluative skills in pupils. It prepares them for the expansive and explorative modes of learning that they will encounter at university and beyond.

The EPQ is not taught traditionally in a classroom - pupils have taught skills lessons as part of their Sixth Form timetable, and will be allocated a Supervisor from the teaching staff to guide them through the project process. This is excellent preparation for the style of teaching they would encounter at university. This is a completely independent project – the pupil is responsible for managing their time, their research, and the development of their project to ensure that they meet the final deadline.

The EPQ commences in the Autumn Term of Year 12, and the final project is submitted before the October half term of Year 13. The finished product is usually an essay or research-based assignment of 5000 words, but can also be a more creative product (an ‘artefact’) such as a piece of music, an app, a prototype, or a piece of creative writing and accompanying written report. They will present their findings during a Presentation Evening in front of an audience of Supervisors and their peers. The EPQ is considered to have the same value as an AS level.

Choosing a topic:

- Explore a topic related to an A Level subject. Provided that the content will not be taught on the A level course, this is a very good way for pupils to expand their understanding of something that has caught their interest in an A Level class.
- Explore a topic related to something you are intending to study at university. This is a very good way for pupils to explore what they will go on to study during further education.
- Conduct further research into a topic that is not related to their academic subjects, but is something that they already have a very keen interest in.

EPQs have previously been submitted on topics including:

- To what extent has the sugar tax of 2018 been successful?
- How should early onset dementia be mitigated against in rugby?
- Is hypnotherapy ever a viable alternative to anaesthetic?
- Is it right to topple the statues of slave owners, in order to erase history?
- How quickly did the UK economy recover from the effects of World War Two?
- Should CEOs have a salary limit?
- Can works of literature oppress their fictional, female characters?
- Is all graffiti a form of art?
- Why did Esperanto fail as a language policy?
- How do psychological factors influence performance in sport?

French / Spanish

Certificate in Language for Business - Level 2 (Year 12)

The Intermediate Level Accreditation in Languages for Business is offered in French and Spanish to Year 12 pupils. It allows pupils to continue with their study of modern languages post GCSE without committing to an A level course, and to focus on the use of the language in a business context. It is suitable for any pupil who has studied a modern language at GCSE.

It delivers an accreditation which reflects the practical and authentic application of foreign languages in today's workplace and promotes independent, confident and effective linguists. This is a rigorous accreditation mapped against the National Occupational Language Standards.

Each language skill (speaking, reading, writing and listening) is assessed by way of end of unit assessments and an end of year exam.

Examined Topics

Module 1: Companies and organisations

- Describing education, skills and qualities
- Describing jobs and responsibilities
- Describing future hopes and plans
- Describing current and previous work experience
- Writing a cover letter according to a brief

Module 2: Corresponding and communications

- Responding to Email
- Interviewing for a position
- Understanding letters and forms
- Internalising requests and confirmation phrases

Module 3: Rules and regulations

- Following instructions, rules and regulations in an office or a factory

Module 4: Travel and announcements

- Understanding and making specific requests for hotel accommodation
- Identifying and using vocabulary for landmarks and directions
- Getting around by taxi and rail
- Understanding airport announcements and issues relating to travel

Module 5: Sales and Marketing

- Describing products/services and purchasing habits
- Marketing mix
- Profiling companies and products/services

Module 6: Customer service

- Studying key phrases for good customer service
- Dealing with complaints face to face and over the phone
- Dealing with order problems

Level 3: Pupils can continue this qualification into Year 13, which attracts 16 UCAS points.

Useful for the following degrees and career pathways:

Business; Economics; English; History; Law; Politics; Modern Foreign Language; Beginner Language degrees (e.g. Arabic, Chinese, Japanese).

Art, Craft & Design

Edexcel 9AD0

A Level Art is suitable for pupils who not only enjoy creating art but who can apply themselves and show interest in developing Art beyond GCSE.

A Level Art, Craft and Design provides pupils with opportunities to develop personal responses to ideas, observations, experiences, environments and cultures, in practical, critical and contextual forms. This specification requires pupils to develop their ability to show a range of skills.

These include:

- Independence of mind in developing their own ideas.
- An interest and enthusiasm for Art and the commitment to work independently outside of lessons is essential.
- The experience of working with a range of media, including traditional and new media and technologies.

Qualification Summary

Students have the opportunity to generate and develop ideas, research primary and contextual sources, record practical and written observations, experiment with media and processes, and refine ideas towards producing personal resolved outcome(s).

Component 1 (non-exam assessment, 60% of A Level) Marked internally and externally moderated by Edexcel.

Overview of assessment:

- Incorporates three major elements: supporting studies, practical work and a personal study 1000 -3000 word essay.
- Supporting studies and practical work will comprise a portfolio of development work and outcomes based on themes and ideas developed from personal starting points.

Component 2 (15 hour exam, 12 weeks' preparation time, 40% of A-Level) Marked internally and externally moderated by Edexcel.

Overview of assessment:

- Incorporates two major elements: preparatory studies and the 15-hour period of sustained focus.
- Preparatory studies will comprise a portfolio of practical and written development work based on the Externally Set Assignment.
- During the 15-hour period of sustained focus under examination conditions, pupils will produce final outcome(s) extending from their preparatory studies in response to the Externally Set Assignment.

Useful for the following degrees and career pathways:

Fine Art; Design; Architecture; Graphic Design; Video, Visual Effects and Animation; History of Art; Education; Illustration; Illustration and Animation; Computer Game Design; Fashion Design; Interior Design; Creative Technologies; Product Design; Industrial Design; Textiles; Graphic Communication; Interactive Design; Photography; Motion Graphics; Art Therapy and Psychology; Design Engineering; Visual Communications.

Biology

AQA 7402

A Level Biology gives you the skills and opportunities to advance human knowledge and understanding in today's world, in order to make a difference to tomorrow's world.

The A Level syllabus is designed to be a natural continuation from GCSE with emphasis on developing subject knowledge and exploring the personal, social, economic and technological implications of Biology.

This course is suitable for:

- Pupils who have an interest in the study of living organisms.
- Pupils who enjoy carrying out investigations in the laboratory and in fieldwork.
- Pupils who are interested in “new” Biology topics such as gene technology and its impact on society.
- Pupils for whom Biology complements their other studies.

Qualification Summary

Paper 1 (2 hours, 35% of A Level)

- Biological molecules; Cells; Organisms exchange substances with their environment; Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms and relevant practical skills.

Paper 2 (2 hours, 35% of A Level)

- Energy transfers in and between organisms; Organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments; Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems; The control of gene expression and relevant practical skills.

Paper 3 (2 hours, 30% of A Level)

- Synoptic unit, including relevant practical skills

Skills Acquired

Studying Biology opens pupils to a range of ways of thinking such as analysis of observations, problem solving, spotting trends and patterns and practical skills. Pupils learn to analyse and evaluate scientific knowledge and processes and assess the validity, reliability and credibility of scientific information. For this reason, the subject provides transferable skills for many careers outside science such as accountancy, law and management as well as within science.

With issues such as stem cell research, cloning and genome sequencing becoming ever more relevant in our lives, there has never been a better time to study Biology in order to help us make informed choices and understand the world around us. This course looks closely at the ethical issues associated with these technological advances and helps pupils to appreciate how society makes decisions about Biology-related issues and how Biology contributes to the success of the economy and society.

Useful for the following degrees and career pathways:

Dentistry; Forensic Science; Marine Biology; Medicine; Nursing; Optometry; Pharmacology; Physiotherapy; Veterinary Science; Zoology.

Business

Edexcel 9BS0

Business A Level is built around a core unit with an enterprise theme, to enable pupils to think of a new business idea and how they might research and develop it. Pupils will think about how their learning applies to their own business idea. The qualification will introduce pupils to international business, equipping them either to work in or to manage a business in an international context.

A Level Business enables natural progression from GCSEs in Business Studies and give pupils enhanced career choice and progression opportunities.

Theme 1: Marketing & People

Theme 2: Managing Business Activities

Theme 3: Business Decisions & Strategy

Theme 4: Global Business

Qualification Summary

Paper 1 (2 hours, 35% of A-Level)
Marketing, people and global business.

- This examination will cover a broad range of skills including data response questions and extended writing. Content for this examination will come from Themes 1 and 4.

Paper 2 (2 hours, 35% of A Level)
Business activities, decisions and strategy.

- This examination will cover a broad range of skills including data response questions and extended writing. Content for this examination will come from Themes 2 and 3.

Paper 3 (2 hours, 30% of A Level)
Investigating business in a competitive environment.

- This examination will cover all four themes and will involve synoptic responses requiring confidence in all areas of the course. The assessment will involve a pre-released context document which pupils will then have to apply additional understanding to in an examination context.

Useful for the following degrees and career pathways:

Accounting; Business; Economics; Finance; Geography; History; Human Geography; Law; Management; Maths; Politics; PPE (Politics, Philosophy and Economics).

Chemistry

AQA 7405

Chemistry A Level is becoming increasingly important as we try to find answers to many of today's most pressing questions, whether it is climate change or the use of plastics. It gives you an understanding of what everything, living and non-living, is made up of and helps to develop analytical and problem-solving skills, so it is highly valued by top universities and can lead to a large variety of careers.

Topics

Physical Chemistry

- Atomic structure, bonding and kinetics
- Equilibria
- Thermodynamics

Inorganic Chemistry

- Periodicity
- Group 2, 7, 3 and the transition metals

Organic Chemistry

- Alkanes, halogenoalkanes, alkenes, alcohols
- Organic analysis
- Optical isomerism
- Aldehydes and ketones, carboxylic acids and derivatives
- Aromatic Chemistry
- Organic synthesis
- NMRI and Chromatography

Qualification Summary

Paper 1 (2 hours, 35% of A Level)

- Physical & Inorganic Chemistry, including relevant practical skills

Paper 2 (2 hours, 35% of A Level)

- Physical & Organic Chemistry, including relevant practical skills

Paper 3 (2 hours, 30% of A Level)

- Any content from the syllabus, including relevant practical skills

Skills Acquired

Logical thinking and problem-solving skills are developed continuously through both practical and written tasks. In addition, written and verbal communication skills are developed in a variety of ways including the formulation of equations and mathematical problem solving. Practical activities provide an opportunity for team work and the ability to analyse data critically is central to the course.

Useful for the following degrees and career pathways:

Chemical Engineering, Dentistry, Material Sciences, Medical Sciences, Medicine, Veterinary Science.

Computer Science

Cambridge International 9618

In a world of ever-changing technology, Computer Science A Level will give you an insight into the hardware and the algorithms that control many aspects of your daily life. Computer Science A Level is a technical subject that requires mathematical ability, a logical mind and an interest in how computers and networks work. It is a creative subject which requires thinking and problem solving both in abstract and real terms. You will learn how to code in Python to a high level which requires resilience and an investigative mind.

Whilst it would be an advantage to have studied Computer Science at GCSE, pupils can successfully study Computer Science at A Level without having completed the GCSE course should this be an area of significant interest.

Qualification Summary

Paper 1 (1 hour 30 mins, 25% of A Level)

Data representation, Networks, Computer Architecture, Software, Security, Ethics, Databases

Paper 2 (2 hours, 25% of A Level)

Algorithms, Data structures, Programming, software development

Paper 3 (1 hour 30 mins, 25% of A Level)

Data Structures, Communication, Hardware and Virtual machines, System Software, Security, Artificial Intelligence

Paper 4 Practical (2 hours 30 mins, 25% of A Level)

Computational Thinking, Further Programming

Skills Acquired

An understanding of the fundamental principles and concepts of computer science. The ability to analyse and solve problems, including by writing original program code. The capacity for thinking creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically. Mathematical skills in Boolean algebra, complex algorithms and data representation. Machine learning methods. An awareness of the moral, social, legal and cultural consequences of digital technology and artificial intelligence.

Useful for the following degrees and career pathways:

Computer Science, Software Engineering, Artificial Intelligence, Cyber Security, Computer Game Design, Computer Forensics, Data Science.

Drama and Theatre

Edexcel 9DR0

The Drama and Theatre A Level provides pupils with an opportunity to develop their creativity, communication and co-operative skills while studying a wide range of important and interesting texts.

The course is specifically designed to inspire pupils to think for themselves and find ways to communicate their inventive ideas through either practical realisation or clear, concise analysis of their approaches, as well as building their depth of knowledge of all aspects of technical theatre to support these creative approaches.

It encourages personal reflection with specific tasks asking pupils to focus on how they have overcome difficulties and conquered challenges.

Qualification Summary

Component 1: Devising (40% of A Level, internally assessed)

- Devise an original performance piece.
- Use one key extract from a performance text and one theatre practitioner as stimuli, chosen by school.
- Assessed via a portfolio exploring the process (30%) and the devised performance (10%).

Component 2: Text in performance (20% of A Level, visiting examiner)

- A group performance/design realisation of one key extract from a performance text (12%).
- A monologue or duologue performance/design realisation from one key extract from a different text (8%).
- Texts chosen by school.

Component 3: Theatre Makers in Practice (Written exam, 2 hours 30 mins, 40% of qualification)

- Section A: Live theatre evaluation (10%)
- Section B: Page to Stage (18%) – two extended response questions (one as a performer, one as a designer) on an unseen extract from a studied play (currently *Machinal* by Sophie Treadwell), exploring how they intend to realise the extract in performance.
- Section C: Interpreting a Performance text (12%) – one extended response question on an unseen extract from *Hedda Gabler* by Henrik Ibsen, to demonstrate how their re-imagined production concept will communicate ideas to a contemporary audience, inspired by a practitioner.

Skills Acquired

Pupils develop as performers, building their confidence and presentation skills, as well as broadening their understanding of the influence of different practitioners' theories on their work. They learn through practical exploration, experiencing a range of different styles and texts, exploring seminal texts with a focus on how to communicate meaning to an audience.

Useful for the following degrees and career pathways:

Drama and Theatre Studies, English, Psychology, Law, Theology.

Economics

AQA 7136

The aims and objectives of the Economics A Level are to enable pupils to:

- Appreciate the contribution of economics to the understanding of the wider economic and social environment.
- Develop an understanding of a range of concepts and an ability to use those concepts in a variety of different contexts.
- Use an enquiring, critical and thoughtful approach to the study of economics and develop an ability to think as an economist.
- Understand that economic behaviour can be studied from a range of perspectives.
- Develop analytical and quantitative skills, together with qualities and attitudes that will equip them for the challenges, opportunities and responsibilities of adult and working life.

Qualification Summary

Unit 1 (2 hours, 33.3% of A Level)

- Markets and Market Failure: Competitive markets and production costs, further development of labour markets, market failure and government intervention.

Unit 2 (2 hours, 33.3% of A Level)

- National and International Economy: Macroeconomic performance and policy and financial markets.

Unit 3 (2 hours, 33.3% of A Level)

- Economic Principles and Issues: This unit is synoptic and requires pupils to apply their knowledge from both macro and micro economics to real case studies.

Skills Acquired

Pupils will be expected to acquire competence in quantitative skills that are relevant to the subject content and be familiar with the various types of statistical and other data which are commonly used by economists. They should be able to make relevant calculations from economic data and be able to interpret data presented in the form of index numbers. Examples of other relevant quantitative skills include the construction and use of graphs and the application of statistical measures such as the mean and median. Pupils should understand the role of evidence in economic decision making but should appreciate the importance of value judgements.

It is expected that pupils will acquire a good knowledge of trends and developments in the economy which have taken place over the past fifteen years and have an awareness of earlier events where this helps to give recent developments a longer-term perspective.

Useful for the following degrees and career pathways:

Accounting; Business; Economics; Finance; Geography; History; Human Geography; Law; Management; Maths; Politics; PPE (Politics, Philosophy and Economics).

English Language

Edexcel 9ENO

English Language A Level is structured into four concepts and consists of three externally examined papers. Pupils are encouraged to understand the role of language in early development and the formation of identity as well as the way language has developed over time.

The course challenges pupils to be curious and investigate how language can be used. The course also offers them an opportunity to write creatively.

Qualification Summary

Component 1: Language Variation
(Written examination, 2 hours 15 minutes, 35% of A Level)

- Study of how language varies depending on context (historical and geographical), mode (spoken or written forms) and how the speaker is trying to represent themselves.

Component 2: Child Language Acquisition
(Written examination, 1 hour 15 minutes, 20% of A Level)

- Exploration of how children between the ages of 0 and 8 acquire, develop and use language skills. This looks at both spoken and written language.

Component 3: Investigating Language
(Written examination, 1 hour 45 minutes, 25% of A Level)

- Based on a pre-released subtopic, pupils will investigate a case study of language use in order to apply the key conceptual and linguistic frameworks acquired over the rest of the course.

Non-Examined Assessment

Component 4: Crafting Language (Two pieces of individually crafted work and one commentary, 20% of A Level)

- Pupils produce two texts in a chosen style of form for different audiences with a justification of their language choices.

Useful for the following degrees and career pathways:

Anthropology; Classics; Creative Writing; Drama and Performing Arts; English Literature; Film Studies; History; Journalism; Languages; Law; Librarianship; Linguistics; Marketing; Media and Communications; Philosophy; Psychology; Theatre Studies; Theology.

English Literature

Edexcel 9ET0

The writer Stendhal said that literature “is a mirror carried along a high road. At one moment it reflects to your vision the azure skies, at another the mire of the puddles at your feet.” In order to succeed in English Literature A Level, you must be open to seeing how literature reflects different aspects of society, and challenge how society creates and responds to literature across time. Being able to read critically and beyond the set texts is a crucial aspect of the course. Moreover, it is a subject that thrives on conversation, curiosity, and a willingness to balance the views of others against your own.

Qualification Summary

Component 1: Drama - Tragedy (Written examination, 2 hours 15 minutes, 30% of A Level)

- Study of William Shakespeare’s Othello and Tennessee Williams’ A Streetcar Named Desire.

Component 2: Prose - Colonisation and its Aftermath (Written examination, 1 hour 15 minutes, 20% of A Level)

- Study of Joseph Conrad’s Heart of Darkness and Sam Selvon’s The Lonely Londoners.

Component 3: Poetry - Anthologies across time (Written examination, 2 hours 15 minutes, 30% of A Level)

- Study of modern poetry from Poetry of the Decade: An Anthology of the Forward Books of Poetry 2002-2011, and a selection of metaphysical poetry from John Donne: Selected Poems (Penguin Classics, 2006).

Non-Examined Assessment

One proposed text and a second text from a range of literary genres including aspects of Gothic, Feminism, and Dystopia. Pupils independently select their second text. One extended comparative coursework essay of 2500-3000 words - 20% of A Level.

This course approaches the reading and study of literature through the lens of genre and theory, encouraging the independent study of a range of texts that challenge our understanding of race, gender, power and society’s relationship with nature.

Pupils will develop the ability to make contrasts and comparisons between different texts and understand how texts are categorised and how this links to the way meaning is shaped and constructed. Reading and analysing texts independently encourages students to evaluate the critical reception of texts and appreciate different perspectives and critical views and form one’s own.

Pupils will learn to structure and write extended analytical essays that address a range of themes and modes of reading from a diverse collection of literary genres. Over the duration of the course, they will develop valuable skills in analysis, comparison and criticism, all of which are essential for further education and academic progress. The course perfectly balances texts across time, culture and genre, and should be an obvious choice for anyone interested in better understanding and challenging the world around them.

Useful for the following degrees and career pathways:

Anthropology; Classics; Creative Writing; Drama and Performing Arts; English Literature; Film Studies; History; Journalism; Languages; Law; Librarianship; Linguistics; Marketing; Media and Communications; Philosophy; Psychology; Theatre Studies; Theology.

French

Edexcel 9FR0

Studying a Modern Language in the Sixth Form gives you the opportunity to truly advance the linguistic skills you gained at GCSE. The value of being able to offer a foreign language cannot be overestimated, both when applying to university and to future employers.

The A Level French course tackles interesting and varied topics, developing a broad range of knowledge alongside language skills that enable pupils to communicate effectively, accurately and confidently in French.

Pupils should be interested in current affairs and enjoy working with a language. Individuals must have an interest in communicating their opinions to others as well as justifying and countering arguments across a wide range of themes.

Pupils will develop knowledge and understanding of a variety of grammatical structures and develop their research and presentation skills, as well as their knowledge of French culture.

Examined Topics:

The changes in French Society, The Political and Artistic Culture in French speaking countries, Immigration and the French Multicultural Society, The French Occupation and Resistance.

Qualification Summary

Paper 1: Listening, reading and translation (9FR0/01) 2 hours - 80 marks (40% of the qualification)

- Section A: Listening (30 marks) - Listening assessment based on a recording, featuring male and female French speakers. Pupils will respond to comprehension questions based on a variety of contexts and sources.
- Section B: Reading (30 marks) - Reading assessment based on a variety of text types and genres where pupils will have to respond to comprehension questions.
- Section C: Translation into English (20 marks) - An unseen passage to be translated from French to English.

Paper 2: Written response to works and translation (9FR0/02) 2 hours 40 mins - 120 marks (30% of the qualification)

- Section A: Translation (20 marks) - Pupils translate an unseen passage from English into French.
- Section B: Written response to works (literary texts) (50 marks) - Pupils must write an extended response on one literary text.
- Section C: Written response to works (films) (50 marks) - Pupils must write an extended response on one film.

Paper 3: Speaking (9FR0/03) between 21 and 23 mins (including 5 mins preparation time) 72 marks (30% of the qualification)

- Pupils will be assessed on their ability to use a range of language accurately, communicate and interact effectively, summarise and analyse findings from written sources relating to their research subject and show knowledge and understanding about the culture and society where the language is spoken.

Useful for the following degrees and career pathways:

Business; Economics; English; History; Law; Politics; Modern Foreign Language; Beginner Language degrees (e.g. Arabic, Chinese, Japanese).

Geography

AQA 7037

If you question the world around you, be it the physical, natural world, or human society, the way we live and the issues that humankind is faced with, then studying Geography A Level can give you a perspective on it all. Geography is considered to provide pupils with the broadest and most diverse skill set and is therefore highly desirable to future employers. Geographers go on to a great variety of careers from management and business to leisure, tourism, planning – the list is endless.

Qualification Summary

Unit 1 (2 hours 30 mins, 40% of A Level)

- Physical Geography. Water and carbon cycles; Hot deserts and their margins and Natural Hazards.

Unit 2 (2 hours 30 mins, 40% of A Level) Human Geography

- Global systems and global governance; Changing places; Population and the environment.

Unit 3 Non-examined assessment (20% of A Level)

Geographical Investigation

Pupils complete an individual investigation which must include primary data collected in the field. Pupils will be required to undertake four days of fieldwork over the course of the two years.

The individual investigation must be based on a question or issue defined and developed by the pupil relating to any part of the specification content. Assessed in a 3000- 4000 word report, marked by class teacher and moderated by the exam board.

Skills Acquired

Pupils will develop the ability to structure an essay so that it presents a balanced and geographically sound argument. Geographers will also have the opportunity to undertake statistical analysis of primary data and use a number of statistical tests, including Chi squared and Mann Whitney-U.

Pupils will gain an understanding of a wide range of graphical and cartographic techniques to represent geographical data and experiment with different Geographical Information Systems (GIS) technologies.

Useful for the following degrees and career pathways:

Government and policy; Engineering; Town planning; Architecture; Logistics; Law; Biology; Ecology; International Development; Economics; Environmental Science; Geography; Geology; Marine Biology; Tourism.

History

Edexcel 9HI0

In order to study our A Level History course, pupils will need a broad and enthusiastic interest in the social and political developments which have helped to shape Britain and the Modern World. Pupils should also enjoy studying a range of different historical periods and individuals. Pupils should be willing to take part in discussions and be ready to read around the subject in order to build upon the understanding they will develop within lessons. Pupils studying History should also be keen to reflect upon the views of historians and to assess the perspectives offered by a wide range of different source materials.

Qualification Summary

Unit 1 (2 hours 15 mins, 30% of A Level)

- ‘Britain, 1625-1701: Conflict, Revolution and Settlement’

Unit 2 (1 hour 30 mins, 20% of A Level)

- ‘Russia in Revolution, 1894-1924’

Unit 3 (2 hours 15 mins, 30% of A Level)

- ‘Civil Rights and Race Relations in the USA, 1850-2009’

Unit 4 (non-exam assessment, 20% of A Level)

- ‘Historical Enquiry’. This is an independently researched and written historical enquiry. The final product is a 3,000-4,000 word essay that relates to a change over a 100-year period.

Skills Acquired

Pupils will have the opportunity to develop in depth a body of knowledge related to the history of Britain and other countries. They will acquire an informed understanding of the lives of people, the structures and actions of government, and significant beliefs and movements of the past.

In addition, pupils will become competent in reading and assimilating large volumes of information, producing evidenced arguments, comparing and critically evaluating sources, causal analysis and complex explanation and essay writing.

Useful for the following degrees and career pathways:

Ancient History; Classics; Economics; English; History; International Relations; Law; Politics; PPE (Philosophy, Politics & Economics); SPS (Social and Political Science); Theology.

Latin

OCR H443

Pupils who were successful at Latin GCSE will thoroughly enjoy this A Level in Latin, which builds on the GCSE, introducing pupils to a greater range of vocabulary, accidence and syntax. This requires the detailed study of prose and verse literature, inspiring and motivating learners to gain a deeper understanding of the life and culture of the ancient world. Pupils with Latin A Level go on to careers in many areas, including City finance institutions, broadcasting, advertising, the legal professions, teaching and many more. In our modern world, universities and employers are interested in skills acquired rather than specific knowledge.

Qualification Summary

Unit 1: Unseen Translation
1 hr 45 min paper (33% of A Level)

Unit 2: Prose Composition or
Comprehension
1hr 15 min paper (17% of A Level)

Unit 3: Prose Literature
2 hour exam consisting of two prose set
texts plus additional prose literature in
translation (25% of A Level)

Unit 4: Verse Literature
2 hour exam consisting of two verse set
texts plus additional literature in
translation (25% of
A Level)

Skills Acquired

The aims of the Latin A Level are to encourage candidates to develop an appropriate level of competence in the Latin language and a sensitive and analytical approach to language generally. Pupils will also develop an interest in, and enthusiasm for the classical world, whilst at the same time acquiring knowledge and understanding of selected aspects of classical civilisation.

High achievement in Latin is indicative of an incisive, logical brain with creative flair – all qualities highly prized by universities and employers.

Useful for the following degrees and career pathways:

Ancient History; Anthropology; Archaeology; Classics; English; History; Law; Modern Languages; Philosophy; Politics; Medicine.

Mathematics

OCR H240

Mathematics and Further Mathematics are versatile qualifications, well-respected by employers and are both “facilitating” subjects for entry to higher education. Careers for men and women with good mathematics skills and qualifications are not only well paid, but they are also often interesting and rewarding.

This OCR A Level Mathematics qualification has been developed to provide pupils with a coherent course of study to develop mathematical understanding. Pupils are encouraged to think, act and communicate mathematically, providing them with the skills to analyse situations in mathematics and elsewhere.

Qualification Summary

The subject content is divided into three areas: Pure Mathematics (66.7%), Statistics (16.7%) and Mechanics (16.7%).

Paper 1 (2hours, 33.3% of total A Level) Pure Mathematics (01)

Paper 2 (2hours, 33.3% of total A Level) Pure Mathematics and Statistics (02)

Paper 3 (2hours, 33.3% of total A Level) Pure Mathematics and Mechanics (03)

Students must take all components and explore the content in detail to be awarded the OCR A Level in Mathematics A.

In addition to this, the following overarching themes should be applied, along with associated mathematical thinking and understanding, across the whole of the detailed content in the specification:

- Mathematical argument, language and proof
- Mathematical problem solving
- Mathematical modelling

Skills Acquired

The aim of the A Level is to encourage pupils to develop abilities to reason logically and extend their range of mathematical skills and techniques. A Level Mathematics also allows for pupils to understand the relevance of mathematics to other fields of study, to the world of work and society in general.

Useful for the following degrees and career pathways:

Accounting and Finance; Actuarial Science; Biochemistry; Chemistry; Computer Science; Dentistry; Economics; Electronics; Engineering; Mathematics; Medicine; Natural Sciences; Operational Research; Optometry; Physics; Statistics; Veterinary Science.

Further Mathematics

OCR H245

This Further Mathematics A Level qualification is designed for pupils who wish to study beyond A Level Mathematics, it provides a solid foundation for further study in mathematics and other disciplines that make extensive use of mathematical skills.

Qualification Summary

All pupils must sit:

- Pure Core 1 Paper Y540 (1 hour 30 mins, 25% of total A Level)
- Pure Core 2 Paper Y541 (1 hour 30 mins, 25% of total A Level)

Pupils must then sit two of the following:

- Statistics Paper Y542 (1 hour 30 mins, 25% of total A Level)
- Mechanics Paper Y543 (1 hour 30 mins, 25% of total A Level)
- Discrete Mathematics Paper Y544 (1 hour 30 mins, 25% of total A Level)
- Additional Pure Mathematics Y545 (1 hour 30 mins, 25% of total A Level)

Please note that we expect all pupils to sit the Statistics and Mechanics papers.

This course is taken in conjunction with the A Level Mathematics course.

Useful for the following degrees and career pathways:

Accounting and Finance; Actuarial Science; Biochemistry; Chemistry; Computer Science; Dentistry; Economics; Electronics; Engineering; Mathematics; Medicine; Natural Sciences; Operational Research; Optometry; Physics; Statistics; Veterinary Science.

Music

Eduqas 9MU0

This Music A Level specification provides learners with the opportunity to study music in an integrated way where the skills of performing, composing and appraising reinforce knowledge and understanding of musical elements, contexts and language. Pupils will broaden their musical experience and interests, develop imagination and foster creativity. The course requires pupils to develop their ability to show a range of other skills including;

- Awareness of music technologies and their use in the creation and presentation of music
- Ability to appraise contrasting genres, styles and traditions of music, and develop understanding of musical contexts
- Reflect critically and make personal judgements on their own and others' music
- Engage with, and extend appreciation of, the diverse heritage of music in order to promote personal, social, intellectual and cultural development

Qualification Summary

All learners will be assessed in performing, composing and appraisal. However, the specification allows learners to specialise in either performing or composing by providing two options for Components 1 and 2. Learners must choose either Option A in both Components 1 and 2 or Option B in both Components 1 and 2. All learners must study Component 3 (Appraisal).

Component 1: Performing

Option A: Total duration of performance: 10-12 minutes (35% of qualification):

A performance consisting of a minimum of three pieces, at least one as a soloist. The other pieces may be either as a soloist or as part of an ensemble or a combination of both and at least two pieces must reflect the musical characteristics of two different areas of study.

Option B: Total duration of performances: 6-8 minutes (25% of qualification):

A performance consisting of a minimum of two pieces either as a soloist or as part of an ensemble or a combination of both. One piece must reflect the musical characteristics of one area of study.

Component 2: Composing

Option A: Total duration of compositions: 4-6 minutes (25% of qualification):

Two compositions, one of which must reflect the musical techniques and conventions associated with the Western Classical Tradition and be in response to a brief set by WJEC. Learners will have a choice of four set briefs. The second composition is a free composition.

Option B: Total duration of compositions: 8-10 minutes (35% of qualification):

Three compositions, one of which must reflect the musical techniques and conventions associated with the Western Classical Tradition and be in response to a brief set by WJEC. Learners will have a choice of four set briefs. The second composition must reflect the musical characteristics of one different area of study while the third composition is a free composition.

Component 3: Appraising (40% of qualification)

Written examination: 2 hours 15 minutes (approximately):

Pupils will focus on three areas of study in the appraising component of the A Level. This component includes a listening examination.

1: Area of study A: The Western Classical Tradition (The Development of the Symphony 1750-1900) which includes two set works, pupils can choose one set work for detailed analysis and the other for general study.

2: Choice between three areas of study: B (Rock and Pop), C (Musical Theatre) & D (Jazz).

3. choice between areas of study E & F: Into the Twentieth Century including two set works which differ for area of study E & F.

Useful for the following degrees and career pathways:

History; Law; Music; Music Production; Music Technology; Philosophy; Sociology.

Philosophy

OCR H573

This Philosophy A Level course provides a coherent and thought-provoking programme of study. Pupils develop their understanding and appreciation of religious beliefs and teachings, as well as the disciplines of ethics and the philosophy of religion. Pupils study philosophical language and thought, and issues and questions raised by belief. They will explore key concepts and the works of influential thinkers, ethical theories and their application.

The course provides a depth of understanding of religious beliefs, values and teachings, their interconnections and how they vary historically and in the contemporary world.

Qualification Summary

Philosophy of Religion (2 hours, 33.3% of A Level)

Ancient Greek philosophy, the nature of the soul, mind and body, arguments about the existence or non-existence of God, religious experience, the nature of God & issues in religious language.

Religion and Ethics (2 hours, 33.3% of A Level)

Natural law, situation ethics, utilitarianism, Kantian ethics, euthanasia, business ethics, sexual ethics, meta-ethics & conscience.

Developments in Christian Thought (2 hours, 33.3% of A Level)

Human nature, death and afterlife, knowledge of God's existence, the identity of Jesus Christ, Christian moral principles & actions, religious pluralism, gender, secularism & liberation theology.

Skills Acquired

Pupils studying Philosophy will gain a wide range of skills from textual analysis to logical reasoning. It is a course which has at its heart a critical approach to ethics and the traditional claims of religion and as such pupils will learn to both construct and critique arguments on many different subjects.

In addition to this, they will gain a deep understanding of the philosophy of classical theism from Plato to the modern day. The course also encourages pupils to reflect upon major issues, choices and decisions and come to their own conclusions concerning the nature of truth, reality and goodness.

Pupils will also gain the skills necessary for assimilating significant volumes of academic literature and expressing their thoughts and learning in essay form.

Useful for the following degrees and career pathways:

Law; Theology; Philosophy; English; Classics; History; Politics; Psychology; Sociology; PPE (Politics, Philosophy and Economics).

Photography

Edexcel 9PYO

This Photography course is a two-year linear A Level with an emphasis on Digital Photography and Photoshop. You will be introduced to a variety of photographic techniques, media and processing.

Photography has been used by practitioners to record, document and present examples of everyday life, in ordinary and extraordinary circumstances. It has also been used as the vehicle for artistic expression and communicating personal ideas about the world around us. It is used to convey personal identity more widely than any other art form, is applied in the creative process across art, craft, design and is widely used in social, commercial and scientific contexts.

The word photography could be taken to mean ‘a graphic representation with light’. In this way a photograph can take on the qualities of a drawing. In the context of this endorsed title, drawing forms an essential element of both development and final product. Photography includes works in film, video, digital imaging and light-sensitive materials.

Qualification Summary

Unit 1 (non-exam assessment, 60% of A Level) Marked by the centre and marked and moderated by Edexcel.

Overview of assessment:

- Incorporates three major elements: supporting studies, practical work, and a personal study.
- Supporting studies and practical work will comprise a portfolio of development work and outcomes based on themes and ideas developed from personal starting points.
- The personal study will be evidenced through critical written communication showing contextual research and understanding in a minimum 1000 words of continuous prose, which may contain integrated images.

The personal study comprises 12% of the total qualification and is marked out of 18. Work must cover all four Assessment Objectives and be marked using the assessment grid. Marks available: 90.

Unit 2 (15 hour exam, 12 weeks preparation time, 40% of A Level) Externally Set Assignment: Incorporates two major elements: preparatory studies and the 15-hour period of sustained focus.

- Preparatory studies will comprise a portfolio of practical and written development work based on the Externally Set Assignment.
- During the 15-hour period of sustained focus under examination conditions, pupils will produce final outcome(s) extending from their initial photographs into developed final outcomes in response to the Externally Set Assignment.
- The Externally Set Assignment is released on 1 February and contains a theme and suggested starting points.
- Pupils have from 1 February until the commencement of the final 15-hour period of sustained focus to develop preparatory studies.
- The 15-hour period of sustained focus under examination conditions may take place over multiple sessions.

Useful for the following degrees and career pathways:

Fine Art; Design; Architecture; Graphic Design; Video, Visual Effects and Animation; History of Art; Education; Illustration; Illustration and Animation; Computer Game Design; Fashion Design; Interior Design; Creative Technologies; Product Design; Industrial Design; Textiles; Graphic Communication; Interactive Design; Photography; Motion Graphics; Art Therapy and Psychology; Design Engineering; Visual Communications.

Physical Education

AQA 7582

Physical Education A Level will give you a fantastic insight into the amazing world of sports performance. Not only will you have the chance to perform or coach a sport through the non-exam assessment component, you will also develop a wide-ranging knowledge into the how and why of physical activity and sport. Theoretically the course provides a thorough introduction to aspects of anatomy and physiology, skill acquisition, sport and society, exercise physiology, biomechanics, sports psychology, and technology within sport.

This qualification particularly complements other A-Level subjects including Biology and Psychology.

The course will appeal to those pupils who:

- Have a keen interest in sport and recreation
- Want to follow a course that develops the theoretical aspects through practical involvement

- Have an enquiring mind and are interested in sport throughout the world
- Want to know more about how the body functions and the effects of exercise
- Want to evaluate and improve their own sporting performance
- Want to study a course that is active and that they will enjoy
- May want to move onto a related career or higher education course

Qualification Summary

Paper 1 (2 hours, 35% of A Level) Factors affecting participation in physical activity and sport.

Section A: Applied Anatomy and Physiology

Section B: Skill acquisition

Section C: Sport and society

Paper 2 (2 hours, 35% of A Level) Factors affecting optimal performance in physical activity and sport.

Section A: Exercise physiology and biomechanics

Section B: Sport psychology

Section C: Sport and society and technology in sport

Paper 3 (Non-exam assessment, 30% of A-Level) Practical performance in physical activity and sport.

Section 1: Pupils assessed as a performer or coach in the full sided version of one activity

Section 2: Written/verbal analysis of performance

Skills Acquired

Through studying the A Level Physical Education course, learners will be equipped with both a depth and breadth of knowledge, understanding and skills relating to scientific, socio-cultural, and practical aspects of physical education.

Students will develop the ability to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of physical activity, and then most crucially be able to apply this to a range of sporting contexts. Analytical and evaluative skills are also key to the course and are developed through extended written responses. Finally, through the coursework section of the program, students develop self-evaluation skills, analysing their own performance, and using their knowledge and understanding to identify areas of weakness and suggest ways for improvement.

Useful for the following degrees and career pathways:

Biomedicine; Coach Education; Equine Sports Science; Physiotherapy; Sport Development; Sport & Exercise Nutrition; Sport Management; Sport Psychology; Sport Rehabilitation; Sport Science; Sports Therapy.

Physics

AQA 7408

The universe; space, matter and time, was formed in one explosive event 13.7 billion years ago – the Big Bang! The rewards of Physics include a deeper understanding of the universe and the development of skills that are highly sought after both by universities and employers.

Through studying Physics A Level, pupils will be given the opportunity to improve and develop their problem-solving skills. They will learn how to analyse and understand scientific data and, perhaps most importantly, pupils will learn to ask the question ‘Why?’.

Qualification Summary

Paper 1 (2 hours, 34% of A Level)

- Particles and radiation
- Waves and optics
- Mechanics and materials
- Electricity
- Periodic motion

Paper 2 (2 hours, 34% of A Level)

- Thermal Physics
- Fields and their consequences
- Nuclear Physics

All knowledge from Paper 1 can also be assessed

Paper 3 (2 hours, 32% of A Level)

- Section A: Practical skills and data analysis
- Section B: Pupils enter for one of the topics
- Astrophysics
- Medical Physics
- Engineering Physics
- Turning points in Physics or Electronics

Skills Acquired

Physics is crucial to understanding the world around us, the world inside us and the world beyond us. It is the most basic and fundamental science. Discoveries in Physics have been at the heart of most advances in technology. It is an exciting and challenging subject to study, requiring an enquiring mind and clear thinking.

Useful for the following degrees and career pathways:

Architecture; Astrophysics; Computer Sciences; Electronics; Engineering; Finance; Material Sciences; Mathematics; Medicine; Physics.

Politics

Edexcel 9PL0

Understanding power, people and ideas. This course will help pupils to develop knowledge and understanding of the role Politics plays in relation to current local, national, and global issues, as well as studying key thinkers and political ideas. It offers a comprehensive and thorough study of politics, with contemporary content, including voter behaviour, constitutional history and the role of the media, as well as much more detailed content. Pupils study the key ideas and thinkers of the political ideas of Conservatism, Liberalism and Socialism in both UK and US Politics.

Lessons will involve group discussions, debates and presentations as well as learning to take notes from books and teachers' verbal explanations.

Qualification Summary

Component 1 (2 hours, 33.3% of total A Level)

UK Politics: Pupils will study 'Political Participation', consisting of democracy and participation, political parties, electoral systems, voting behaviour and the media. Pupils will also study 'Core Political Ideas', being conservatism, liberalism and socialism.

Component 2 (2 hours, 33.3% of total A Level)

UK Government: Pupils will study 'UK Government', consisting of the constitution, parliament, Prime Minister and executive, and relationships between the branches. Pupils will also study one 'Non-core Political Ideas', which is feminism.

Component 3 (2 hours, 33.3% of total A Level)

Comparative Politics: Pupils will compare the US political system with that of the UK, focusing on the US Constitution and federalism, US Congress, US presidency, US Supreme Court and civil rights, democracy and participation, and comparative theories.

Skills Acquired

Pupils will have the opportunity to develop a critical awareness of the nature of politics and the relationship between political ideas, institutions and processes, to acquire knowledge and understanding of the structures of authority and power within the political system of the UK, and how these may differ from other political systems. By studying a range of political ideologies, pupils will also be required to question their own beliefs about the world, leading to a more considered and sophisticated personal political outlook. In addition, pupils will acquire knowledge and informed understanding of the rights and responsibilities of the individual and encourage an interest in, and engagement with, contemporary politics. Furthermore, opportunities abound for reading and assimilating large volumes of information, analysing and evaluating contemporary political commentary, displaying evidenced argumentation and developing complex essay writing skills.

Useful for the following degrees and career pathways:

Economics; English; Geography; History; Law; Management; Politics; PPE (Philosophy, Politics & Economics); SPS (Social & Political Sciences).

Psychology

AQA 7182

Psychology A Level aims to develop pupils' appreciation of the scientific nature of Psychology and allow them to engage in contemporary debates through an understanding of research. Pupils will gain an essential knowledge and understanding of different areas of the subject and how they relate to each other. A wide range of topics relating to areas such as mental health and forensic psychology, allow pupils to develop a foundation of knowledge which combines the varied aspects of psychology.

Skills Acquired

Psychology A-Level provides an all-round education. It is a practical, research-based subject founded in the scientific method and develops skills of literacy, numeracy and the analysis and evaluation of data. It also develops abilities to understand and interpret cutting edge research in fields such as cognitive neuroscience and epigenetics. There are opportunities for pupils to develop mathematical skills throughout the content. They are required to apply the skills to relevant psychological contexts.

Qualification Summary

Paper 1 (2 hours, 33.3% of A Level)
Introductory Topics in Psychology

Social Psychology

- Covers how people live in groups and interact with one another as well as theories relating to obedience and social change.

Memory

- Includes research on how our memory functions, particularly how and why we forget. It takes into account ways of enhancing recall effectively.

Attachment

- This topic covers the different ways infants and caregivers interact.

Learning Theories

- Students learn about a number of mental health related issues, such as depression, OCD and phobias. Treatments are investigated for effectiveness and drawbacks.

Paper 2 (2 hours, 33.3% of A Level) Psychology in Context

Approaches

- Biological, Psychodynamic, Behaviourism Cognitive are some of the different approaches that underpin the A Level. The Approaches topic aims to compare and contrast the differing ways we can understand and explain human behaviour.

Biopsychology

- This topic builds on GCSE related biology. Students will research split-brain research. The role of the sleep wake cycle and internal systems will be examined.

Research Methods

- Students deepen their skill set in data handling, statistical analysis, interpretation of descriptive statistics, as well as scientific processes.

Paper 3 (2 hours, 33.3% of A Level) Issues and Options in Psychology

Issues and Debates

- The nature nurture debate is applied to research and explanations, along with reductionism vs holism and determinism vs free will. The impact on gender bias and ethical implications of research will be examined.

Schizophrenia

- The classification of schizophrenia using systems such as the DSM and ICD are covered. Students will use both biological and psychological explanations to help explain and treat schizophrenia.

Forensic Psychology

- Students will take an active role in offender profiling, as well as examine the criminal personality and dealing with offending behaviour. Treatments such as custodial sentencing and token economy programmes are evaluated.

Cognition and Development

- Key researchers such as Piaget and Vygotsky are studied, highlighting their contribution to education and learning. Skills in infants, such as perspective taking and theory of mind are studied.

Useful for the following degrees and career pathways:

Archaeology; Business Studies; Criminology; English; Forensic Psychology; International Relations; Languages; Law; Management; Medicine; Nursing; Philosophy; Physiotherapy; Psychology; Social Work.

Sociology

AQA 7692

AQA Sociology offers 6th form students a stimulating and comprehensive exploration of the structures, processes, and issues that shape modern society.

The course delves into topics such as social inequality, crime, education, family dynamics, and the role of media, providing students with a critical understanding of how these elements influence individuals and communities.

Through the study of key sociological theories and research, students are encouraged to question, evaluate, and challenge societal norms, fostering independent thought and analytical skills.

The curriculum is designed to engage students in contemporary debates, encouraging them to explore how factors such as class, gender, ethnicity, and age intersect to affect life chances and social mobility.

With an emphasis on both qualitative and quantitative research methods, students learn to collect, interpret, and critically assess data, developing key skills that are transferable to a variety of fields, including law, education, social work, journalism, and public policy.

AQA Sociology not only provides a strong academic foundation but also nurtures a deeper understanding of the world, preparing students for further education, careers, and their role as informed, active citizens.

Qualification Summary

Component 1: Education with methods in context (Written examination, 2 hours, 33.33% of A Level)

Education: short answer and extended writing, 50 marks

Methods in Context: extended writing, 20 marks

Theory and Methods: extended writing, 10 marks

Component 2: Topics in sociology (Written examination, 2 hours, 33.33% of A Level)

- Topic areas in relation to the two core themes (beliefs and families).

Component 3: Crime and deviance (Written examination, 2 hours, 33.33% of A Level)

- Both the evidence of and the sociological explanations for the content listed in the topic areas below.
- Crime and deviance with research methods.
- Sociological theory like Marxism and Feminisms will be covered.

Skills Acquired

AQA Sociology provides students with the opportunity to explore key social issues such as inequality, culture, and the role of institutions, while developing essential skills for academic and professional success.

Through topics like crime and deviance, education, and family dynamics, students will enhance their critical thinking, research, and analytical abilities. They will learn to evaluate evidence, construct well-argued responses, and communicate complex ideas effectively. The course fosters skills in data interpretation, problem-solving, and independent study, making it ideal for those interested in understanding and addressing social challenges.

Useful for the following degrees and career pathways:

Anthropology; Classics; Creative Writing; Drama and Performing Arts; English Literature; Film Studies; History; Journalism; Languages; Law; Librarianship; Linguistics; Marketing; Media and Communications; Philosophy; Psychology; Sociology; Theatre Studies; Theology.

Spanish

AQA 7692

A-Level Spanish inspires, challenges and motivates pupils, enabling them to progress to the next stage of their language learning. The A-Level specification build on the knowledge, understanding and skills gained at GCSE. It furthers the depth of pupils' grammatical and linguistic understanding as an integral part of a study of Hispanic culture, history and society. It includes the literary analysis of set texts and films, which are rich in cultural references to broaden their horizons and appreciation of Hispanic language and society. The content of the A-Level is suitable for pupils who wish to progress to employment or to further study in Spanish, including a modern languages degree.

Summary of Examined Topics

- Aspects of Hispanic society
- Artistic culture in the Hispanic world
- Multiculturalism in Hispanic society
- Aspects of political life in Hispanic society
- Grammar and translation

Qualification Summary

Paper 1: Listening, Reading and Writing (2 hours 30 mins, 100 marks, 50% of A Level)

What's assessed:

- Aspects of Hispanic society
- Artistic culture in the Hispanic world
- Multiculturalism in Hispanic society
- Aspects of political life in Hispanic society
- Grammar and translation from Spanish

Paper 2: Writing: Critical response to a Spanish book or film. Translation into Spanish. (2 hours, 80 marks, 20% of A Level)

What's assessed:

- One text and one film or two texts from the list set in the specification
- Grammar

Paper 3: Speaking: Oral exam (21–23 mins (including 5 mins' preparation time), 60 marks, 30% of A Level)

What's assessed:

- Individual research project: presentation and discussion
- Speaking card (with brief preparation time) based on one of the topics covered on the A Level course

Skills Acquired

This course encourages pupils to enhance their linguistic skills and promote and develop their capacity for critical thinking. Pupils will increase their understanding of the language, culture and society of the countries where the language is spoken. It enables pupils to develop language learning skills, including communications strategies, to sustain communication and build fluency and confidence. It fosters a range of transferable skills including communication, critical thinking, research skills and creativity, which are invaluable to the individual and society.

Useful for the following degrees and career pathways:

Beginner Language degrees (e.g. Arabic, Chinese, Japanese); Business; Economics; English; History; Law; Modern Foreign Languages; Politics.



KNELLER HALL

SCHOOL



TOGETHER WE'RE EXTRAORDINARY



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