

BOURNEMOUTH SCHOOL



Year 12 Subject Information

Entry in September 2025

Subjects

Please click on the relevant subject on this page to link to the subject information in this document.

If you wish to contact the Head of Department for further information please find the email on the Head of Department page.

Art and Design Biology **Business Studies** Chemistry **Computer Science (B) Core Mathematics (A) Design and Technology: Product Design Economics English Literature (A) Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)** French Geography German **Graphic Communication** History **Mathematics Further Mathematics** Music **Physical Education Physics Politics Psychology Religious Studies** Spanish

Head of Department Information

Art and Design		
Exam Board: AQA	Course Code: 7201	
https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/art-and-design/as-and-a-level/art-and-design- 7201/specification-at-a-glance		
Entry Requirement: Grade 6 in Art and	Design	

Students will be introduced to a variety of experiences that employ a range of traditional and new media, processes and techniques. Knowledge of art, craft and design will be developed through research, the development of ideas and making, working from first-hand experience and, where appropriate, secondary source materials. Students will be required to participate actively in the course of study, recognising and developing their own strengths in the subject and identifying and sustaining their own lines of enquiry.

Subject Content and Course Assessment

Component 1: Portfolio

What is assessed?

A personal investigation that shows explicit coverage of the four assessment objectives. It must be a sustained project evidencing the journey from initial engagement to the realisation of intentions. The personal investigation will be assessed as a whole. Evidence of meeting the requirements of all four assessment objectives must be provided in both the practical and written material.

How it is assessed

- > No time limit
- > 96 marks
- ➢ 60% of A Level

Component 2: Externally set assignment

What is assessed?

Students respond to their chosen starting point from an externally set assignment paper, evidencing coverage of all four assessment objectives. Each question paper will consist of a choice of eight questions to be used as starting points. Students are required to select one. Students will be provided with examination papers on 1 February, or as soon as possible after that date.

How it is assessed

- > Preparatory plus 15 hours of supervised time
- ➢ 96 marks
- 40% of A Level

Non-exam assessment (NEA) set by AQA; marked by the school/college and moderated by AQA during a visit; moderation will normally take place in June.

Higher Education and Careers

Students who choose this course will:

- > be suitably prepared for further study of an art, craft or design discipline at university
- be able to express themselves visually and articulately
- be able to work independently and problem solve effectively
- have good time management and organisational skills

Possible careers for artists and designers include: graphic design; architecture; illustration; industrial design; interior design; fine art, animation and film studies.

Biology		
Exam Board: AQA	Course Code: 7402	
www.aqa.org.uk/science and www.aqa.org.uk/7402		
Entry Requirements: Grade 6 in Biology PLUS Grade 6 in	or Grade 7/7 in Combined Sciences Mathematics	

The study of the relationship between the cells in our bodies and the larger organ and system structures provides an insight into how complex structures can be scientifically analysed to provide information to help maintain our health and fitness. Throughout the course students carry out experimental and investigative activities in order to develop their practical skills.

Subject Content

The topics that are studied at A Level are:

- 1. Biological molecules
- 2. Cells
- 3. Organisms exchange substances with their environment
- 4. Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms
- 5. Energy transfers in and between organisms
- 6. Organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments
- 7. Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems
- 8. The control of gene expression

Course Assessment

Paper 1

What is assessed: Any content from topics 1 – 4 including relevant practical skills

How it is assessed: written exam: 2 hours, 91 marks; 35% of A Level.

Questions: 76 marks - a mixture of short and long answer questions; 15 marks - extended response questions.

Paper 2

What is assessed: any content from topics 5 – 8 including relevant practical skills.

How it is assessed: written exam; 2 hours; 91 marks; 35% of A Level.

Questions: 76 marks - a mixture of short and long answer questions; 15 marks - comprehension questions.

Paper 3

What is assessed: any content from topics 1 – 8 including relevant practical skills.
How it is assessed: written exam; 2 hours; 78 marks; 30% of A Level.
Questions: 38 marks - structured questions including practical techniques; 15 marks - critical

analysis of given experimental data; 25 marks - one essay from a choice of two titles.

Higher Education and Careers

The opportunities for a Biologist include ecology, genetics, pharmaceuticals, healthcare, sports science, medicine, bioengineering, agriculture and land-based studies, hydrology and marine biology. See the following website for more information: <u>http://www.royalsocietyofbiology.com/education</u>

Business Studies		
Exam Board: AQA	Course Code: 7132	
www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/business-subjects/as-and-a-level/business-7131-7132		
	ess Studies or Grade 6 in English erature) plus Grade 6 in Mathematics	

The A Level Business Studies course covers the main functional areas of a business. The course focuses on the practical decisions and strategies that are made in each of the functional areas, in order to help develop and manage a successful business. During the course students learn about the major internal and external influences on these strategic decisions, including the impact of globalisation, business ethics and digital technology.

Subject Content

The content for the A Level Business course is split into ten units:

- \triangleright What is business?
- \triangleright Managers, leadership and decision making
- Decision making to improve marketing performance
- AAAAAAA Decision making to improve operational performance
- Decision making to improve financial performance
- Decision making to improve human resource performance
- Analysing the strategic position of a business
- Choosing strategic direction
- Strategic methods: how to pursue strategies
- \triangleright Managing strategic change

During the course students study businesses in a variety of contexts, from small local businesses to large multinational businesses. In the first year the focus is on the importance of decision making in businesses and the impact they have on competitiveness. In the second year of the course student learning focuses on creating effective strategies for larger multinational businesses.

Course Assessment

A Level Business Studies involves three 2 hour examinations at the end of the 2 year course. The examinations contain a mixture of multiple choice questions, short answer questions, questions on stimulus material, and essay guestions which require extended writing.

Higher Education and Careers

Qualifications in Business Studies may lead to careers in accountancy, advertising, banking, economics, management, industrial relations, human resources, insurance and marketing.

Business Studies can be combined with other subjects at university such as management, accounting, marketing, a foreign language, economics, law, finance and human resource management. Many students have gone on to university, including Exeter and Cardiff, to study business either as a single subject or in combination with other subjects. Recently some of our students have looked for alternative routes other than university. For example, numerous students over the last few years have achieved places on apprenticeship and degree apprenticeship schemes at businesses such as JP Morgan and Deloitte.

Chemistry		
Exam Board: AQA	Course Code: 7405	
www.aqa.org.uk/7405		
Entry requirements: Grade 6 in Chemistry or Grade 7/7 in Combined Sciences PLUS Grade 6 in Mathematics		

Modern Chemistry involves the study of matter and of how structure determines the properties and uses substances have. Chemistry looks at how and why substances interact and undergo chemical changes. A chemist is both creative and practical; ideas and experiments go hand in hand. Chemists also look to the future and develop new smart materials, alternative fuels and solutions to environmental problems. Throughout the course students carry out experimental and investigative activities in order to develop their practical skills and require a lab coat for practical work.

Subject Content

Topic 1

Physical chemistry: atomic structure; amount of substance bonding; energetics; kinetics; chemical equilibria; Le Chatelier's principle and *K*c; oxidation, reduction and redox equations; thermodynamics; rate equations; equilibrium constant *Kp* for homogeneous systems; electrode potentials and electrochemical cells; acids and bases.

Topic 2

Inorganic chemistry: periodicity; group 2 - the alkaline earth metals; group 7(17) - the halogens; properties of period 3 elements and their oxides; transition metals; reactions of ions in aqueous solution.

Topic 3

Organic chemistry: introduction to organic chemistry; alkanes; halogenoalkanes; alkenes; alcohols; organic analysis; optical isomerism; aldehydes and ketones; carboxylic acids and derivatives; aromatic chemistry; amines; polymers; amino acids; proteins and DNA organic synthesis; nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy chromatography.

Course Assessment

Paper 1 - aspects of topic 1; all of topic 2 inorganic chemistry; relevant practical skills How it is assessed: written exam; 2 hours; 105 marks; 35% of A Level. Questions: 105 marks of short and long answer questions.

Paper 2 - aspects of topic 1; all of topic 3; relevant practical skills

How it is assessed: written exam; 2 hours; 105 marks; 35% of A Level. **Questions:** 105 marks of short and long answer questions.

Paper 3 - any content; any practical skills

How it is assessed: written exam; 2 hours; 90 marks; 30% of A Level. **Questions:** 40 marks of questions on practical techniques and data analysis; 20 marks of questions which test across the specification; 30 marks of multiple choice questions.

Higher Education and Careers

The range of opportunities for a chemist include: pharmaceuticals; healthcare; medicine; chemical engineering; agriculture; material science and quality control and forensics. See the following website for more information: <u>https://edu.rsc.org/future-in-chemistry/career-options/job-profiles</u>

Computer Science (B)		
Exam Board: OCR	Course Code: H446	
www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-a-level-gce-computer-science-h046-h446-from- 2015/		
Entry Requirement: Grade 6 in Comp	uter Science	

Computer Science is a practical subject where students can apply the academic principles learned in the classroom to real-world systems. It is also an intensely creative subject which combines invention and excitement, and can look at the natural world through a digital prism. The qualification involves computational thinking, helping students to develop the skills to solve problems, design systems and understand the power and limits of human and machine intelligence.

This course is the best preparation for students who want to go on to study Computer Science at a higher level and also provides a good grounding for other subject areas that require computational thinking and analytical skills such as Mathematics and Physics.

Course Assessment

Paper 1 - Computer systems

140 marks; 2 hours and 30 minutes written paper; 40% of A Level.

This component is a traditionally marked and structured question paper with a mix of question types: short-answer, longer-answer and some higher tariff questions that test the quality of written responses via a level of response mark scheme. It covers the characteristics of contemporary computer systems architecture.

Paper 2 - Algorithms and programming

140 marks; 2 hours and 30 minutes written paper; 40% of A Level.

This component is a traditionally marked and structured question paper with a mix of question types: short-answer, longer-answer and some higher tariff questions that test the quality of written responses via a level of response mark scheme. There is a short scenario contained in the paper which could be an algorithm or a text page-based task involving problem solving.

Paper 3 - Programming project

70 marks; non-exam assessment with external moderation; 20% of A Level.

Students and/or centres select their own user-driven problem of an appropriate size and complexity to solve. This enables them to demonstrate the skills and knowledge necessary to meet the assessment objectives. Students need to analyse the problem, design a solution, implement the solution and give a thorough evaluation.

Computer Systems (1) and Algorithms and programming (2) will be assessed by examinations in May/June of Year 13. The Programming project (3) is carried out from the end of Year 12 through Year 13.

Higher Education and Careers

Computing is of enormous importance to the economy and is an 'underpinning' subject across science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. It is excellent preparation for students looking to take computing at Degree Level or employment. Students who want to go on to higher study and employment in the field of computing will find it provides a superb stepping stone and they will have an advantage over their colleagues. The increasing importance of computer programming means there will be a growing demand for professionals who are qualified in this area. It should be noted that A Level Mathematics is generally a requirement for students wishing to study a degree in Computer Science.

Core Mathematics (A)		
Exam Board: OCR	Course Code: H868	
https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/core-maths/a-mei-level-3-certificate-h868/		
Entry Requirement: No additional requirements		

The Core Mathematics Level 3 Certificate in Quantitative Reasoning is designed for students who obtain a grade 5 or higher at GCSE.

Studying Core Mathematics will better prepare students for the mathematical demands of work, study and life. The course has been developed with employers, universities and professional bodies as valuable preparation for higher education and employment.

Core Mathematics will enable students to:

- > learn the mathematical skills to tackle problems in a variety of authentic situations
- strengthen the mathematical knowledge and skills which they have learnt at GCSE so that they can apply them to the problems they will encounter in further study, life and employment

Please note that UCAS points are awarded equivalent to an AS qualification.

Course Content

The topics we study are modelling, statistics, finance, spreadsheets, working with graphs and gradients, working with exponentials, risk, strategies for problem solving, Fermi estimation, fallacies in statistics and probability, statistical experiments and conditional probability.

Course Assessment

Paper 1 – 50%; 2 hours; calculator allowed Paper 2 – 50%; 2 hours; calculator allowed

Benefits

Core Mathematics helps to develop students' mathematical skills and thinking. It supports students progressing to higher education to study subjects such as Psychology, Business, Sociology, Economics, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Geography and many more. This often involves knowing how to apply simple but powerful mathematical ideas in practical settings; for example, knowing how to analyse and interpret the results of a survey or being able to make sensible estimates when solving practical problems.

Design and Technology: Product Design

Exam Board: Edexcel

Course Code: 9DT0

https://gualifications.pearson.com/en/gualifications/edexcel-a-levels/designtechnology-product-design-2017.html

Entry Requirement:

Grade 6 in Design and Technology

Edexcel Design and Technology (Product Design) A Level has strong links with Mathematics and Science, and it enables learners to integrate and apply their understanding and knowledge from other subject areas that would have been studied at GCSE.

Design and Technology is an inspiring, rigorous and practical subject and aims to give an insight into the way that creative, designing and manufacturing industries function. Learners are therefore enabled to make the connection between the knowledge, understanding and skills they develop and how this will benefit them in the future. Learning about Product Design at A Level strengthens learners' critical thinking and problem-solving skills within a creative environment, enabling them to develop and make prototypes of products that solve real world problems, considering their own and others' needs, wants, aspirations and values. Edexcel's A Level qualification requires students to identify market needs and opportunities for new products, initiate and develop design solutions, and make and test prototypes products.

Subject Content and Course Assessment

The course is assessed through one exam and an internally marked non-examined assessment (NEA). The NEA (coursework) makes up 50% of the final A Level grade. There is a real emphasis on practical skills as well as creativity, problem solving, and applying scientific principles. The Iterative Design Project requires students to undertake a substantial design, make and evaluate a project centred on the iterative process of explore, create, and evaluate. Students will produce a portfolio of evidence, which should be a working document that evolves with the project, detailing their design decisions, problems and solutions.

Exam Paper 'Principles of Design Technology'.

Duration of examination: 2 hour 30 minutes.

Higher Education and Careers

The logical progression from studying Product Design at A Level would be to either study for a degree or enter a training scheme (such as a higher apprenticeship) in a related discipline. However, students need not necessarily be thinking of a career in these areas to study the subject; Product Design helps students develop the soft skills sought by universities and employers, as well as providing a way of linking together the other subjects that they are following.



Economics		
Exam Board: AQA	Course Code: 7136	
https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/economics/a-level/economics-7136/specification		
Entry Requirement: Grade 6 in Mathem	natics and English (Language or Literature)	

A Level Economics aims to develop an understanding of how individual markets work and their impact on the national economy. It helps to give an insight into key issues in the news that impact our everyday lives. The course aims to develop a critical understanding of the micro and macroeconomic concepts, theories, principles and policies which are used to solve the problems facing modern economies. By the conclusion of the course students will be able to analyse economic problems and evaluate the economic policies that can be undertaken to deal with them.

Subject Content

The content of the A Level Economics course is split into two sections: micro and macroeconomics. In microeconomics students acquire knowledge and understanding of a selection of models and apply these to current problems and issues. Students learn how individual markets operate in order to derive the market price and output. As part of this section the course considers a variety of market structures from highly competitive markets to situations where there is only one seller in the market. Students finally consider why markets do not always operate as efficiently as they should and thus the intervention methods that the government undertakes to attempt to resolve the market failure caused.

In macroeconomics students firstly study how the economy works through an understanding of the circular of income and aggregate demand and supply. Students then consider the main criteria used to measure economic performance, including economic growth, unemployment, inflation and the balance of payments. This awareness of the main government economic policy objectives underpins the rest of the unit as all policies will be evaluated based around these targets. Finally, students gain an understanding of the main policies the government adopts to help control and manage the economy. Throughout the unit students develop a good knowledge of developments in the UK economy and government policies over the past fifteen years.

Course Assessment

A Level Economics involves three 2 hour examinations at the end of the 2 year course. The examinations contain a mixture of multiple choice questions, short answer questions, questions on stimulus material and essay questions which require extended writing.

Higher Education and Careers

It should be noted that students considering pure Economics in higher education should consider studying A Level Mathematics as this is often a requirement for a pure Economics degree. Many students go on to study Economics at university either purely or in combination with another subject. Qualifications in Economics may lead to a wide range of subject related careers such as accountancy, administration, banking, business economics, financial services, politics, social studies, economic and political research and statistics.

English Literature (A)		
Exam Board: AQA	Course Code: 7712	
https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/a-level/english-7712/specification		
Entry Requirement: Grade 6 in English	(Language or Literature)	

Subject Content

Paper 1 'Love through the Ages' and Paper 2 'Texts in Shared Contexts' are both covered across the two years. Each unit is delivered by a different teacher reflecting their specialism.

In the first year the focus is primarily on developing knowledge of the set texts and the core skills required at A Level.

The second year is dedicated to honing these skills through exam practice, embedding knowledge of the texts and revising all aspects of the course ready for the examinations.

Course Assessment

Paper 1: Love through the Ages

3 hours; 75 marks; 40% of A Level. Section A: Shakespeare - one passage-based question with linked essay. Section B: Unseen poetry - compulsory essay on two unseen poems. Section C: Comparing texts - one essay question linking two texts.

Non-exam Assessment

Independent critical study, texts across time, 50 marks, 20% of A Level, assessed by teacher and externally moderated. A comparative critical study of two texts, at least one of which must have been written pre-1900. This takes the form of a 2500 word essay.

Paper 2: Texts in Shared Contexts

2 hours 30 minutes; 75 marks; 40% of A Level. Section A: Set texts- one essay question on set text Section B: Contextual linking

- > One compulsory question on an unseen extract
- One essay question linking two texts.

Higher Education and Careers

The competences needed for literary study are those needed in most professions: clear thinking, close scrutiny of evidence, arguing a case and being responsive to the views of others. The subject is useful for most of the careers normally open to non-scientists and is well respected by universities.

Qualifications in English Literature may lead to a wide range of subject related careers e.g. editing, publishing, advertising, drama, journalism, television production, media management, librarianship, as well as careers in other areas.

Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

Exam Board: AQA

Course Code: 7993

AQA | Projects | Project qualifications | Level 3 Extended Project Qualification

Entry Requirement: No additional requirements

What is the EPQ?

The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) is a totally independent piece of research on a subject of the student's choice. The qualification takes a minimum of 120 hours to complete of which 30 hours will be 'taught skills'. The qualification has been designed to develop skills that will be of benefit not only at university but also in the world of work. The project also gives students an opportunity to research an area of interest outside of their A level studies.

The EPQ is a level three qualification; equivalent to half an A level.

The Course:

Taught Skills: The taught skills lessons will help students with planning, researching, writing, referencing and producing their completed product and final presentation.

Product Realisation: The final product will either be a 5000-word essay or artefact with a 1000 word write up. As the product evolves, a production log is kept to record specific stages of the project, provide details of the research, analysis and reflection completed. Students will be supported in this through regular meetings with their project supervisor.

Presentation: Students end the project by making a presentation to a non-specialist audience, including other students and staff, in which they talk about their final product and reflect upon the journey they have taken as well as answer questions from the audience.

Course Assessment:

Manage: Identify, design, plan and carry out a project (10 marks).

Use Resources: Research, critically select, organise and use appropriate information from a wide range of sources and resources (10 marks).

Develop and Realise: Select and use a range of skills to problem solve and to take decisions critically to achieve the planned outcomes (20 marks).

Review: Evaluate all aspects of the project including outcomes in relation to the stated objectives and own learning and performance (10 marks).

Benefits

Convince universities to make you an offer. The EPQ provides clear evidence that you have interests and abilities which go beyond the A-level curriculum. It demonstrates that you are capable of undertaking the kind of independent reading, research, and essay writing that is the mainstay of most undergraduate degrees.

Research suggests that those students who complete an EPQ are more likely to achieve higher grades at A level as well as in their degrees.

 French

 Exam Board: Edexcel
 Course Code: 9FR0

 https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/french-2016.html

Entry Requirement: Grade 6 in French

The ability to speak another language and to understand and empathise with other cultures is a key skill in a modern, globalised society. The new A Levels in Modern Foreign Languages focus on developing students' ability to communicate and comprehend the foreign language at a high level. Students will have the opportunity to learn about the culture of the language that they are studying and be able to engage with a range of authentic resources, including literature and films.

Subject Content

Theme 1: Les changements dans la société françaiseTheme 2: La culture politique et artistique dans les pays francophonesTheme 3: L'immigration et la société multiculturelle française

Theme 4: L'Occupation et la Résistance

In addition to the four themes, students study both a novel and a film in the target language. The film is 'La haine' by Mathieu Kassowitz, which revolves around 24 hours in the life of three inner-city youths in Paris. The novel is 'Un Sac de Billes' by Joseph Joffo and is an autobiographical account of a young Jewish boy who has to flee his home to escape Nazi persecution during the occupation of France.

Course Assessment

The A Level qualification is examined across 4 skills (Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing) all of which are examined by means of a terminal exam in Year 13.

- > Paper 1 Listening, reading and translation (40% of qualification)
- > Paper 2 Written response to works (novel and film) and translation (30% of qualification)
- Paper 3 Speaking (30% of qualification)

Higher Education and Careers

Students who choose this course will be suitably prepared for further study of a language at university and they will achieve a good level of fluency. They will be able to use the language that they have learnt spontaneously, in a variety of practical situations. They will have an excellent grounding in an academic discipline which is highly regarded by the very best universities.

Possible careers for linguists include: translation / interpreting, the Diplomatic Service / the Foreign Office, journalism, marketing/sales, teaching.

Geography Exam Board: Edexcel Course Code: 9GEO http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/geography-2016.html Image: Course Code: 9GEO Entry Requirement: Grade 6 in Geography

Geography is a qualification that enables students to engage critically with real world issues and places, apply their own geographical knowledge, understanding and skills to make sense of the world around them, and to help prepare them to succeed in their chosen pathway. Geography covers a wide range of contemporary themes and issues, so students can understand the world around us and what could impact its future.

Subject Content and Course Assessment

Paper 1: 30% of A Level

- Topic 1: Tectonic Processes and Hazards tectonic processes, a study of the causes of tectonic hazards, the impact of tectonic activity on people, and responses to tectonic hazards.
 Topic 2: Landscape Systems, Processes and Change an integrated study of processes, landforms and landscapes; a study of one landscape system and the physical and human
- Topic 5: The Water Cycle and Water Insecurity water cycle, human and natural factors that
- Topic 6: The Carbon Cycle and Energy Security carbon cycle, human and natural factors
- impacting on carbon cycling, the consequences for ecosystems and management strategies.

Paper 2: 30% of A Level

- Topic 3: Globalisation a study of globalisation, its causes and consequences for different people and places.
- Topic 4: Shaping Places a study of how and why places are shaped and changed, the meanings and identities attached to different places and the consequences for different people – Regenerating Places.
- Topic 7: Superpowers superpowers, the reasons for shifting economic and political power, the impacts of superpowers, influence of superpowers in governing the global commons.
- Topic 8: Global Development and Connections Migration, Identity and Sovereignty.

Paper 3: 20% of A Level

Synoptic investigation of a contemporary geographical issue.

Independent Investigation: Code: 9GE0/04 - 20% of A Level.

Students will produce a question or issue for investigation. The investigation incorporates fieldwork data (collected individually) and own research and/or secondary data.

Higher Education and Careers

Geography students combine a knowledge of science and an understanding of the arts. A few possible careers include: weather presenter, disaster manager, flood prevention officer, risk assessor, aid worker, diplomat, charity coordinator, GIS specialist, cartographer, utilities manager, remote sensing, planner, social worker, market researcher, housing officer, estate agent, hydrologist, coastal manager, geologist, civil engineer, conservation officer.

German		
Exam Board: Edexcel	Course Codes: 9GN0	
https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/german- 2016.html		
Entry Requirement: Grade 6 in Germar	า	

The ability to speak another language and to understand and empathise with other cultures is a key skill in a modern, globalised society. The new A Levels in Modern Foreign Languages focus on developing students' ability to communicate and comprehend the foreign language at a high level. Students will have the opportunity to learn about the culture of the language that they are studying and be able to engage with a range of authentic resources, including literature and films.

Subject Content

Theme 1: Changes in German societyTheme 2: The political and artistic culture of German speaking countriesTheme 3: Immigration and multiculturalism in GermanyTheme 4: The Reunification of Germany

In addition to the four themes, students study both a novel and a film in the target language. The film is 'Das Leben der Anderen' by Flonan Henckel von Donnersmarck. The novel is 'Der Vorleser', which is a parable dealing with the difficulties in post-war Germany.

Course Assessment

The A Level qualification is examined across 4 skills (Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing) all of which are examined by means of a terminal exam in Year 13.

- > Paper 1 Listening, reading and translation (40% of qualification)
- > Paper 2 Written response to works (novel and film) and translation (30% of qualification)
- Paper 3 Speaking (30% of qualification)

Higher Education and Careers

Students who choose this course will be suitably prepared for further study of a language at university and they will achieve a good level of fluency. They will be able to use the language that they have learnt spontaneously, in a variety of practical situations. They will have an excellent grounding in an academic discipline which is highly regarded by the very best universities.

Possible careers for linguists include: translation / interpreting, the Diplomatic Service / the Foreign Office, journalism, marketing/sales, teaching.

Graphic Communication

Exam Board: AQA

Course Code: 7201

https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/art-and-design/a-level/art-and-design-7201/specification

Entry Requirement: Grade 6 in either Art and Design or Graphic Design

Graphic communication studies the various methods of visual communication. The subject explores the many diverse areas within design including illustration, typography, packaging and corporate identities. You will explore different ways of producing work incorporating drawing, printing methods and the use of Illustrator, Photoshop and InDesign. Throughout the year you will study how other designers and artists have produced work, enabling you to appreciate the design process. Students will be required to participate actively in the course of study, recognising and developing their own strengths in graphics and identifying and sustaining their own lines of enquiry.

Subject Content and Course Assessment

Component 1: Portfolio

What is assessed?

Students are required to conduct a practical investigation, into an idea, issue, concept or theme, supported by written material. The investigation should be a coherent, in-depth study that demonstrates the student's ability to construct and develop a sustained line of reasoning from an initial starting point to a final realisation. The investigation must show clear development from initial intentions to the final outcome or outcomes. It must include evidence of the student's ability to research and develop ideas and relate their work in meaningful ways to relevant critical/contextual materials.

How it is assessed

- > No time limit
- > 96 marks
- > 60% of A Level

Component 2: Externally set assignment

What is assessed?

Students respond to their chosen starting point from an externally set assignment paper, evidencing coverage of all four assessment objectives. Each question paper will consist of a choice of eight questions to be used as starting points. Students are required to select one. Students will be provided with examination papers on 1 February, or as soon as possible after that date.

How it is assessed

- Preparatory plus 15 hours of supervised time
- > 96 marks
- 40% of A Level

Non-exam assessment (NEA) set by AQA; marked by the school/college and moderated by AQA during a visit; moderation will normally take place in June.

Higher Education and Careers

Students who choose this course will be able to express themselves effectively, both visually and articulately. They will have developed critical thinking skills, worked as a team and independently, taken on challenges which allow them to become better problem solvers and independent enquirers. They will have good time management and organisational skills which will allow them to be suitably prepared for further study at university, but also apprenticeships and work-based learning. Possible career paths for designers include: graphic design; communication design and strategy, creative direction, illustration, animation and film studies.



 History
 Course Code: H505

 https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-and-a-level/history-a-h105-h505-from-2015/
 Image: Course Code: H505

Entry Requirement: Grade 6 in History

"History will be kind to me for I intend to write it." These words of Winston Churchill neatly highlight some of the key themes of our studies, considering different interpretations of the past and how they continue to create our present day world. Our History studies follow the OCR specification, with units which cover a range of British and World topics, giving students an insight into issues which are interesting in their own right, as well as being hugely relevant to the world in which we live today.

Units are examined by a mixture of shorter and longer answer questions involving sources and knowledge.

Subject Content and Course Assessment

Unit 1 – Britain 1900-1951

Paper Code: Y112 – 25% of A Level (1 hour 30 minutes exam paper). Topics: England and a New Century 1900-18; Britain at War 1914-18; Prime Ministers; domestic and economic policies throughout the period.

Unit 2 – The American Revolution 1740-1796

Paper Code: Y212 – 15% of A Level (1 hour exam paper). Topics: British hegemony in America; causes of the American Revolution; The American Revolution 1774-1783; the early Republic 1783-96.

Unit 3 – Russia and its Rulers 1855-1964

Paper Code: Y318 – 40% of A Level (2 hours 30 minutes exam paper). Topics: The nature of government, the impact of dictatorial regimes on economy/society, impact of war/revolution and empire/nationalities/satellite states. Depth studies on Alexander II, the Provisional Government and Khrushchev.

Unit 4 – Coursework

Paper Code: Y100 – 20% of A Level. Topics: Range of questions available centred around interpretations of Winston Churchill as British Prime Minister.

Higher Education and Careers

In recent years, a high proportion of students have gone on to study History related course at universities including Oxford, Durham, York, Exeter, Southampton and Royal Holloway. Qualifications in History are highly regarded by both universities and employers and give the analytical skills which leave many doors open and lead to a wide range of careers e.g. civil service, journalism, law, local government, banking, sales and marketing, as well as numerous careers in other areas.

Prospects, the UK's official graduate website, states that History improves critical reasoning, analytical skills, intellectual rigour and independence, including research, marshalling an argument, including evaluating, selecting and ordering relevant evidence, self-motivation and self-reliance. History is classified by the Russell Group universities as a 'facilitating subject': subjects "which leave the most options open for students."

Mathematics		
Exam Board: Edexcel	Course Code: 9MA0	
http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/mathematics- 2017.html		
Entry Requirement: Grade 7 in Mathem	natics	

The study of mathematics will also benefit the study of other A Level subjects such as Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Computing, Geography, Psychology and Economics.

Subject Content and Course Assessment

Students sit three 2 hour papers in the summer of Year 13.

Papers 1 and 2 will cover the Pure Mathematics content:ProofAlgebra and functionsCoordinate geometrySequences and seriesTrigonometryExponentials and logarithmsDifferentiationIntegrationNumerical methodsVectors

Paper 3 will cover Statistics and Mechanics:

Statistical sampling Data presentation and interpretation Probability Statistical distributions Statistical hypothesis testing Quantities and units in mechanics Kinematics Forces and Newton's laws Moments

Calculators are permitted in all of the exams and therefore students are expected to have a calculator which has an iterative function and which has the ability to compute summary statistics and access probabilities from standard statistical distributions. The Mathematics department will offer advice as to which calculators will be suitable.

Higher Education and Careers

A Level Mathematics is well-respected by employers and Universities. Studying Mathematics develops the ability to think logically and analytically. For most science, technology and engineering degree courses A Level Mathematics is a requirement.

Further Mathematics

Exam Board: Edexcel

Course Code: 9FM0

<u>https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/mathematics-</u> <u>2017.html</u> (then select Change Specification for A level Further Mathematics)

Entry Requirement: Grade 8 in Mathematics

A Level Further Mathematics is challenging and rewarding. Students will be introduced to interesting new areas of pure mathematics such as complex numbers and will explore applications of mathematics in a wider range of contexts. Further mathematics is often a preferred subject for many technology, computer science and engineering degree courses and is a requirement for most mathematics degree courses.

Subject Content and Course Assessment

Students choosing Further Mathematics will complete the A Level mathematics course and will sit all of the examinations for the mathematics course. In addition, they will sit the following examinations to obtain the A Level in Further Mathematics.

Students will sit four papers lasting 1 hour 30 minutes in the summer of Year 13.

Papers 1 and 2 will cover the compulsory **Pure Mathematics** content. Proof, complex numbers, matrices, further algebra and functions, further calculus, further vectors.

Papers 3 and 4 are optional units. (We will decide which units to take based on the strengths of the group.)

The options we choose are:

Further Mechanics 1: Momentum and impulse, Collisions, Centres of mass, Work and energy, Elastic strings and springs.

Decision Mathematics 1: Algorithms and graph theory, algorithms on graphs, critical path analysis, linear programming.

Other options are:

Further Pure Mathematics 1: calculus, differential equations, coordinate systems, vectors, numerical methods, inequalities.

Further Statistics 1: Linear regression, Statistical distributions (discrete), Statistical distributions (continuous), Correlation, Hypothesis testing, Chi squared tests.

Further Pure Mathematics 2: Groups, further calculus, further matrix algebra, further complex numbers, number theory, further sequences and series.

Further Statistics 2: Probability distributions, combinations of random variables, estimation, confidence intervals and tests using a normal distribution, other hypothesis tests and confidence intervals, probability generating functions, quality of tests and estimators.

Further Mechanics 2: Further kinematics, further dynamics, motion in a circle, statics of rigid bodies, elastic collisions in two dimensions.

Music		
Exam Board: Edexcel	Course Code: 9MU0	
http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/music-2016.html		
Entry Requirement: Grade 6 in GCSE M theory (ABRSM or equivalent)	lusic or Grade 6 practical and Grade 5	

A commitment to music and music making, both in the classroom and wider school community is needed to study Music. Students should be self-motivated learners who can meet deadlines. In order to start this course students will need to have strong performing skills (equivalent to grade 6 or above at the start of the course). Some keyboard skills would be a distinct advantage. This course enables students who enjoy music to extend their skills, knowledge and understanding. It encourages the study of the context in which music is or was written, as well as developing skills as a composer and performer.

Subject Content and Course Assessment

The Course consists of three components, all of which are examined during Year 13:

1. Performing – 30% of A Level

Students will need to complete a recital of a minimum of 8 minutes actual playing time in length. This will be recorded in school at some point between 1st March and 15th May of year 13, and then submitted to the board for marking. An audience of at least 2 people must be present at the recording. Any instrument and any style of music is permitted. However, the music performed must be of sufficient difficulty. During the course there will be opportunities to practise performing in front of an audience to develop skills.

2. Composing – 30% of A Level

For this component two pieces of work need to be submitted. The first is a composition which is to a brief set by the exam board at the start of Year 13. There are 6 briefs each year, one relating to each of the six areas of study.

The second piece is a piece of technical writing, and we study the Bach Chorale option. Students will learn how to complete a 4-part chorale harmonization in the style of Bach. In the Spring of Year 13, the exam board release 2 technical exercises to be completed for submission.

In total, the 2 pieces (composition and Bach chorales) must total 6 minutes in length. In both cases, both a score and a recording (which may be computer generated) must be submitted.

3. Appraising – 40% of A Level

This unit takes in the skills of listening and analysis. Students study 13 set works which cover the same areas of study as composition. At the end of the course there is a 2 hour examination during which students answer both listening and essay questions based on these 13 set works. Students are also be asked one question of an unfamiliar piece of music.

Higher Education and Careers

Music is an essential A Level for any student wishing to take a degree in music at either university or music college. It is also useful for admission to music technology and performing arts courses. In addition, music promotes self-discipline, teamwork and commitment in addition to the more obvious academic and performance skills.

Physical Education		
Exam Board: AQA	Course Code: 7582	
https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/physical-education/a-level/physical-education- 7582/specification		
Entry Requirement: Grade 6 in Physica	L Education	

The A Level Physical Education specification is designed to attract students with a passion for sport. It will improve and develop their practical skills and provide them with the theoretical understanding to support continued involvement within sport.

Subject Content and Course Assessment

The qualification is examined across 2 exam papers each of equal weighting (35%), which are assessed by terminal examinations in May/June of Year 13.

Paper 1: Factors affecting participation in physical activity and sport

Section A: Applied anatomy and physiology Section B: Skill acquisition Section C: Sport and society

Paper 2: Factors affecting optimal performance in physical activity and sport

Section A: Exercise physiology and biomechanics Section B: Sport psychology Section C: Sport and society and technology in sport

The remaining 30% is assessed practically from the performance in one activity as either a performer or coach and via an analysis piece of coursework.

The sport selected for assessment MUST come from the following list:

Acrobatic Gymnastics, Amateur boxing, Association Football, Athletics, Badminton, Basketball, Camogie, Canoeing, Cricket, Cycling, Dance, Diving, Equestrian, Figure Skating, Futsal, Gaelic Football, Golf, Gymnastics, Handball, Hockey, Hurling, Ice Hockey, Inline Roller Hockey, Kayaking, Lacrosse, Netball, Rock Climbing, Rowing, Rugby League, Rugby Union, Sailing, Sculling, Skiing, Snowboarding, Squash, Swimming, Table Tennis, Tennis, Trampolining, Triathlon, Volleyball, Water Polo, Windsurfing.

Higher Education and Careers

In recent years, a significant proportion of students have gone on to study Sports Science related courses at universities including Loughborough, Bath, Southampton and Exeter. Possible careers in the sports industry include sports physiologist, sports events manager, sports journalism, sports nutritionist and sports marketing.

Physics		
Exam Board: Edexcel	Course Code: 9PH0	
https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/physics- 2015.html		
Entry Requirement: Grade 6 in Physics or Grade 7/7 in Combined Sciences PLUS Grade 7 in Mathematics		

From the fundamental particles such as quarks and leptons which go to make atoms, up to the vastness of galaxies and how the universe has evolved, Physics covers it all. Physics is the study of the natural world covering sizes from thousandths of millionths of metres up to billions of light years. Between these extremes you will find many topics that we use in our daily lives.

Subject Content

The topics that are studied at A Level are:

- 1. Working as a physicist
- 2. Mechanics
- 3. Electric circuits
- 4. Materials
- 5. Waves and the particle nature of light
- 6. Further mechanics
- 7. Electric and magnetic fields
- 8. Nuclear and particle physics
- 9. Thermodynamics
- 10. Space
- 11. Nuclear radiation
- 12. Gravitational fields
- 13. Oscillations

Course Assessment

Paper 1

What is assessed: Topics 1, 2, 3, 6, 7 and 8 How it is assessed: written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes, 90 marks, 30% of A Level. Questions: Multiple-choice, short open, open-response, calculations and extended writing questions.

Paper 2

What is assessed: Topics 1, 4, 5, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 How it is assessed: Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes, 90 marks, 30% of A Level. Questions: Multiple-choice, short open, open-response, calculations and extended writing questions.

Paper 3

What is assessed: All topics above plus conceptual and theoretical understanding of experimental methods and practical skills from the core practical work.

How it is assessed: Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes, 120 marks, 40% of A Level.

Questions: Multiple-choice, short open, open-response, calculations and extended writing questions. This paper will include synoptic questions.

Higher Education and Careers

Anyone considering a Physics related career should bear in mind that mathematics is required for such degrees. The range of opportunities for a good physicist include healthcare, engineering, material science, meteorology, quality control and forensics, aeronautics and space science, electronics and computing and the financial sector. See the following website: <u>https://www.iop.org/careers-physics</u>



"Democracy cannot succeed unless those who express their choice are prepared to choose wisely. The real safeguard of democracy, therefore, is education." These words from Franklin D. Roosevelt beautifully summarise our Politics course, which offers a unique opportunity to cover a subject which changes markedly from year to year based on current affairs and political developments, including analysing the recent referendum and general election results which have so markedly changed the UK's place in the world order.

The A level Politics course came in for first teaching in September 2017, and is based around the study of three units, giving an insight into power within the UK, considering the role of key institutions and the mechanisms which bind them together, followed then by the study of Global Politics, covering key issues such as power, global governance and globalisation, which have never been more relevant to the world.

All units are examined by a mixture of shorter and longer answer questions.

Subject Content and Course Assessment

Unit 1 – UK Politics and Core Political Ideas

Paper Code: 9PLO/01 – 33.3% of A Level (2 hours exam paper).

Topics: Democracy and participation, electoral systems, voting behavior, the media, conservatism, liberalism, socialism.

Unit 2 – UK Government and other Political Ideas

Paper Code: 9PLO/02 – 33.3% of A Level (2 hours exam paper).

Topics: The UK constitution, parliament; Prime Minister and the executive; relationships between the branches, one other political ideology.

Unit 3 – Comparative Politics – Global Politics option

Paper Code: 9PLO/3B – 33.3% of A Level (2 hours exam paper).

Topics: sovereignty and globalisation, global governance, power and development, regionalism and the European Union, comparative theories.

Higher Education and Careers

In recent years a high number of students have gone on to study Politics at a higher level, including entry to courses based around International Relations, and the increasingly popular PPE (Politics, Philosophy and Economics) courses.

Qualifications in Politics give a very strong grounding for all sorts of careers such as civil service, law, media and publishing, management, retail, accountancy, banking, the Foreign Office, politics, political consultancy.

Psychology		
Exam Board: AQA	Course Code: 7182	
https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/psychology/a-level/psychology-7182/specification		
Entry Requirement: Grade 6 in English (Language or Literature), Mathematics and Biology		

The aim of the A Level Psychology course is to introduce students to the scientific study of the mind and behaviour of humans. Psychologists are interested in objective measurements of cognition and actions, but also recognise the importance of subjective experiences. The course in A Level Psychology will also develop students' essay writing, analytical, mathematical and scientific skills. The study of Psychology will be enjoyed by thoughtful students who are interested in their own and others' thought processes and behaviour.

Subject Content

Paper 1: Introductory topics in Psychology

All of the content for this paper is covered in the first year of the A Level course. Students cover four compulsory topics for this paper. For the topic of social influence, students learn to what extent humans will conform with or obey those around them and why this occurs. For the topic of memory, students study models concerning how the human memory system operates and look at several theories of forgetting. In attachment students will consider the strength of bonds between children and parents and how those bonds develop. In psychopathology students will cover phobia, depression and OCD in depth.

Paper 2: Psychology in context

Students cover the content for this paper across the two years of the A Level. The first sections of this examination focus on different approaches to the study of the mind and behaviour. Students learn about behaviourism, social learning theory, cognitive psychology, psychoanalytic theory, and humanistic psychology. In biopsychology, and students gain an understanding of neuroanatomy, basic biochemistry underlying behaviour, and behavioural genetics. This paper also includes research methods where they will come to understand basic research methodology and data analysis.

Paper 3: Issues and options in Psychology

Students cover the content for this paper across the two years of the A Level. Students study issues and debates, alongside gender, aggression and schizophrenia. These involve an in-depth analysis of why human beings are aggressive and the possible reasons for this, as well as an understanding of schizophrenia as a disorder, including how we treatment and manage its symptoms. In gender we consider how children learn what it means to be a man or women, and why some individuals are able to show a greater level of flexibility in this understanding.

Course Assessment

A Level Psychology involves three 2-hour examinations at the end of the 2 year course. Each examination contains multiple choice questions, short answer questions, questions on stimulus material, and essay questions which require extended writing.

Higher Education and Careers

Psychology can be useful for a range of careers, including social work, advertising, teaching, counselling, and human resources. A Psychology graduate can also access careers in sports psychology, educational psychology, clinical psychology, forensic psychology, occupational psychology, health psychology and much more.

Religious Studies

Exam Board: EDUQAS

Course Code: A120QS

https://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/religious-studies-as-a-level/#tab_overview

Entry Requirement: No additional requirements

In our department, Philosophy, Religion and Ethics, during the Religious Studies A level course you will be given the opportunity to think in new ways and examine questions such as:

- "What is the purpose of life?" and "Does evil exist?";
- Study topics that explain the diversity of life and religion in the modern world;
- Improve your philosophical thinking skills and the ability to think outside of the box; and
- Understand contemporary ethical and religious issues such as medical ethics and immigration.

What skills will I develop?

- Develop communication skills and learn to clearly express your views and increase your self-confidence.
- You will learn how to write logically and to develop reasoned arguments. Religion is always in the news but is the information given always reliable?
- You will learn to develop your skills to analyse and evaluate information to make decisions about the issues and problems that effect religious believers.
- You will develop transferrable skills that are valued by employers as a result of studying Religious Studies, such as the ability to: Think logically; communicate clearly and effectively; construct well informed arguments substantiated by relevant evidence. Engage in debate in a way that recognises the right of others to hold a different view. Understand the importance for religious believers of religion both in history, and in contemporary society.

Subject Content

The Eduqas A Level course in Religious Studies is divided into three equally weighted components examined in three papers which last two hours each. It is 100% exam.

Component 1:

A Study of Christianity: This component provides the opportunity for learners to acquire and develop knowledge and a critical understanding of some of the key features of a world religion, ranging from religious figures to religious practices. Examining Christian Beliefs and Practices including important figures and sacred texts, historical events, identity and diversity, religious experience and unification.

Component 2:

Philosophy of Religion: This component provides the opportunity for learners to acquire and develop knowledge and a critical understanding of some of the key features of fundamental philosophical themes, ranging from arguments for and against the existence of God to religious experience.

Examining philosophical issues and questions, including Cosmological and Teleological arguments, the Problem of Evil and Suffering, Atheism, the Product of the human mind featuring Carl Jung and Sigmund Freud.

Component 3:

Ethics: This component provides the opportunity for learners to acquire and develop knowledge and a critical understanding of key ethical concepts and theories, ranging from moral absolutism to Utilitarianism. Examining ethical language and thought, including Meta-ethics, Virtue Theory, Natural Law, Utilitarianism, Situation Ethics, Determinism and Free-will, Libertarianism.

Higher Education and Careers

The subject is highly regarded by universities and professions. Possible careers include law, sociology and anthropology, philosophy, theology, medical profession, legal profession, the Military, accountancy, civil service, teaching, police, medicine, human resources and business.

Spanish

Exam Board: Edexcel

Course Codes: 9SP0

https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/spanish-2016.html

Entry Requirement: Grade 6 in Spanish

The ability to speak another language and to understand and empathise with other cultures is a key skill in a modern, globalised society. The new A Levels in Modern Foreign Languages focus on developing students' ability to communicate and comprehend the foreign language at a high level. Students will have the opportunity to learn about the culture of the language that they are studying and be able to engage with a range of authentic resources, including literature and films.

Subject Content

Theme 1: Changes in Spanish society
Theme 2: Culture in the Spanish-speaking world
Theme 3: Immigration and multiculturalism in Spain
Theme 4: The Franco dictatorship and the transition to democracy

In addition to the four themes, students study both a novel and a film in the target language. The film is 'El Laberinto del Fauno' directed by Guillermo del Toro. In year 13 students study the novella 'El Coronel No Tiene Quien le Escriba', by the Colombian novelist and Nobel Prize winner Gabriel García Márquez.

Course Assessment

The A Level qualification is examined across 4 skills (Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing) all of which are examined by means of a terminal exam in Year 13.

- Paper 1 Listening, reading and translation (40% of qualification)
- > Paper 2 Written response to works (novel and film) and translation (30% of qualification)
- Paper 3 Speaking (30% of qualification)

Higher Education and Careers

Students who choose this course will be suitably prepared for further study of a language at university and they will achieve a good level of fluency. They will be able to use the language that they have learnt spontaneously, in a variety of practical situations. They will have an excellent grounding in an academic discipline which is highly regarded by the very best universities.

Possible careers for linguists include: translation / interpreting, the Diplomatic Service / the Foreign Office, journalism, marketing/sales, teaching.

For further information on any of the courses listed, please do not hesitate to contact the relevant Head of Department using the email addresses listed below:

