



THE KING'S SCHOOL
SIXTH FORM
COURSE GUIDE

A Level Art (Fine)

Exam Board: AQA

Why study this course?

Fine Art offers opportunities to use your creativity to express yourself. You will develop your understanding of creative processes, your ability to observe and to think, to solve problems and to communicate in a visual way. It will enable you to work independently and to make your own discoveries by exploring ideas, other artists' work and different materials and techniques. Fine Art gives you the skills and knowledge to create personal and imaginative work. If you have an adventurous, creative and enquiring mind and are excited by shaping and determining the visual world around you, there is a career opportunity waiting for you.



What can this course lead to?

Degree Options	Career Options
2D and 3D animation	Architect
3D design	Art technician
Applied arts	Art therapist
Architecture	Art valuer
Art history	Artist in residence
Art therapy	Arts administrator
Ceramics	Community arts worker
Digital media	Illustrator
Fine art painting	Lecturer
Fine art printmaking	Multimedia artist
Fine art sculpture	Mural artist
Game design	Museum/gallery curator
Illustration	Painter
Industrial design	Printmaker
Interior architecture and design	Sculptor
Visual effects for film and television	Teacher

"It allows me to express myself, and we inspire each other in class."

Course Summary

Component 1	Component 2
Personal Investigation Develop an idea, issue, concept or theme supported by written material.	Externally Set Assignment Produce personal work in response to one of eight exciting starting points that are announced by AQA in February.

Method of Assessment

- **Component 1:** Internally assessed NEA (60%)
- **Component 2:** Internally assessed preparation time plus 15 supervised hours NEA (40%)

A Level Textile Design

Exam Board: AQA

Why study this course?

Textile Design is an extremely interesting and stimulating course for students who enjoy art and like working with textiles creatively and experimentally. Constructed, dyed, printed and fashion textiles are key elements of the course which closely links to disciplines associated with Fine Art. Students are expected to study the work of fine artists and designers to inform the development of their own pieces. This course also offers flexibility to students with a strong interest in fashion to specialise in this area. A high level of motivation and the ability to work hard are essential for studying this subject.



What can this course lead to?

Degree Options	Career Options
Constructed textiles	Textile technologist
Contemporary textiles	Colour trender or stylist
Costume design	Costume designer
Digital textiles	Creative director
Fashion design	Digital textiles designer
Fashion promotion/ merchandising	Fashion designer
Footwear design	Fashion illustrator
Printed textiles	Fashion journalist
Sportswear design	Fashion stylist
Surface design	Interior designer
Textile design	Museum conservator
Theatre design	Pattern cutter
	Retail buyer
	Textile designer
	Theatre designer
	Upholsterer
	Wallpaper designer

“Textiles is a fantastically exciting subject with so much scope for creativity and experimentation.”

Course Summary

Component 1	Component 2
Personal Investigation Develop a personal investigation into an idea, issue, concept or theme supported by written material.	Externally Set Assignment Produce personal work in response to one of eight exciting starting points that are announced by AQA in February.

Method of Assessment

- **Component 1:** Internally assessed NEA (60%)
- **Component 2:** Internally assessed preparation time plus 15 supervised hours NEA (40%)

Why study this course?

Biology looks at how living organisms, both animals (including humans) and plants, function and interrelate. Much of the work involves many of the new developments in genetics and biotechnology. It should not be studied in isolation. Biology should be related, in a wider sense, to the needs of people. Relevant and important aspects of modern life are stressed, including those of a personal, social, environmental, economic and technological nature.



What can this course lead to?

Biology is a highly regarded A level and is necessary for a range of scientific careers such as research, dentistry and veterinary science. It is also desirable in other non scientific areas.

Please note: A Level Biology is now an essential requirement for the study of Medicine at university.

“The enjoyment for the subject is very clear from all the Biology teachers”

Course Summary

Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3	Unit 4	Unit 5	Unit 6	Unit 7	Unit 8
Biological molecules, carbohydrates, lipids, proteins, enzymes, DNA and ATP	Cells, cell structure (plants, animals, fungus, bacterial cells and structure of viruses	Organisms, exchange substances with their environment	Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms	Energy transfers in and between organisms	Organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environment	Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems	The control of Gene Expression

Method of Assessment

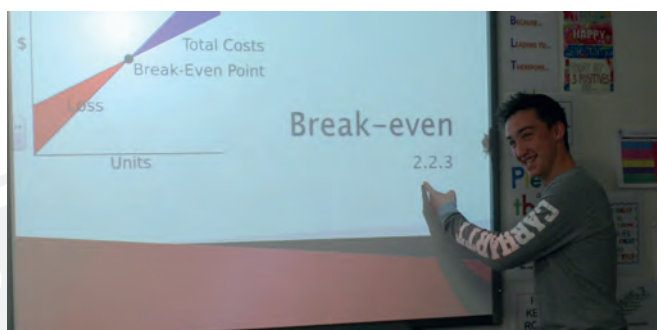
- **Paper 1:** Units 1-4 (2hrs) (35%)
- **Paper 2:** Units 5-8 (2hrs) (35%)
- **Paper 3:** Any content from Units 1-8 (2hrs) (30%)
- **Practical Assessment:** Internally assessed

Note: A level grades are based only on results from the written exams.

Why study this course?

Business is the right subject for you if you enjoy:

- Communicating and explaining your ideas
- Exploring and presenting alternative courses of action
- Thinking strategically and making decisions
- Working with numbers to solve business problems
- Keeping up to date with national and international business news
- Learning about the world of business through research and investigation.



What can this course lead to?

Business is a very popular subject at university but it is also useful in the working world or if you are considering setting up your own business. It also keeps you up to date with what is happening in the world.

An A Level in Business gives you transferable skills that complement many courses at degree level. Many students go on to study Marketing, Management, Innovation and Enterprise, Finance and Accounting degrees as well as Economics. There are also business courses available linked with food, health, fashion, banking and agriculture.

“My Business teachers always give me full support and encouragement to achieve the highest grades”

Course Summary

Theme 1: Marketing and People	Theme 2: Managing Business Activities	Theme 3: Business, Decision and Strategy	Theme 4: A Global Business
You will develop an understanding of how businesses meet customer needs; the market; the marketing mix and strategy; how to manage people; entrepreneurs and leaders.	You develop an understanding of how business raise finance, financial planning, resource management and how external factors can influence business decisions.	This theme develops the concepts introduced in Theme 2. You will develop an understanding of business objectives and strategy; business growth; decision making techniques; influences on business decisions; assessing competitiveness and how business manage change.	This theme develops the concepts introduced in Theme 1. You will develop an understanding of globalisation; global markets and business expansion; global marketing and global industries and companies (multinational corporations).

Method of Assessment

- **Paper 1:** Marketing, People and Global Communications (2hr exam) (35%)
- **Paper 2:** Business Activities, Decisions and Strategy (2hr exam) (35%)
- **Paper 3:** Investigating Business in a Competitive Environment (2hr exam) (30%) Pre-release

Why study this course?

This stimulating course aims to promote aspects of chemistry that are often in the media and affect day-to-day life. Students will gain the necessary knowledge and understanding to explain many different aspects of contemporary chemistry. These areas include climate change, green chemistry, pharmaceuticals and chemistry research. Students will perform many experiments which develop their ability to make accurate observations and measurements. At King's we strongly encourage learning through practical experience. A Level Chemistry is very highly respected by universities and is an enabling subject.

“Chemistry is great for doing experiments”

What can this course lead to?

Chemistry is very well regarded at A Level and can lead to:

- Any science course at university/vet school
- Vocational courses of Applied Science
- Medical careers
- Science based careers
- Legal or other non-science careers which value logical thinking



Course Summary

	Theme 1	Theme 2	Theme 3
YEAR 1	Physical chemistry atomic structure, bonding, energetics, kinetics, chemical equilibria and redox equations	Inorganic chemistry, Periodicity Group 2 Group 7	Organic chemistry study of alkanes, alcohols, organic analysis
YEAR 2	Physical chemistry thermodynamics rate equations equilibrium constant, electrode potentials and electro-chemical cells	Inorganic chemistry, properties of Period 3 elements and their oxides, transition metals, reactions of ions in aqueous solution	Organic chemistry, optical isomerism, aldehydes and ketones, carboxylic acids and derivatives. Aromatic chemistry, organic synthesis

Method of Assessment

- **Paper 1:** Inorganic & Physical Chemistry (2hr exam) (35%)
- **Paper 2:** Organic & Physical Chemistry (2hr exam) (35%)
- **Paper 3:** Any theme (2hr exam) (30%)
- **Practical Assessment:** Internally Assessed

Note: A level grades are based only on results from the written exams.

Why study this course?

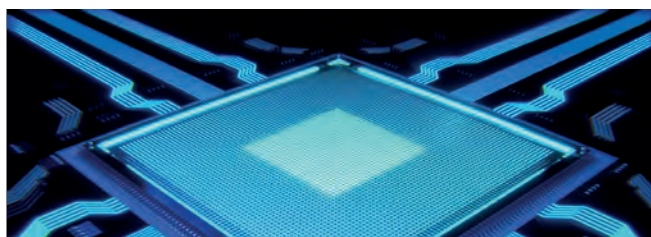
Computer Science is a practical subject where students can apply the academic principles learned in the classroom to real-world systems. It's an intensely creative subject that combines invention and excitement, and can look at the natural world through a digital prism.

The aims of this qualification are to enable learners to develop:

- An understanding and ability to apply the fundamental principles and concepts of computer science, including: abstraction, decomposition, logic, algorithms and data representation
- The ability to analyse problems in computational terms through practical experience of solving such problems, including writing programs to do so
- The capacity to think creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically
- The capacity to see relationships between different aspects of computer science
- Mathematical skills.

What can this course lead to?

Computer Science knowledge is invaluable in this age of technology. Good grades at A level can lead to degrees or Degree Apprenticeships in Computer Science, Engineering, Maths and Physics, or related subjects. Analytical and problem solving skills are well developed in this subject where students are encouraged to research and find solutions, developing independence of thought and expertise.



“The rise of Google, the rise of Facebook, the rise of Apple, I think are proof that there is a place for computer science as something that solves problems that people face every day”

ERIC SCHMIDT (SOFTWARE ENGINEER AND EX CEO OF GOOGLE)

Course Summary

Component 1 Computer systems	Component 2 Algorithms and programming	Component 3 Programming project
Students are introduced to the internal workings of the (CPU), data exchange, software development, data types and legal and ethical issues. The resulting knowledge and understanding will underpin their work in component 3	This builds on component 1 to include computational thinking and problem-solving.	Students are expected to apply the principles of computational thinking to a practical coding programming project. They will analyse, design, develop, test, evaluate and document a program written in a suitable programming language. The project is designed to be independently chosen by the student and provides them with the flexibility to investigate projects within the diverse field of computer science. We support a wide and diverse range of languages.

Method of Assessment

- **Component 1:**
Exam (2hrs 30m) (40%)
- **Component 2:**
Exam (2hrs 30m) (40%)
- **Component 3:**
Non exam assessment (20%)

A Level Dance

Exam Board: AQA

Why study this course?

Dance is a dynamic qualification where students will gain experience of performance and choreography through a range of dance styles.

Dancers will engage in critical thinking within their own choreography/performance and in professional repertoire.

Students will develop performance and analytical skills in the following genres - modern dance, ballet and jazz dance, and will study a compulsory set work and area of study - Rooster and Rambert Dance Company, as well as an optional area of study focusing on the genre of Contemporary Dance.



What can this course lead to?

This course is designed to encourage students to develop a significant foundation of knowledge for the study of dance through to Higher Education.

Students may go on to train professionally at private dance schools and follow a career in performing or choreography, either freelance or in the context of a professional company.

Students may study dance at university and follow other popular routes within Dance including community dance, dance in education, or dance therapy.



Course Summary

Component 1	Component 2
<p>Performance and Choreography:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Solo performance linked to a specific practitioner within an area of study.• Performance in a quartet.• Group choreography	<p>Critical engagement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• One compulsory set work and area of study.• One optional set work and area of study

Method of Assessment

- **Component 1:** Practical exam 50%
- **Component 2:** 2 hour 30 min exam 50%

A Level Design & Technology (Product Design)

Exam Board: AQA

Why study this course?

This creative and thought-provoking qualification gives students the theoretical knowledge, practical skills and confidence to succeed in a number of careers, especially those in the creative industries. Students will gain a real understanding of what it means to be a designer, alongside the knowledge and skills sought by higher education and employers.



What can this course lead to?

This leads on to design based courses, engineering and product development opportunities or can be used to develop problem solving and communication skills needed for careers outside of design.

“It allows you to develop the ability to draw on a wide range of skills from other subject areas to solve design problems ”

Course Summary

Unit 1 Exam 30%	Unit 2 Exam 20%	Unit 3 Coursework 50%
<p>Technical Principles. Learn about different materials (e.g. polymers, metals, woods, composites, paper and boards) and processes to work and machine, join and finish them. You will learn about production methods including CAD/CAM.</p>	<p>Designing and making principles. Learn about different designers and how to design iteratively, reflecting on their own styles. You will learn about developments in technology, social, moral and ethical issues that the modern designer has to consider when designing responsibly.</p>	<p>NEA (non examined assessment) This is a substantial design and make project of your own choice. It will result in a written or digital portfolio with photographic evidence of the final prototype that you have designed and made yourself.</p>

Method of Assessment

- E-Portfolio (practical coursework)
- Examination papers for design and product development

1545

Why study this course?

Students successfully completing this course will have a thorough understanding of drama and theatre, highly developed analytical and creative skills and an ability to communicate effectively with others. The course develops students as directors and creators of drama. Throughout the course students will visit the theatre and participate in performances.

Employment in the UK creative industries is growing at four times the rate of the UK workforce as a whole, according to latest official statistics from the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport.

Studying for an A Level in Drama and Theatre Studies will help prepare you for a wide variety of career paths. Although our approach to learning is highly practical, the course requires a rigorous and academic study of text.

“Drama means that I learn actively and collaboratively, which I find fun and engaging.”

What can this course lead to?

This course can lead to a variety of degree courses at university, theatre schools and performing art colleges or employment within any industry that requires confident, articulate and creative thinkers.

If you have a particular degree course in mind, it is worth checking out how Drama can support this course, for example many Law degrees value A Level Drama as preparation for their course.

Former students have gone on to study courses such as; English, Criminology, Psychology, Film, Drama, Languages. We also support students when auditioning for non-UCAS drama schools.



Course Summary

Unit 1: Practitioners in Practice	Unit 2: Exploring & Performing Texts	Unit 3: Analysing Performance	Unit 4: Deconstructing Texts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Study two key practitioners Explore 1 play text Devise your own performance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Study one play text Direct and perform in a group performance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluate a live theatre performance Analyse and explore 2 play texts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> From a director's point of view analyse and explore 1 play text

Method of Assessment

- Unit 1: Practical & Portfolio (40%)
- Unit 2: Practical & Portfolio (20%)
- Unit 3: Written Exam (2hrs 15m) (20%)
- Unit 4: Written Exam (1hr 45m) (20%)

A Level English Language

Exam Board: AQA

Why study this course?

Studying English Language at A Level encourages you to recognise, question and understand our many words and phrases, looking at how and why meanings are made.

The study of English Language can be fun, relevant, contemporary, challenging and is something that is forever changing – we are encouraged to look closely at the world around us as it evolves before our very eyes.

This course will encourage students to develop their interest in and enjoyment in critical reading, data analysis, evaluation, the ability to develop and sustain arguments, creative writing and research based investigation writing, all of which are invaluable for both further study and future employment.



What can this course lead to?

English Language A Level is a valuable qualification for a range of courses at university and is particularly suited for courses requiring excellent communication skills, such as teaching, media studies, journalism and broadcasting.

An A Level in English Language will enable you to structure your ideas in various different ways to suit different genres. If you like history or geography, have an interest in working or teaching abroad, would like to work with children (particularly small children) or go into medicine as a rehabilitation therapist (speech therapist, etc.) then this is the subject for you. All employers and universities value English Language highly as a qualification because it teaches you how to write well - this stands you in excellent stead to communicate successfully with the public and/or undertake academic dissertations with linguistic competence, sophistication and accuracy.

“We tend to look through language, and not realise how much power language has.”

DEBORAH TANNEN

Course Summary

Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3
Language, the Individual and Society: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Textual variations and representations• Children’s language development	Language Diversity and Change: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Diversity and change• Language discourses	Language Investigation and Original Writing

Method of Assessment

- **Unit 1:** Exam (2hrs 30m) (40%)
- **Unit 2:** Exam (2hrs 30m) (40%)
- **Unit 3:** Non Examined Assessment (20%)

A Level English Literature

Exam Board: AQA

Why study this course?

This course will:

Encourage students to develop their interest and enjoyment of literature as they read widely.

Engage students creatively as they explore interpretations and responses.

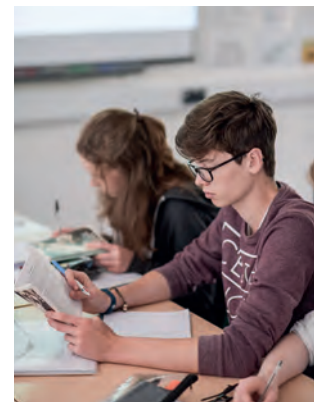
Allow students to explore the relationships that exist between texts and the contexts they are written in.

What can this course lead to?

The study of English Literature can be challenging as well as a highly educational enterprise and therefore it has long been regarded by universities and employers as an indicator of intellectual ability and good communication. The development of the critical and analytical skills necessary for this subject have a beneficial impact on almost all parts of the curriculum and forms of employment.

“Books give a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, and life to everything.”

PLATO



Course Summary

Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3
Love through the Ages 3 texts: Shakespeare Poetry and Prose. Unseen poetry	Love through the Ages, texts in shared Contexts, Modern Times. 1945: Prose, drama and poetry. Unseen prose	Non-Examined Assessment Independent Critical Study based on 2 texts

Method of Assessment

- **Unit 1:** Exam (3hrs) (40%)
- **Unit 2:** Exam (2hrs 30m) (40%)
- **Unit 3:** Non Examined Assessment (20%)

1545

Extended Project

Exam Board: AQA

Why study this course?

The EPQ is a Level 3 qualification that is largely self-directed and self-motivated, and which encourages creativity and curiosity. Students must choose a topic, plan, research and develop their idea and decide on their finished product – whether that is a report, a production or an artefact. They then have to present their finished article and reflect on the project process.

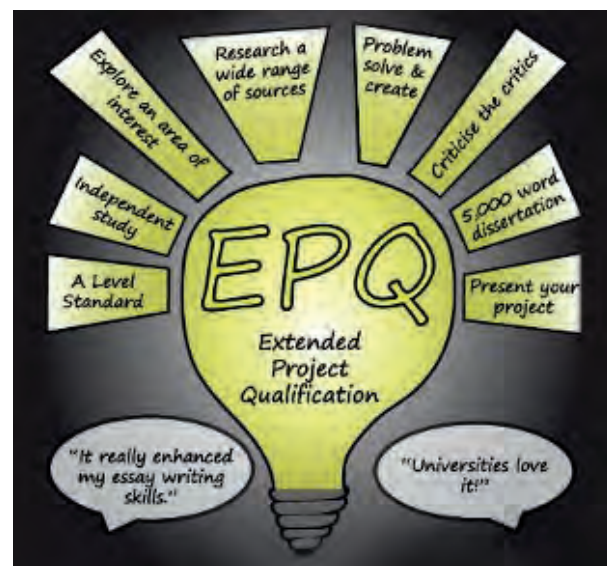
Students will gain an understanding of the following key skills: project design, feasibility studies, time management, researching primary and secondary data, analysing data, applying data, problem solving, decision making, critical analysis, communication skills and evaluation.

“Extend your planning, research, critical thinking, analysis, synthesis, evaluation and presentation skills.” AQA

What can this course lead to?

The Extended Project is a fantastic way to develop key skills valued by both employers and universities. Our students have used the EPQ to gain places at top UK universities as well as Higher Apprenticeships and employment.

Many of the key skills they learn, such as effective writing and research, are transferable to other subject areas.



Course Summary

Students choose a topic which is related to their career aspirations, university choice or an area of interest. They are taught key skills to help them complete a 5000 essay or a practical piece + minimum 1000 word essay. They have 1 hour a week of contact time with their supervisor and are expected to devote **at least** 3 additional hours per week to completing all aspects of the project.

Production Log	Project Product	Presentation
A written reflection of progress throughout the project	A 5000 word essay OR a practical piece and min. 1000 word essay	A formal 10 minute presentation to local business leaders and governors.

Method of Assessment

- Students are assessed against four criteria
- AO1 - Ability to independently manage the project
- AO2 - Ability to use quality resources
- AO3 - Develop and realise a high quality project
- AO4 - Ability to review and reflect on the project outcome and the learning process

Why study this course?

This course is designed to enable students to further improve their language skills, to converse on a variety of different topics and to have an in-depth knowledge of the French language and culture.

We are delighted to be offering an opportunity to study the AS course for French, where we will be concentrating on: "the current trends", "the artistic culture" and the study of a recent popular French film.



What can this course lead to?

A university degree in languages. Useful for a degree in education or teacher training.

Provides a suitable foundation for direct progression. Enables students to experience a variety of approaches to the teaching and learning of languages.

Fosters the ability in students to use the language for different purposes.

Enables students to carry out tasks which integrate language skills and context.

Provides examinations of intellectual rigour which require a high degree of linguistic competence.

Successful completion of the course should give students a solid grounding in language skills and knowledge of the culture and society of the French speaking world.

Course Summary

Unit 1: Current Trends	Unit 2: Current Issues	Unit 3: Political Culture	Unit 4: Artistic Culture
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The changing nature of family The cyber society The place of voluntary work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Positive features of a diverse society Life of the marginalised Crime 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teenagers, the right to vote and political engagement Demonstrations, strikes - who holds the power? Politics and immigration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A culture proud of its heritage Contemporary francophone music Cinema: the 7th Art form

Method of Assessment

- Exam 1:** Listening, reading and writing. (2hrs 30m) (50%)
- Exam 2:** Writing (2hrs) (20%)
- Exam 3:** Oral (23m) (30%)

A Level Further Maths

Exam Board: Edexcel

Why study this course?

Further Mathematics both broadens and deepens the mathematics covered in A Level Mathematics and is a full A Level in its own right.

Students taking Further Mathematics overwhelmingly find it to be an enjoyable, rewarding, stimulating and empowering experience. If you enjoy Mathematics, it will provide a challenge and a chance to explore new and more sophisticated mathematical concepts. It will enable you to distinguish yourself as a gifted mathematician when applying to university and later in the employment market. It also has the benefit of making the transition to a mathematics rich university course much easier. Studying Further Mathematics will boost your performance in A Level Mathematics, which must be taken alongside Further Mathematics.

“Really gives understanding on new areas I never knew existed within Maths.”

What can this course lead to?

If you are planning to take a mathematics rich degree (this covers a very wide range of academic areas - Engineering, Sciences, Computing, Finance/Economics, etc., as well as Mathematics itself) it will be of enormous benefit to take Further Mathematics. Some prestigious university courses will only accept students with Further Mathematics qualifications, so it is essential you check with the university you wish to attend if it is expected for the course you wish to study.

Further Maths is also a good addition for those considering degrees in Medicine or Veterinary Science.



Course Summary

Core Pure 1	Core Pure 2	Further Pure 1	Further Mechanics 1
Proof, complex numbers, matrices, further algebra and functions further calculus and further vectors	Complex numbers, further algebra and functions, further calculus, polar co-ordinates, hyperbolic functions, differential equations	Vectors; Conics Inequalities, T-formula Series, Further Calculus	Momentum and impulse Work, energy and power Elastic strings and springs Elastic collisions

Method of Assessment

- **Unit 1:** Exam (1hr 30m) (25%)
- **Unit 2:** Exam (1hr 30m) (25%)
- **Unit 3:** Exam (1hr 30m) (25%)
- **Unit 4:** Exam (1hr 30m) (25%)

A Level Geography

Exam Board: EDUQAS

Why study this course?

Geography is an extremely popular and successful subject in this school. It has had excellent results and many pupils go on to follow geography courses in higher education. We will follow the EDUQAS Syllabus which is based upon the questions, problems and issues which arise from the interactions of people with their varied environments.



What can this course lead to?

You will notice some similarities to GCSE since this is a very modern geography syllabus, changed in September 2016. We think that if you enjoyed the subject for GCSE then you will enjoy this course. The subject involves fieldwork, during the two years. Throughout the course you will be expected to do your own research, especially for the investigations and research units, essays, presentations and past exam questions.



“Geography is an interesting and enjoyable subject and the fieldtrips are great fun.”

Course Summary

Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3	Unit 4
Section A: Changing Landscapes Section B: Changing Places	Section A: Global Systems Section B: Global Governance: Change and Challenges Section C: 21st Century challenges	Section A: Tectonic Hazards Section B: Contemporary Themes Development in Sub Saharan Africa Energy challenges and dilemmas	One written independent investigation based on the collection of primary data and secondary information.

Method of Assessment

- **Unit 1:** Exam (1hr 45m) (20.5%)
- **Unit 2:** Exam (2hrs 15m) (32%)
- **Unit 3:** Exam (2hrs) (27.5%)
- **Unit 4:** Non exam assessment, 3-4000 words (20%)

A Level History

Exam Board: AQA

Why study this course?

History is a highly respected academic subject. It offers students the chance to study controversial personalities as well as the opportunity to look at recent and current global issues. It encourages independent and creative thinking as well as developing the skill of working with historical evidence.



What can this course lead to?

History is an excellent foundation for a range of degree courses and sits well with subjects such as English, RPE and Politics. It is particularly useful for students considering careers such as journalism, law, management consultancy or teaching.



“Study the past to build yourself a successful future”.”

Course Summary

Unit 1: Breadth Study	Unit 2: Depth Study	Unit 3 : Historical Investigation
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Making of a Superpower USA• 1865 - 1975• Students study the aftermath of The Civil War and attempts to rebuild USA for Black Americans. The development of the USA as a superpower, the growth of the US economy and the Civil Rights movement are all key topics covered	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wars and Welfare - Britain in Transition• 1906 - 1957• In Year 12 students study how society was in crisis in the early 1900s and the impact of WW1 on Britain.• In Year 13 students cover the emergence of an affluent society to the 1930s economic depression, the impact of WW2 and the development of the NHS and welfare state.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Tudor State - personal investigation of a topic• How significant were the Tudor Rebellions, why did they happen and what impact did they have?

Method of Assessment

- **Unit 1:** Exam (2hrs 30m) (40%)
- **Unit 2:** Exam (2hrs 30m) (40%)
- **Unit 3:** 3 - 3500 word investigation project (20%)

Why study this course?

This course features a number of units which should challenge and interest young people seeking to extend their education within IT whilst equipping them with a wide range of knowledge and skills relevant to further study and work. The content of this course is highly relevant to the main issues of using and working with IT in a modern context particularly around the overarching influence of the internet on business use of IT.



What can this course lead to?

This course has been designed to be equivalent in time and value to A level courses and is suitable for Higher Education at university and attracts UCAS points.

Having the right digital skills is not only essential for employers, it also has significant benefits for workers... Overall, roles requiring digital skills pay 29% (£8,300) over the roles that do not (£37,000 vs £28,700) with the premium increasing at higher skill levels” www.gov.uk

Course Summary

Unit 1: IT Systems	Unit 2: Creating Systems to manage information	Unit 3: Using Social Media in Business	Unit 5: Data Modelling
Explore the relationships between the hardware & software that form an IT system; the way that systems work individually and together; the relationship between the user and the system.	Examine the structure of data and its origins and how an efficient data design follows through to an effective and useful database system.	Explore how businesses use social media to promote their products and services. Develop a plan to use social media strategies for business purposes to achieve specific aims and objectives.	Investigate the fundamentals of the decision making process. You will find out how using data modelling provides the computational ability to compare consequences and determine a preferred course of action. You will develop the skills and techniques necessary to create complex spreadsheets in order to produce accurate information that informs decision making

Method of Assessment

- **Unit 1:** 2 hour external exam
- **Unit 2:** 5hr supervised coursework task under exam conditions, taken in one week.
- **Units 3 & 5:** Two units to solve practical problems assessed as coursework.

Why study this course?

Mathematics at A Level is a course worth studying, not only as a supporting subject for the physical and social sciences but in its own right. It is challenging, interesting and highly rewarding. It builds on work you will have met at GCSE but also involves new ideas produced by some of the greatest minds of the last millennia.



What can this course lead to?

A Level Mathematics is a much sought after qualification for entry to a wide variety of full time courses in higher education. There are also many areas of employment that see A Level Mathematics as an important qualification and it is often a requirement for the vocational qualifications related to these areas. Higher Education courses or careers that either require A Level Mathematics or are strongly related include: Economics & Finance, Medicine, Architecture, Engineering, Accountancy, Teaching, Psychology, Physics, Computing and ICT.

An A Level in Mathematics is very valuable as a supporting subject to many courses at A and degree level, especially in the sciences and geography, psychology, sociology and medical courses.

“The Maths teachers are so helpful and genuine and the subject is taught so passionately.”

Course Summary

Unit 1: Pure Maths 1	Unit 2: Pure Maths 2	Unit 3: Statistics & Mechanics
Proof, algebra and functions, co-ordinate geometry in the (x,y) plane, sequences and series, trigonometry, exponentials and logarithms, differentiation, integration and vectors.	Proof, algebra and functions, co-ordinate geometry in the (x,y) plane, sequences and series, trigonometry, differentiation, numerical methods.	Statistical sampling, data presentation and interpretation, probability, statistical distributions, statistical hypothesis testing. Quantities and units in mechanics, kinematics, forces and Newton's laws, moments.

Method of Assessment

- **Unit 1:** Exam (2hrs) (33.33%)
- **Unit 2:** Exam (2hrs) (33.33%)
- **Unit 3:** Exam (2hrs) (33.33%)

Why study this course?

To enhance students' enjoyment or appreciation of the media and its role in their everyday lives and society as a whole.

To develop critical thinking and the expression of opinions on social media and current affairs.

To become independent and skilled in using research methods and to understand their use in the construction of media products.

To consider larger issues - such as representation of marginalised groups, how you can control online media, the value of social media and issues of power in the media.

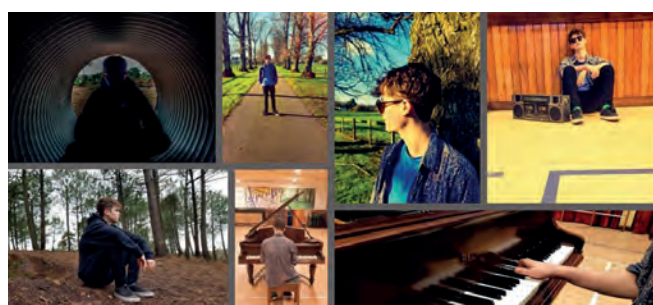
To plan and develop practical cross - media skills, digital image manipulation, filming and photoshoots, lighting and audio, editing and cutting skills.

To study a range of media texts theories from Marvel's Black Panther to The Times Newspaper; and from Channel 4's Sci Fi show Humans to a 1960s advert for Tide. Students will also learn theories about media and apply them to the study of the set texts.

What can this course lead to?

University degree (82% employment or further studies at end of course, based on a Survey Response 2005). Work with business/web design/marketing and related employment, education, arts, game design, broadcast and journalism advertising, print, film and television media.

“Interesting up to the minute subject that allows me to analyse how the media works and express my interests using new technology”



Course Summary

Component 1	Component 2	Component 3
<p>A) Analysis: Explore how media techniques and representations of individuals and groups are made in adverts, music videos and newspapers</p> <p>B) Media industries/audiences: understand the business and audience based decisions behind the production of radio, newspapers, video games and films</p>	<p>A) Television in the Global Age: Analysis of media techniques/ representations/ institutions of Humans and The Returned</p> <p>B) Magazines: Analysis of media techniques/ representations/institutions of Vogue and The Big Issue</p> <p>C) Online Media: Analysis of media techniques/ representations/ institutions of Zoella and Attitude</p>	<p>Create a cross-media product, either film marketing, music marketing, magazine production or part of a TV programme with associated online packages.</p>

Method of Assessment

- **Component 1:** Exam (2 hrs 15m) (35%)
- **Component 2:** Exam (2hrs 30m) (35%)
- **Component 3:** Non exam assessment (30%)

A Level Photography

Exam Board: AQA

Why study this course?

Photography is about looking, learning, thinking and communicating ideas. It inspires creative thinkers. Photography means 'drawing with light' and that is what photographers do when they take a picture.

Many photographers have explored various techniques to create images that make a personal statement about things that have interested or concerned them. The most exciting aspect of photography is that you are capturing the world as you see it.



What can this course lead to?

Degree Options	Career Options
Animation	Fashion photographer
Commercial photography	TV and film
Digital media	Filmmaker
Fashion photography	Researcher
Film and television	Picture editor
Film and visual cultures	Teacher
Graphic design	Advertising
Graphics and design	Forensic imagery
Visual communication	Journalism

“This subject is great for learning new skills and types of Photography.”

Course Summary

Component 1	Component 2
Personal Investigation Develop a personal investigation into an idea, issue, concept or theme supported by written material.	Externally Set Assignment Produce personal work in response to one of eight exciting starting points that are announced by AQA in February.

Method of Assessment

- **Component 1:** Internally assessed NEA (60%)
- **Component 2:** Internally assessed preparation time plus 15 supervised hours NEA (40%)

1545

A Level Physical Education

Exam Board: AQA

Why study this course?

Do you have a wide-ranging interest in sport? Would you like to follow a course that is both interesting and challenging because of its diversity? An A Level in Physical Education will give students a fantastic insight into the amazing world of sports performance.

A level PE is for anyone who enjoys both practical performance and developing their knowledge of theoretical concepts in sport. Students are encouraged to immerse themselves in the world of sports and PE with the chance to perform, or coach a sport and explore the how and why of physical activity and sport.

Students receive a well-rounded and full introduction to the world of PE, sport and sports science. This complete grounding in the subject provides a fantastic base from which to build when they move on to higher education, employment or further training.

What can this course lead to?

The syllabus is particularly relevant for students interested in the vocational fields of leisure and tourism, health, physiology, business studies and science. The syllabus provides an excellent foundation for students intending to pursue careers in teaching and coaching, the leisure industry, recreational management, the health and fitness industry and professional sport.



Course Summary

Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3	Unit 4
Factors affecting participation in physical activity and sport	Factors affecting optimal performance in physical activity and sport	Practical performance, skills performed as a player, performer or coach	Performance analysis assessment

Method of Assessment

- **Unit 1:** Theory Exam (2hrs) (35%)
- **Unit 2:** Theory Exam (2hrs) (35%)
- **Unit 3:** Practical Performance (15%)
- **Unit 4:** Written analysis of student's own performance or the performance of another person (15%)

1545

A Level Physics

Exam Board: EDEXCEL

Why study this course?

Have you ever wondered why:

- Bubbles are coloured?
- Astronauts appear weightless while still in Earth's gravity?

This course provides a rigorous coverage of all the fundamentals of physics. This makes a perfect platform for further study.



What can this course lead to?

- The study of physics
- Engineering (of any sort)
- Any course or profession which requires a high standard of numeracy and clear logical thought.



Course Summary

Unit 1: Advanced Physics 1	Unit 2: Advanced Physics 2	Unit 3 : General and Practical Principles in Physics	Unit 4: Science Practical Endorsement
Working as a physicist Mechanics Electric circuits Further mechanics Electric & magnetic fields Nuclear & particle physics	Working as a physicist Materials Waves & particles Nature of light Thermodynamics Space Nuclear radiation Gravitational fields Oscillations	Synoptic questions on two or more different topics in the specification.	Students should use relevant apparatus & techniques to develop specific practical skills.

Method of Assessment

- **Unit 1:** Exam (1hr 45m) (30%)
- **Unit 2:** Exam (1hr 45m) (30%)
- **Unit 3:** Exam (2hr 30m) (40%)
- **Unit 4:** Internally Assessed

Why study this course?

Have you ever wondered who makes decisions that affect you? Do you have an interest in current affairs? Do you like to discuss and debate issues? If so, A Level Politics could be for you. The subject links well with History, Media, English, Sociology and Geography. We normally offer Politics students the opportunity to visit Parliament as part of the course.



What can this course lead to?

Politics will not necessarily lead to 10 Downing Street but produces an excellent grounding in laws and decision making in Britain, Europe and America. It provides a thorough background to a variety of degree courses as well as enabling students to gain a broad understanding of the world around them.



“Politics has enabled me to understand day to day events in the news and see what the political terms mean.”

Course Summary

Unit 1: Government and Politics in the UK	Unit 2: Government and Politics of the USA and comparative politics	Unit 3: Political Ideas
Constitution, Parliament, government, power of Prime Minister and cabinet, Supreme Court, devolution in UK, Growth UK democracy, pressure groups, rights in UK, elections and voting behaviour, electoral systems and Referendums, Parties and EU	Constitution, Congress, president, Supreme Court, US parties, elections, interest groups, comparisons with UK and civil rights	Liberalism, Conservatism, Socialism and Nationalism

Method of Assessment

- **Unit 1:** Exam (2hrs) (33.3%)
- **Unit 2:** Exam (2hrs) (33.3%)
- **Unit 3:** Exam (2hrs) (33.3%)

A Level Psychology

Exam Board: AQA

Why study this course?

Psychology is an excellent A Level subject to study: it is interesting, exciting and challenging. Studying Psychology helps to develop transferable skills of analysis, communication, evaluation and argument. It changes the way that you think and perceive the world forever, you will no longer be able to watch the news or read articles without considering the bigger picture and the interaction of contributing factors that lead to a variety of human behaviours. Why do we act the way we do? Does mother love set us up for life? Do murderers act aggressively because of genes or environment? How reliable is eye witness testimony? What can I do if I feel stressed? Psychology A Level sets out to answer some of these questions and many more. Students frequently take Psychology A Level as their first experience of Psychology and they find it stimulating and interesting to learn a new subject and to develop a scientific understanding of how the brain works and how human and animal behaviour is influenced.

What can this course lead to?

Possible career options include marketing, business development, accountancy, human resources, forensic psychology, occupational therapy, clinical psychology, nursing and teaching.



Course Summary

Unit 1	Unit 2
Social influence Memory Attachment Approaches in psychology Psychopathology Research methods	Biopsychology Issues and debates in psychology One topic chosen from AQA options: We study: Option 1: Gender Option 2: Schizophrenia Option 3: Aggression

Method of Assessment

- **Paper 1:** Exam (2hrs) (33.3%)
- **Paper 2:** Exam (2hrs) (33.3%)
- **Paper 3:** Exam (2hrs) (33.3%)

A Level Philosophy and Ethics

Exam Board: OCR

This course is officially known as A Level Religious Studies, Philosophy, Ethics and Buddhism

Why study this course?

This course offers a fascinating and thought provoking journey into Western and Eastern philosophical and moral thought.

Studying Philosophy and Ethics will enable students to:

- Develop an understanding of different philosophical traditions from the East and West and relate them to modern society.
- Develop an understanding and appreciation of philosophical thought and its contribution to individuals, communities and societies.
- Adopt an enquiring, critical and reflective approach to texts and ideas.
- Reflect on and develop personal values, opinions and attitudes in the light of the ideas studied.

"Wisdom begins in Wonder."

SOCRATES

What can this course lead to?

Studying Philosophy and Ethics will prepare you for any job or course where skills of debate, empathy, analysis, mediation, logical enquiry, reflection, diplomacy or self-expression are required.

You will develop a range of transferable skills which can be applied far beyond the study of philosophy.

This course offers opportunities for future degree level study and careers in areas such as: Philosophy, Theology, Religious Studies, Psychology, History, Biology, English, Sociology, Medicine, Law, Journalism and Education, Police Force, Armed Forces, Public Services, Civil Service, Teaching, Travel.



Course Summary

Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3
Philosophy: ancient philosophy (Socrates, Plato and Aristotle) arguments for the existence of God, nature of mind, body and soul, religious experiences and the problem of evil.	Ethics: different religious and secular ethical theories, the conscience, euthanasia, sexual ethics and business ethics.	Developments in Buddhist thought: eastern philosophy, religion without God, impact of Buddhism in modern society and the west as well as in popular culture.

Method of Assessment

- 3 written 2 hour examinations

Why study this course?

We all live in a society. From the moment we are born we are being influenced by the society we live in. Sociology looks at how the norms, values, and expectations of the society we are raised in shape how we behave, what we believe and how we see ourselves. It asks questions like; How does the 'culture' or 'family' you grow up in influence your values, goals and identity? Is crime the result of problems in the family or problems with society and social injustice? You do not need to have studied Sociology before to do well on this course. You will need to have an interest in people and an open mind about what makes us the way we are.

What can this course lead to?

Sociology teaches you skills for life. You may or may not choose a degree or career in sociology but either way what you learn on a sociology course will equip you for a range of degree courses and occupational settings.



“Sociology is fascinating, learning facts about how society functions and the reasons for this.”

Course Summary

Theme 1	Theme 2	Theme 3
Education with theory and methods	Families and households, beliefs in society	Crime and deviance with theory and methods

Method of Assessment

- **Theme 1:** Exam (2hrs) (33.3%)
- **Theme 2:** Exam (2hrs) (33.3%)
- **Theme 3:** Exam (2hrs) (33.4%)

1545

Why study this course?

This course is designed to enable students to further improve their language skills, to converse on a variety of different topics and to have an in-depth knowledge of Spanish language and culture.



What can this course lead to?

- A university degree in languages.
- Provide a suitable foundation to direct progression.
- Foster the ability in students to use language for different purposes.
- Enable students to carry out tasks which integrate language skills and context.
- Provide examinations of intellectual rigour which require a high degree of linguistic competence.
- Successful completion of this course should give A Level students a solid grounding in language skills and knowledge of the culture and society of the Spanish speaking world.

“Challenging yet rewarding to really learn the language.”

Course Summary

Theme 1: Aspects of Hispanic Society	Theme 2: Multiculturalism in Hispanic Society	Theme 3: Political Life	Theme 4: Artistic Culture
Modern and traditional values Cyberspace Equal rights	Immigration Racism Integration	Today's youth, tomorrow's citizens engagement Monarchies and dictatorships Popular movements	Modern day idols Spanish regional identity Cultural heritage

Method of Assessment

- **Exam 1:** Listening, reading and writing. (2hrs 30m) (50%)
- **Exam 2:** Writing (2hrs) (20%)
- **Exam 3:** Oral (23m) (30%)



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