



PRESDALES SCHOOL

Sixth Form Course Information 2017-2019

AN ACADEMY SPECIALISING IN LANGUAGES, MUSIC AND MATHEMATICS & COMPUTING WITH A GIFTED AND TALENTED FOCUS



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BUSINESS

Entry Requirements

Grade 5 in Mathematics and a Grade C in a subject that involves extended writing, such as History, or a Grade 5 in either English Language or English Literature. Students do not need to have studied Business at GCSE to be eligible for entry onto this course.

Content

Business is structured into four themes and consists of three externally examined papers. Students are introduced to business in Themes 1 and 2 through building knowledge of core business concepts and applying them to business contexts to develop a broad understanding of how businesses work. Breadth and depth of knowledge and understanding, with applications to a wider range of contexts and more complex business information, are developed in Themes 3 and 4, requiring students to take a more strategic view of business opportunities and issues. Students are encouraged to use an enquiring, critical and thoughtful approach to the study of business, to understand that business behaviour can be studied from a range of perspectives and to challenge assumptions.

Assessment

Assessment will take place in May/June of Year 2 and will consist of three papers.

Paper 1 (2 hours, worth 35%) will assess marketing, people and global business. Questions will be drawn from Themes 1 and 4, and from local, national and global contexts. The paper comprises two sections. Students will be required to answer all questions from both sections. Sections A and B each comprise one data response question broken down into a number of parts, including one extended open response question.

Paper 2 (2 hours, worth 35%) will assess business finance and operations, business decisions and strategy. Questions will be drawn from Themes 2 and 3, and from local, national and global contexts. Students will be required to answer all questions from both sections. Sections A and B each comprise one data response question broken down into a number of parts, including one extended open response question.

Paper 3 (2 hours, worth 30%) will assess content across all four themes. Questions will be drawn from local, international and global contexts. For Paper 3, there will be a pre-released context document. The context will focus on a broad context, such as an industry or market in which businesses operate.

At least 10% of the marks on all papers will require students to use mathematical skills.

Career Opportunities

This course offers students the chance to develop skills, knowledge and understanding which prepares them for entry to the workplace, perhaps on an apprenticeship in business finance or management or onto a university course. Many students have, in the past, gone into higher education degree courses in business or specific aspects of business. An increasing minority are finding apprenticeships with big accounting firms, manufacturing firms and public sector organisations.

DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY FASHION & TEXTILES

Entry requirements

It is recommended that students have studied Design and Technology at GCSE Level and have achieved a Grade B or above. They must be committed, self motivated and have a passion for design and the effect it has on society as a whole.

Content

Students will work with specialist teachers to broaden their view of design technology and develop intellectual curiosity about the design and manufacture of products. They will explore, design, create and evaluate innovative solutions in response to realistic design contexts. Students will develop knowledge and understanding of the core technical, designing and making principles for fashion and textiles. They will have the opportunity to work with a wide variety of products and gain an understanding of industrial and commercial practices within the area of design and manufacture.

Fashion and Textiles provides wide opportunities ranging from fashion and aesthetics to industrial uses of textile products. The practical problem solving approach encourages independent learning and personal satisfaction from working with a variety of materials.

Assessment

The qualifications are linear, meaning students sit all their exams at the end of the course.

- 50% exam with two papers.
- 50% non-exam assessment.

This consists of a single design and makes activity.

The course consists of 3 units -

- **Paper 1: 2 hour written exam 25%**
Mixture of short answer, multiple choice and extended response questions.
- **Paper 2: 2 hour written exam 25%**
Section A: Product analysis – short answer questions.
Section B: Commercial Manufacture – two extended questions.
- **Non-exam assessment 50%**
A substantial design and make task determined by the student.

Career Opportunities

Design and Technology is an excellent stepping stone to a degree course at university or Art College. Further study could lead to a wide range of exciting careers including: Product Design, Graphic Design, Fashion Design, Theatre Design, Architecture, Marketing, Retail Management, Media and Teaching.

DRAMA & THEATRE

Entry Requirements

Students are required to have gained a GCSE English Language Grade 5 or above and practical experience of Drama. GCSE Drama is not essential; experience in Expressive Arts, school plays or drama groups outside school will be perfectly acceptable.

Content

The Drama & Theatre A Level combines practical and academic study of the subject. Plays are explored for both performance and as a stimuli for devised work. Throughout both types of exploration, students are required to develop and demonstrate an understanding of a wide variety of drama and theatre conventions and styles and how such work communicates with an audience. The reformed A Level comprises of 2 coursework components and one examination paper. Each component includes both practical and written work.

Assessment

Component 1: Devising

Students will devise an original performance piece. They will use one key extract from a performance text and a theatre practitioner as stimuli. Students will be assessed on their performance as well as a written portfolio. This component is teacher examined and externally moderated.

Component 2: Text in Performance

Students will participate in a group performance of one key extract from a performance text. Students will also present either a monologue or duologue performance from an extract from a different performance text. This component is externally assessed by a visiting examiner.

Component 3: Theatre Makers in Practice Component 3 is a written examination. This examination comprises of 3 sections. Section A is a live theatre evaluation. Section B is a 'Page to Stage' style question that will ask students to consider an extract of a set text from the perspective of a performer and a designer. Section C requires students to interpret a different set text in the style of a practitioner whilst showing an understanding of the original performance conditions.

Career Opportunities

Drama and Theatre is highly valued by both universities and employers as it develops both the academic and creative talents of students. Throughout the course, students will develop a multitude of transferable skills including time management, analysis, problem solving, collaboration, communication and an understanding of how to amend and refine work. This will aid students in making a smooth transition to their next level of study and/or employment. For those seeking careers in the media, teaching, journalism, any career involving the entertainment industry or public speaking, presenting and problem solving, Drama and Theatre would be an ideal choice.

ECONOMICS

Entry requirements

Grade 6 in Mathematics and a C in a subject that involves extended writing, such as History, or a Grade 5 in either English Language or English Literature. Students do not need to have studied Business at GCSE to be eligible for entry onto this course.

Content

Students will focus on two themes: (1) Markets, consumers and firms and (2) The wider economic environment. They will explore the core economic models and concepts used by economists and learn how to apply them in familiar and unfamiliar contexts. The second year introduces two new themes: (3) The global economy, which explores issues of globalisation and business expansion and (4) Making markets work, which explores competition, market failure, macroeconomic management and the international financial sector.

Assessment

Assessment will occur in June of Year 2 and will consist of three separate examination papers.

Paper 1 (2 hours, worth 35% of final mark) will assess microeconomics from themes 1 & 4. It will have three sections. Students will have to answer ALL of the questions in section A and B and one from section C.

Paper 2 (2 hours, worth 35% of final mark) will assess themes 2 and 3. It will have three sections. Students will have to answer ALL of the questions in section A and B and one from section C.

Paper 3 (2 hours, worth 30% of final mark) will assess content across all four themes and students will be required to apply their knowledge and understanding, make connections and transfer higher order skills across all four themes. This paper will be based on a pre-released context that will allow students to investigate prior to the examination.

At least 20% of the marks on all papers will require students to use mathematical skills.

Career opportunities

Economics is an excellent subject to study at this level. Many go on to university to further their studies. The majority of economics courses require mathematics at AS Level or higher but an increasing number are reviewing this requirement. For those planning careers in finance or management this course is a real asset.

ENGLISH LITERATURE

Entry Requirements

Students are required to have obtained at least a Grade 6 in both GCSE English Literature and English Language.

Content

Students will study eight texts at A Level and develop the ability to analyse and evaluate what they have read whilst honing their own communication skills.

Assessment

A Level Unit One: Drama (Examination 30% weighting)

Section A: Shakespeare – One essay question from a choice of two on a Shakespeare play.
Section B: Other Drama – One essay question from a choice of two on a modern drama.

A Level Unit Two: Prose (Examination 20% weighting)

One comparative essay question from a choice of two on crime fiction.

A Level Unit Three: Poetry (Examination 30% weighting)

Section A: Contemporary Poetry – One comparative essay from a choice of two on an unseen poem written post-2000 and a named poem from *Poems of the Decade*. Unseen poetry also features.

Section B: Poetry Collections – One essay question from a choice of two on a collection of pre-1900 poetry.

A Level Unit Four: Coursework (20% weighting)

One extended comparative essay on two texts. Here students are given considerable independence.

Career Opportunities

A Level English requires a candidate to use high level analytical skills and apply them to various written texts. A traditional A Level, it is well regarded by all universities and is an excellent preparation for any Arts based degree. Ultimately English Literature is an excellent subject for those considering future careers such as journalism, law, teaching or the Civil Service.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE & LITERATURE

Entry Requirements

Students are required to have obtained at least a Grade 6 in both GCSE English Language and English Literature.

Content

Students will study six texts, both factual and fictional. In addition they will explore a range of genres via extracts. They will develop their ability to analyse, comment and explain. At A Level they will study a wide range of literary and non-literary texts and will write and analyse their own texts.

Assessment

A Level Unit 1: Voices in Speech & Writing (Examination 40% weighting)

Students will write one comparative essay question on one unseen extract selected from 20th or 21st century sources and one text from the Anthology. They will also write one extract-based question on the chosen drama text, probably Brian Friel's *Translations*.

A Level Unit 2: Varieties in Language & Literature (Examination 40% weighting)

Section A – Unseen Prose Non-Fiction Texts: one essay question on an unseen prose non-fiction extract.

Section B – Prose Fiction and Other Genres: one comparative essay on two prose fiction texts, *Great Expectations* and *The Great Gatsby*.

A Level Coursework (20% weighting)

Students will select two texts to study (one fiction and one non-fiction) and will produce two assignments (two pieces of original writing and one analytical commentary).

Career Opportunities

A Level English requires a candidate to use high level analytical skills and apply them to various written texts. A traditional A Level, it is well regarded by all universities and is an excellent preparation for any Arts based degree. Ultimately English Literature is an excellent subject for those considering future careers such as journalism, law, teaching or the Civil Service.

FILM STUDIES

Entry Requirements

Students are required to have obtained a Grade 5 in GCSE English Language.

Content

All assessment is completed at the end of the course

Component One: America and British Film (examination 35%)

Section A: Classical Hollywood (one film)

Section B: Hollywood since 1960 (two films)

Section C: Contemporary American Independent Film (one film)

Section D: British Film (two films)

Component Two: Varieties of Film (examination 35%)

Section A: Film movements, silent movies (one film)

Section B: Documentary Film (one film)

Section C: Global Film (two films)

Section D: Short Films (collection of film)

Component Three: Production (coursework 30%)

Create a short film (4–5 mins)

Evaluation analysis of short films

During the course: students will study some of the following films: Vertigo, Some like it Hot, Casablanca, One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest, Blade Runner, Inception, The Third Man, The Constant Gardener, Pans Labyrinth.

Assessment

Assessment is by examination and coursework at A Level.

Career Opportunities

The subject develops a wide range of critical, analytical and creative skills which are useful in many careers. It is therefore an excellent preparation for any Humanities, Arts or Science subjects at university.

FINE ART

Entry requirements

Students are required to have at least a Grade B at GCSE in Art and Design in order to join the A Level course.

Content

Alongside the practical expertise you'll develop in your studies, you will also learn transferable skills valued in both higher education and the world of work:

Analytical | Creative problems solving | Working independently | Research methods
Understanding how context shapes meaning | How to communicate effectively

The analytical and creative problem solving elements of the course will support you in a range of subjects from History, English, Business or Film Studies through to Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Mathematics. Fine Art also teaches you how to learn from your experiences and work independently - skills valued by employers and higher education institutions alike.

The AQA A Level course in Fine Art lasts two years. It consists of two units:

Component 1 - Personal investigation 60% of total A Level mark. Students conduct a personal investigation based on an idea, issue or theme supported by written material. This will include written and practical elements. A trip to Barcelona is available at Easter 2017.

Component 2 - Externally set assignment 40% of total A Level mark. Students select a starting point from eight questions set by AQA and preparatory work will take place between February and May. Students undertake 15 hours of unaided/supervised time.

Assessment

Both courses require students to participate actively in their course of study, recognising and developing their own strengths and sustaining their own lines of enquiry. Students are expected to complete independent research, record, photograph, experiment, evaluate and modify ideas to extend thinking and inform their own artwork. All work presented for assessment must show coverage of each of the four Assessment Objectives. There will be two assessments each year. Each component is externally moderated in June.

Career Opportunities

Once you have built up a good portfolio of work you will be ready to develop your art studies further. Many students go on to do a one year foundation course at Art College. Students then make a selection as to which degree course (BA) they would like to follow. After a degree course they can take up jobs in a wide range of areas, from architecture to furniture design and from jewellery design to photography. If you have any concerns or questions about the course please look on the examination board website - www.aqa.org.uk - or contact a member of the Art Department.

FRENCH

Entry requirements

Students are required to have obtained at least a Grade B in GCSE or iGCSE French with good Higher Writing although a Grade A* or A would be an advantage. Enthusiasm for the language and the culture of French-speaking countries is also essential.

Content

The course will build rapidly on the knowledge and understanding gained in GCSE French, so that you will quickly gain confidence in the use of spoken and written language in the context of a range of interesting broad themes with a focus on social phenomena in the French speaking world.

Topics are taught using a variety of newspapers, magazines, films and plays, and the textbook recommended by the examination board. There are opportunities to participate in trips to the cinema, theatre performances and conferences. You are encouraged to widen your vocabulary and cultural understanding through independent reading and watching films and you will have the opportunity to undertake a week's Work Experience in France, in order to develop your skills in a professional environment.

The A Level requires you to research a topic independently. You will also develop oral fluency with a lesson per week with a French Assistante. Longer pieces of written work will be produced and you will study at least two literary texts which will include a book and either a play or film.

Assessment

You will be assessed across all four skills as you were at GCSE. Assessment will also include a focus on translation skills and you will study a film and a novel in detail. The speaking examination will include an independent research project which will require you to provide statistics and evidence of different viewpoints. The assessment criteria also require you to demonstrate cultural knowledge.

Career Opportunities

Clearly, in the modern world, there are numerous occasions when advanced language skills can be used in travel or business contexts. Languages combine well with a variety of other subjects, both in the Sixth Form and in Higher Education. Foreign language competence distinguishes you in the workplace from others with similar qualifications and experience.

GEOGRAPHY

Entry Requirements

Students are normally required to have obtained at least a Grade B in GCSE Geography. Students who have not studied GCSE Geography are required to have obtained at least a Grade 6 in GCSE English Language or Literature. They should have a clear interest in exploring the interactions between the human and physical environments.

Content

Students will follow the Edexcel Programme of Study. Fieldwork is an integral part of the course and all students will be expected to attend fieldwork opportunities. For A Level students this will take the form of a 3 day residential trip and there will be 2 further day trips to carry out the research required for their individual investigations.

A Level

Students will study 'Tectonic Processes and Hazards', 'Coastal Landscapes and Change', 'Globalisation' and 'Regenerating Places'. 'The Water Cycle and Water Insecurity', 'The Carbon Cycle and Energy Insecurity', 'Superpowers' and 'Migration, Identity and Sovereignty'. Students will also complete an independent investigation for which they are required to write a 3000-4000 word report based on fieldwork and research.

Assessment

The A Level is assessed by three written examinations at the end of Year 13 and one piece of coursework.

Career Opportunities

Statistics show that Geographers are among the most employable groups of people as a result of their investigative, graphic, spatial, cartographic and ICT skills. Future opportunities to consider include higher education in Geography, Environmental/Social Sciences, Economics, Demographic Studies, Oceanic/Meteorological Studies leading to careers in Environmental Management, Education, Law, Banking, Marketing and Advertisement.

GERMAN

Entry requirements

Students are required to have obtained at least a Grade B in GCSE/IGCSE German although a Grade A* or A would be an advantage.

Content

The A Level course builds rapidly on the knowledge of German already gained at GCSE. You will quickly broaden your vocabulary and cultural understanding through studying broad themes incorporating social issues and phenomena in German speaking areas as well as cultural and literary aspects. You will practise all four skill areas of Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing and you will be constantly strengthening your knowledge of German grammar, so that you can manipulate the language in order to say or write what you want correctly.

We use films, popular magazines and newspapers to teach the topics and the department regularly organises trips to conferences and workshops. You will have the opportunity to speak to the German Assistant on a weekly basis and to undertake a week's Work Experience in Germany. German combines particularly well with science subjects, other languages, history and mathematics.

Assessment

You will be assessed across all four skills as you were at GCSE. Assessment will also include a focus on translation skills and you will study two pieces of literature in detail. The speaking examination will include an independent research project which will require you to provide statistics and evidence of different viewpoints. The assessment criteria also require you to demonstrate cultural knowledge.

Career Opportunities

A qualification in a language is important for an increasing number of career opportunities in the European Union as well as access to careers in the world of business management, marketing, tourism, banking, telecommunications or the Civil Service. A Level languages combine very well with a huge number of college and university courses.

GOVERNMENT & POLITICS

Entry requirements

Students are required to have a Grade B or a Grade 5 in a writing subject.

Content

The following is a draft proposal by the Pearson Edexcel exam board which stills needs to be accredited by Ofqual in January 2017 (although only minor changes are expected). You will study how politics works and how to analyse and understand the news. Over the two years you will study how the main political institutions and processes work in Britain and the USA. In addition you will also study key political ideas and thinkers of the ideas of Conservatism, Liberalism and Socialism and an optional extra such as feminism.

Component 1 – UK Politics: We ask the questions: what is politics and why is it important? We investigate how elections work and why people vote the way they do. You examine how ordinary people participate in politics and ask: just how democratic is the UK? We also examine the role of political parties and the core political ideas that they represent – conservatism, socialism and liberalism.

Component 2 – UK Government: You learn about the British constitution and how it has changed. We examine the importance of Parliament, the Prime Minister and examine how well our system of government works. We also consider political ideologies such as feminism, anarchism or ecologism and see how they influence the political debate and work of government via pressure groups.

Component 3 – Comparative Politics: In this component we examine the roles of US Congress, the Supreme Court and the President in making democracy work in the USA. We also look at how the constitution shapes society, political practice and debate. We investigate how strong US democracy is and how people participate via elections, political parties & pressure groups and you also learn about the civil rights movement in the USA and the issue of race today. Throughout this component there is a focus on comparison between the USA and the UK. Year 12 visit the Houses of Parliament. A biennial trip to the USA gives students the opportunity to visit Washington DC. 2015–16 was also enlivened by visiting speakers such as Mark Prisk MP as well as a mock referendum on whether Britain should stay in or exit the EU.

Assessment

You will be examined at the end of two years, in June of Year 13, in all 3 components. There is no coursework.

Career opportunities

Government and Politics enhances those skills which are appropriate for careers involving writing, arguing, persuading and debating such as journalism, management, the civil service and the law. A range of skills involving processing and presenting information are taught.

HISTORY

Entry Requirements

Students are required to have obtained at least a Grade B in GCSE History or to have obtained at least a Grade 6 in GCSE English Language or English Literature.

Content

We offer two routes through A Level History, each leading to qualification at A Level.

Early modern History

This is ideal for those who would like to complement their GCSE course and broaden their historical knowledge with the study of earlier periods. We cover the history of England, Europe and the wider world between 1400 and 1800. We study the Tudor monarchs: their political strengths, weaknesses and achievements, and their impact on England. We also study the relationship between Europe and the wider world, and the origins and growth of the British Empire, including the impact of Europeans on Africa, Asia and the Americas, piracy and the slave trade. Students write a personal study on a related topic of their choice.

Modern History

This is ideal for those who would like to build on their GCSE course with further study of the recent past. We explore the recent history of the world's major powers, allowing students to deepen their understanding of why Britain and the world are as they are today. We study political, social and economic changes in 20th century Britain, including the role of major leaders such as Churchill and Thatcher. We also study the relationship between the world's major powers in the 20th century, including the causes of each of the World Wars, and explore themes in the causes, conduct and consequences of warfare, including leadership, technology and communication, in the 19th and 20th centuries. Students write a personal study on a related topic of their choice.

Assessment

A Level is assessed by means of three written examinations at the end of Year 13, and a personal study.

Career Opportunities

History is invaluable in broadening students' knowledge and understanding of the contemporary world and developing their analytical skills. Studying History teaches us to write, argue, persuade, debate, process information, weigh up evidence and reach conclusions and present these. These skills are highly prized by universities and by employers in a very wide range of fields including business, journalism, law, politics and the civil service, the arts, tourism and heritage.

ITALIAN

Entry requirements

Students are required to have achieved at least a Grade B in GCSE Italian although a Grade A* or A would be an advantage.

Content

You will enhance your GCSE Italian with more complex phrases and vocabulary and learn to discuss topical social issues and phenomena in Italy. You will continue to justify opinions and share facts in more depth.

Inside and outside of the classroom, you will gain a wider knowledge and understanding of Italy and Italian culture through watching films, reading texts and keeping a dossier of current affairs. You will learn more about changing family structures in Italy, the impact of immigration and migration on Italian society and the North/South divide, as well as Mussolini and Fascism.

In both Year 12 and Year 13 you will practise your oral skills with a native speaker on a regular basis. You will engage in debates on controversial issues and cultural issues and perfect your essay-writing skills whilst also developing solid translation skills. During the A Level course, you will also have the opportunity to take part in a week-long work experience placement in Urbania.

Assessment

At the end of Year 13 you will be assessed across all four skills as you were at GCSE. Assessment will also include a focus on translation and you will study one piece of literature and one film in detail. The speaking exam will include an independent research project which will require you to provide statistics and evidence of different viewpoints. The assessment criteria also requires you to demonstrate cultural knowledge.

Career Opportunities

Italian is a subject which can be continued at university in further language study, or combined with other areas such as media, philosophy, business and history of art. Specialist careers including interpreting, translation, education and tourism may require Italian. It will also be advantageous in the fields of business, fashion, journalism, art and diplomacy.

MATHEMATICS

Entry Requirements

Students are required to have obtained at least a Grade 7 in GCSE Mathematics.

Content

Two thirds of the course is focused on Pure Mathematics and its applications. This will extend the work on Number, Algebra, Ratio and Proportion and Geometry as well as covering Calculus. The remaining third of the course will be split between Statistics and Mechanics. There is no optional content.

The Statistics content will deal with handling data and probability and will complement Psychology, Biology, Geography and Economics.

The Mechanics content will apply Mathematics to problems in the real world and relate well to Physics and Engineering.

Assessment

The provisional plan for assessment is three two hour written examinations, to be taken in June of Year 13. These will be of equal weighting, with calculator permissible throughout. Two of the examinations will be in Pure Mathematics processes and applications and the third examination will be equally weighted in the areas of Statistics and Mechanics.

Career Opportunities

There is an excellent range of career prospects for students with a mathematics qualification at A level. University courses in all the Sciences, Economics, Geography consider an Advanced qualification in mathematics as a significant advantage. The major sectors employing mathematicians are finance, computing, electronics and engineering, although there is a vast range of potential jobs. With a background in mathematics you will be highly employable as it shows a logical mind.

FURTHER MATHEMATICS

Entry requirements

Students are required to have obtained at least a Grade 7 in GCSE Mathematics. You will have a flair for mathematics and a love of tackling challenging questions. You can only choose Further Mathematics A Level if you have already opted for Mathematics A Level.

Content

At least one half of the content will be further topics in Pure Mathematics, including the study of complex numbers. The rest of the course will comprise a combination of Statistics, Mechanics and Decision Mathematics. The course assumes full knowledge and understanding of all the content of A Level Mathematics.

Assessment

The provisional structure of assessment is four one-and-a-half hour written examinations in June of Year 13.

Career Opportunities

Having two mathematics A Level results sets you on the path to success in many university courses and towards an exciting career. You will have an advanced knowledge of all branches of mathematics, both pure and applied and will be highly regarded. Further Mathematics is considered highly desirable for many prestigious degree courses in the fields of Mathematics, Physics and Engineering.

MUSIC

Entry Requirements

Students are required to have obtained at least a Grade B in GCSE Music.

Content

The course content includes performing, composing and listening & appraising. Students should be able to perform at Grade 5 standard on their instrument before commencing their course and should have some keyboard/piano skills.

Areas of Study

- Instrumental music of Haydn, Mozart and Beethoven
- Popular song: Blues, jazz, swing and big band
- Instrumental jazz from 1910 to the present day
- Religious music of the Baroque Period
- Programme music 1820–1910
- Innovations in music from 1900 to the present day

A LEVEL

Students choose either option A or option B.

Option A

- Performing (25%) Non-exam assessment – externally assessed via audio-visual recording
- Composing (35%) Non-exam assessment – externally assessed via audio recordings
- Listening and Appraising (40%) 2 hour written exam with aural extracts

Option B

- Performing (35%) Non-exam assessment – externally assessed via audio-visual recording
- Composing (25%) Non-exam assessment – externally assessed via audio recordings
- Listening and Appraising (40%) 2 ½ hour written exam with aural extracts

Career Opportunities

In the words of Albert Einstein: “The greatest scientists are artists as well”. Music helps to build problem solving, research, planning, analytical and critical thinking skills, as well as developing creativity. Music graduates have a wide range of career options available to them both inside and outside the industry including: performer, teacher, administrator, songwriter, conductor, composer, recording engineer, manager, promoter or music publisher. There are also more jobs than ever in music business related areas, such as: digital marketing, social media, PR, technology, label services, ticketing and merchandising. It is also common to find music graduates in consultancy, finance, banking, music therapy and legal jobs. The A Level music course provides an excellent basis for lifelong learning and for Higher Education courses in Music, and many students who take A Level Music continue their studies at university.

PHILOSOPHY & ETHICS

Entry requirements

Students do not need to have studied full course Religious Studies for GCSE, but should have a Grade 6 (or B Grade) in a writing subject, such as English Language or History.

Content

Philosophy of Religion deals with such questions as the problem of belief in a good God when there is so much evil in the world; the question of life after death; the possibility of any knowledge of a metaphysical existence, such as ‘soul’; and the meaningfulness of religious experience and religious language.

In Ethics, rather than a focus on whether certain actions are right or wrong, which is typical of many GCSE courses, the focus shifts to the meaning of ‘right’ and ‘wrong’, specifically whether this is more about acts themselves or their consequences. These questions are discussed in relation to the value of human and nonhuman life, freedom, responsibility and conscience.

Assessment

There is no A Level examination specifically called ‘Philosophy and Ethics’: it is a particular choice within Religious Studies. We follow the AQA ‘Religious Studies’ syllabus (7062). There is no coursework. A Level grades are awarded based on two, three-hour, final examinations, taken in Year 13.

Learning

Most lessons are discussion-based, and students will need to be flexible thinkers with an open mind. There are no universally agreed right or wrong answers, but students will need to learn the scholarship that might support a variety of possible answers, and develop their own coherent ideas about the various topics studied, in relation to the established scholarly views. On-going assessment is based on essay writing, which is a skill which will be taught, but students need to be able to think critically and write clearly about quite complex questions.

Career Opportunities

This popular and thought-provoking course complements most subjects at A Level. It will help students develop skills of analysis, reasoning, communication and in-depth conceptual thinking. For these reasons, Religious Studies is one of only three additional subjects, other than the core GCSE subjects, that The Russell Group of universities recommends as an invaluable foundation for many university courses. The skills developed by a study of Philosophy and Ethics will be useful in any career requiring in-depth thinking, alongside clear and coherent communication, such as law, politics, education, social sciences, the media, or any area (eg medicine or business) where ethical decisions might need to be made.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Entry Requirements

Students are required to have a B Grade at GCSE in Art and Design, Graphics or Photography in order to join the A Level course. It may be necessary to interview some students and ask to see a portfolio of their photographs.

Content

Alongside the practical expertise you'll develop in your studies, you will also learn transferable skills valued in both higher education and the world of work. The analytical and creative problem solving elements of the course will support you in a range of subjects. Photography also teaches you how to learn from your experiences and work independently – skills valued by employers and higher education institutions alike.

Component 1 – Personal investigation. 60% of total A Level mark. Students conduct a personal investigation based on an idea, issue or theme supported by written material. This will include written and practical elements. A Barcelona Trip at Easter 2018 is available

Component 2 – Externally set assignment. 40% of total A Level mark. Students select a starting point from eight questions set by AQA and preparatory work will take place between February and May. Students undertake 15 hours of unaided/supervised time.

Assessment

Students are required to participate actively in their course of study, recognising and developing their own strengths and sustaining their own lines of enquiry. Students are expected to complete independent research, record, photograph, experiment, evaluate and modify ideas to extend thinking and inform their own artwork. All work presented for assessment must show coverage of each of the four Assessment Objectives. Each component is externally moderated in June.

Career Opportunities

Once you have built up a good portfolio of work you will be ready to develop your art studies further. Many students go on to do a one year foundation course at Art College. Further photography study at degree level could lead to a wide range of exciting careers from advertising to fashion photography and from commercial photography to photo journalism. If you have any concerns or questions about the course please look at the examination board website – www.aqa.org.uk - or contact a member of the Art Department.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Entry requirements

Students are normally required to have obtained at least a Grade B in GCSE Physical Education, with a high theory mark. Students who have not studied GCSE Physical Education should have obtained at least a Grade B in GCSE Biology or Grade B in GCSE Additional Science.

A very keen interest in all aspects of sport and recreation, and a willingness to adopt the role of a leader/official or coach within extra-curricular clubs is also necessary.

Content

The syllabus specification seeks to develop a critical appreciation and understanding of physical activity within the context of sport and physical recreation. This is achieved by acquiring knowledge and understanding through the three main subject areas.

- Applied Anatomy & Physiology
- Skill Acquisition & Sport Psychology
- Sport, Society and the Role of Technology
- Exercise Physiology & Biomechanical Movement

The specification offers students the opportunity to experience and develop an interest in a variety of roles in sport such as performer, leader/coach.

Assessment

Assessment is by two written examinations and a practical examination.

Career Opportunities

This is an excellent subject to study if you want to progress to university for a degree in Physical Education, Teaching, Sports Science, Sport and Leisure Management and Sports Therapy to give just a few examples.

An 'A' Level in Physical Education will be very useful for those wishing to follow a career as a Health and Fitness Instructor, Sports Coach, Physical Training Instructor in the armed forces, Sport Development Officer, and many others.

PSYCHOLOGY

Entry Requirements

Psychology is a Science A Level, therefore students are required to have obtained at least a Grade B in Science (B Grade in Biology or B Grades in both Core and Additional Science). 10% of psychology examinations will assess mathematical skills of at least a higher level GCSE tier plus there are extended response, critical analysis and essay questions. Students are therefore also required to have at least a Grade 6 in both Mathematics and either English Language or English Literature.

Content

The Edexcel psychology specification offers students the opportunity to gain a thorough introduction to the fascinating study of the human mind and behaviour. Students will study both classical and contemporary research, gaining an appreciation of the scientific research methods used by psychologists and how our understanding of psychology is applied today. Throughout the A Level course, students will also develop the skills to analyse, assess and apply their knowledge to novel situations and research studies.

A Level Year 1

The topics in Year 1 focus on the areas of psychology which have laid the foundations of modern psychological understanding. Students look at four main psychological approaches: social, cognitive, biological and learning theories. The emphasis in Year 1 is on developing a strong understanding of topics, research methods and acquiring skills in evaluation, analysis and application of knowledge.

A Level Year 2

Year 2 builds on the knowledge acquired in Year 1, incorporating a higher level of understanding of psychological skills, research methods and synoptic analysis. Students will also apply their psychological understanding to the real world, with a focus on Clinical psychology and one other optional topic area.

Assessment

The A Level is assessed through 3 external written papers at the end of Year 13:

Paper 1: Foundations in psychology

Paper 2: Applications of psychology (Clinical psychology and one optional topic from Criminological psychology, Child psychology and Health psychology)

Paper 3: Psychological skills

Career Opportunities

A Level psychology lays the foundations for further studies in psychology at degree level and beyond. The skills students gain through studying A Level psychology are also useful to a range of careers such as teaching, law, police, medicine, health, marketing and business.

RUSSIAN

Entry requirements

Any pupil achieving at least a Grade B at GCSE is welcome to choose to continue their study of Russian in Years 12 and 13 with EdExcel, although a Grade A* or A would be an advantage. Interest in the language, hard work and commitment are also essential.

Content

At A Level, you will enhance your level of Russian with more complex phrases and vocabulary and learn to discuss topical social issues and phenomena in Russian speaking areas as well as cultural and literary aspects. The course content will allow you to get to know Russian in depth focusing on:

Developing Russian society (Business / Education /Social security in the modern Russia)

The political and artistic culture (The media/popular culture/ Holidays, festivals and traditions as part of the developing national identity)

The peoples of Russian multicultural society (Regions / Integration and multiculturalism/ Political parties/ people's protest movements)

Russia in the post-Soviet world

(The collapse of the Soviet Union/Russia in the international arena)

You will study from the 'Navigator' course materials and a bank of in-house materials which allow you the opportunity to develop your listening, oral, reading and writing skills. We also use film, magazines and articles to teach the topics and the department endeavors to organise trips to conferences and workshops when available.

The structure of the Russian language and its grammar is studied in considerable depth but often through light-hearted activities. In both year 12 and 13 you will practise your oral skills with a native speaker on a regular basis.

Assessment

At the end of Year 13 you will be assessed across all four skills as you were at GCSE. Assessment will also include a focus on translation skills and you will study one piece of literature and one film in detail. The speaking exam will include an independent research project which will require you to provide statistics and evidence of different viewpoints. The assessment criteria also require you to demonstrate cultural knowledge.

Career opportunities

This is an excellent subject to study if you want to progress to university for a degree in languages. It will also help you if you are interested in a career in business, law, tourism, banking, the Civil Service, education, interpreting or translating. It will provide you with an excellent base for learning other Slavic languages, and will give you an unusual qualification which is widely regarded as a mark of intellectual prowess.

SCIENCE · BIOLOGY

Entry Requirements

Students are required to have obtained at least a Grade B in GCSE Biology or Grade A in Additional Science. 10% of Biology examinations will assess mathematical skills at higher tier GCSE Level, so you will require at least a Grade 5 in GCSE Mathematics.

Introduction

Practical work is at the heart of studying Biology A Level. Coursework practicals do not contribute towards the final grade, however examination questions will be based on the wide variety of practical activities that are integrated into day to day teaching. This means that you will have more opportunities to learn and use practical skills to link theory with practice, which will deepen your knowledge and understanding.

Content

In Year 12 you will study 4 topics:

1. Biological Molecules
2. Cells
3. Organisms exchange substances with their Environment
4. Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms

In Year 13 you will study a further 4 topics:

5. Energy transfers in and between organisms
6. Organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environment
7. Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems
8. The Control of gene expression

Assessment

At the end of Year 13, there are 3 written examinations, each are 2 hours long. Paper 1 examines content from topics 1–4 and is worth 35%, paper 2 examines content from topics 5–8 and is worth 35% and paper 3 examines content from all 8 topics and is worth 30% of the A Level. All 3 papers include questions on relevant practical skills.

Career Opportunities

A Level Biology lays the foundations for further study and careers in biological sciences and medicine and the course ensures progression from GCSE and ensures that the skills and knowledge that universities want to see are developed.

SCIENCE · CHEMISTRY

Entry Requirements

Students are required to have obtained at least a Grade B in GCSE Chemistry or Grade A in Additional Science. Students should also have achieved at least a Grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics, as 20% of the assessment of A Level Chemistry includes higher mathematical skills.

Content

The core aim of the Chemistry A Level course is to develop essential knowledge and understanding of different areas of the subject and how they relate to each other. Students are encouraged to develop their interest in and enthusiasm for Chemistry and understand how it contributes to the success of the economy and society. The content of the course is arranged into broad topics as follows:

Module 1 – Development of practical skills in chemistry

Module 2 – Foundations in chemistry

Module 3 – The periodic table, enthalpy changes, reaction rates and equilibrium

Module 4 – Core organic chemistry

Module 5 – Physical chemistry and transition elements

Module 6 – Further organic chemistry and analysis

Assessment

The A Level examinations are sat at the end of the second year and assess the entire course content over three examination papers. They are broadly divided into organic and inorganic/physical chemistry, with the final paper being entirely synoptic. The practical skills are assessed through written examination, but in addition students will be awarded a Practical Endorsement upon completion of a portfolio of practical work undertaken throughout the course.

Career Opportunities

This course aims to develop awareness of the world outside the laboratory and the skills learned open up a wide range of careers, both scientific and non-scientific based. These skills include imaginative and critical thinking, problem solving, communication and ICT. That is why you will find chemists working in accountancy, law, manufacturing, advertising, engineering, space research, food and drink, pharmaceuticals, retail, construction and cosmetics. With a chemistry qualification the world is your oyster!

SCIENCE · PHYSICS

Entry requirements

Students are required to have obtained at least a Grade A in GCSE Additional Science or Grade B in GCSE Physics as well as a Grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics.

Content

Year 12

Measurements and their errors | Particles and radiation
Waves | Mechanics and energy | Electricity

Year 13

Further mechanics and thermal physics | Fields | Nuclear physics
Plus a further option from the following Astrophysics, Medical physics, Engineering physics, Turning points in physics or Electronics.

Assessment

There is no coursework on this course. However, your performance during practicals will be assessed. If you successfully demonstrate the practical skills expected by an A Level Science student you will receive a separate commendation.

There are three exams at the end of the two years for A Level, all of which are two hours long. At least 15% of the marks for A Level Physics are based on what you learned in your practicals.

The exam papers are a mixture of multiple choice, short and long answer questions.

Career opportunities

Studying A Level Physics offers an infinite number of amazing career opportunities including:

- Geophysicist/field seismologist
- Healthcare scientist, medical physics
- Research scientist
- Secondary school teacher
- Meteorologist
- Product/process development scientist
- Systems developer

You can also move into engineering, astrophysics, chemical physics, nanotechnology, renewable energy and more, the opportunities are endless.

SOCIOLOGY

Entry Requirements

Students are required to have obtained at least a Grade 5 in GCSE English Language or GCSE English Literature.

Content

YEAR 12

Education: The role and functions of the education system, differential educational achievement of social groups by social class, gender and ethnicity; teacher/pupil relationships; pupil identities and subcultures; the hidden curriculum; the significance of educational policies and the impact of globalisation on educational policy.

Methods in context: Application of sociological research methods to the study of education.

Research Methods: Quantitative and qualitative methods of research; research design, sources of data, relationship between Positivism, Interpretivism and sociological methods, theoretical, practical and ethical considerations influencing choice of topic, method(s) and conduct of research.

Families and households: Changes to the family and household structure; changing patterns of marriage, cohabitation, divorce and childbearing; changes within the family e.g. gender roles, domestic labour, power relationships; childhood, and changes in status of children in the family and society; demographic trends in the UK since 1900 including ageing population and migration.

YEAR 13

In addition to the topics studied in Year 12 you will be examined on

The Media: relationships between ownership and control of the media, new media and its significance in contemporary society, the media, globalisation and popular culture, media representations of age, social class, ethnicity, gender, sexuality and disability, the relationship between the media, their content and presentation, and audiences.

Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods: different theories of crime, deviance, social order and social control; the social distribution of crime and deviance by ethnicity, gender, age, locality and social class, including recent patterns and trends in crime; Globalisation and crime; the media and crime; Green crime, human rights, and state crimes; Crime control, surveillance, prevention and punishment; victims and the role of criminal justice system and other agencies.

Assessment

All topics will be examined at the end of Year 13.

Career Opportunities

Sociologists are popular with employers because they think critically and independently and have a deep understanding of the complex and interlinked nature of society. Sociology is a people based subject and is relevant to a wide range of careers including teaching, medicine, health and social care, media, politics, police and law.

SPANISH

Entry Requirements

Students are required to have obtained at least a Grade B in GCSE Spanish although A Grade A* or A would be an advantage. We are looking for enthusiasm, hard work and commitment.

Content

Through a variety of social, cultural and political issues you will develop your language skills and consolidate your knowledge of grammar.

You will undertake a study of literature and film.

We use films, and magazine and newspaper articles, alongside the coursebook to teach the topics and the department organises trips to conferences, the cinema and theatre. You will have the opportunity to take part in our exchange to Barcelona to develop speaking skills and cultural knowledge.

Assessment

You will be assessed across all four skills as you were at GCSE. Assessment will include a focus on translation skills and you will study a piece of literature in detail. The speaking examination will include an independent research project which will require you to provide statistics and evidence of different viewpoints. The assessment criteria also require you to demonstrate cultural knowledge.

Career opportunities

Spanish is the third most widely spoken language (after Chinese and English) and has become increasingly important as companies develop and broaden their links with Spain and South America. The world of Business Management, Marketing, Tourism, Banking, the Civil Service and Telecommunications all provide opportunities for language graduates.

In addition to reading a straight languages degree at University, you could combine your Spanish with such subjects as Business Studies, Accountancy, Science, Engineering, Law, Mathematics, Politics, History of Art and Information Technology. Competence in Spanish could also be a useful tool in the service industries.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

GCSE

Entry Requirements

This course is compulsory for students who failed to achieve a Grade 4 in English Language. It may also be taken by any person wishing to improve their GCSE English Language grade.

Content

The course covers two units that are assessed for GCSE English Language. Students need to show functional skills in understanding and producing non-fiction texts, together with speaking and listening and writing creatively.

Assessment

The course will be completed when students gain a Grade 4 in either the November re-take or in the summer.

Career Opportunities

Achieving at least a Grade 4 in English Language is a requirement for many further courses, higher education and career opportunities.

Entry Requirements

This course is compulsory for students who have not yet achieved a Grade 4 in GCSE Mathematics. It may also be taken by any person wishing to improve their GCSE Mathematics grade.

Content

The course covers Number, Algebra, Ratio and Proportion, Geometry, Probability and Statistics. The teaching will identify and target students' individual weaknesses and thereby support them to re-take GCSE 9-1 Mathematics in either November or June, as appropriate to each individual.

Assessment

- 1 Non-calculator examination worth 33 1/3 %
- 2 Calculator examinations worth 33 1/3 % each

Career Opportunities

Achieving at least a grade 4 in Mathematics is a requirement for many further courses, higher education and career opportunities.





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