QUEEN ETHELBURGA'S

CO-EDUCATIONAL DAY
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WORLD APART

KS5 CURRICULUM OPTIONS 2026-27

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QUEEN ETHELBURGA'S SIXTH FORM

Welcome to the Sixth Form at Queen Ethelburga's! Over the next two years we look forward to helping you reach your academic potential, to be the best that you can with the gifts that you have, and to support you in preparing for a successful future. Many of our students choose to go to university following their Sixth Form studies but, each year, a number also choose to move directly into employment, internships, volunteering or degree apprenticeships. All of these routes are equally valid and we are proud of the support we provide to help this to happen.

Making Choices

In the following pages you will find more information about the different qualifications and courses available in the Sixth Form. We would encourage you to read this carefully and to seek advice from the many staff in school who will be happy to help. Choosing the correct curriculum is the first essential step to future success, and it is important to do as much research as possible, especially when considering subjects that have not been studied before. Although it is undoubtedly exciting to be given a completely free choice of courses for the first time, some university degrees and careers will require specific subjects to have been studied in the Sixth Form - making the wrong choices now may not close off those routes but will certainly make it more challenging to follow them!

We hope that over the next few pages you will gain a better understanding of what you can study and achieve over the next two years. The step up to Key Stage 5 is a challenging one requiring more independence, endeavour and focus, but it is also incredibly rewarding, providing the opportunity to specialise in those subjects that interest and inspire you. The future starts here…..!



KS5 OPTION INFORMATION

Students have access to a broad curriculum and can choose a minimum of three A Levels and/or BTEC subjects, plus an enrichment or super-curricular subject. They can follow a wholly A Level or BTEC route, or a combination of both qualifications. Those who wish to specialize in a particular subject area are advised to consider BTEC courses, where qualifications in Art and Design, Media, Business, Sport, Performing Arts, Music, and Science can be studied in larger sized qualifications.

All students are encouraged to choose an enrichment or super-curricular option in Year 12, providing them the opportunity to go beyond the syllabus in an area of interest or broaden their Sixth Form subject experience. Additionally, it is possible to undertake GCSE resit classes in English and Mathematics alongside the A Level or BTEC curriculum.

More details on the options, and on the compulsory Personal Development Programme for all Year 12 students, can be found later in this booklet.

International students without an English first language qualification study English to gain their IELTS qualification, aiming for a score of 7.0 or above to maximize their university options.

Entry Requirements

To ensure students are on a programme that matches their abilities and that they can cope with the rigours of Level 3 study, the following entry requirements apply:

Studying four A Levels

Must have at least grade 7s in the nearest four relevant GCSEs.

Studying three A Levels and one BTEC

Must have at least grade 7s in the nearest three relevant GCSEs for the A Levels and 5s in the nearest relevant GCSE for the BTEC course.

Studying two A Levels and two BTECs

Must have at least two grade 6s in the nearest two relevant GCSEs for the A Levels and 5s in the nearest relevant GCSE for the BTEC course.

Studying one A Level and two or three BTECs

Must have at least one grade 6 in the nearest relevant GCSE for the A Level and 5s in the nearest relevant GCSE for the BTEC course.

Studying three or four BTECs

Must have grade 5s in the nearest relevant GCSEs

In addition

- To study **A Level Further Maths,** students should have at least a **grade 8** in GCSE Maths or equivalent or achieve this on the Further Maths entry test.
- To study more than two Social Sciences A Levels, students with English as a second language should have achieved IELTS 6.0, a 6/B at GCSE/ IGCSE English, a score of 173 or higher in the First Certificate in English or a score of 73 or above on our Oxford Online English Test.

TYPES OF QUALIFICATION

When students receive their GCSE results in August, many members of staff will be in school to provide support in making sensible choices. It is very important that this advice is considered carefully and that the correct courses are chosen from the start.

At Queen Ethelburga's we are proud to be able to offer a wide range of courses. Similarly, we were one of the first Independent Schools to offer BTEC qualifications alongside A Levels providing more choice for learners. The two qualifications are equally respected and recognised by universities and employers but offer different routes to success.

Qualification Structures

A/AS Levels

All students on A Level programmes at Queen Ethelburga's, in both College and Faculty, follow AS courses in Year 12. These are assessed with external examinations at the end of the year with students gaining grades from A to E, or U, depending on their overall performance. For most A Level qualifications offered, these examination results do not contribute to the overall A Level grade but are used to make decisions on courses for year 13 and also for determining students' predicted grades for university applications.

The material covered in the AS course is re-examined in year 13 in the full A Level qualification. Full A Level grades are from A* to E, or U.

Students following an AS level course will usually sit two examinations in Year 12 though this will vary between subjects. The cost of an AS qualification, including examination fees and certification is approximately £135*. The full A Level qualification would usually consist of 3 terminal examinations in year 13 with an associated qualification cost of approximately £195*. Specific prices will vary between subjects and examination board.

BTECs

Students following BTEC qualifications will be assessed in a variety of ways which will include a mixture of external examinations, externally marked assignments and internally marked/externally moderated assignments. Some qualification are made up of 100% internally assessed units, they include Art and Design, Music and Performing Arts Practice.

External examinations take place in both January and June with resits possible, should they be required, in subsequent examination cycles. The overall final grade of either Pass, Merit, Distinction or Distinction* is generated based on all of the ongoing assignment work plus the examination grades.

All students completing a BTEC course must be registered with the examination board by November. BTEC fees are paid at the point of registration and include all of the administration of internal and external units, and final certification, and are approximately:

- Extended Certificate - £231*
- Diploma - £304*
- Extended Diploma - £331*

This fee includes the first sitting of any externally examined unit, although resits are charged at approximately £55.

* Any examination fees stated above are the current prices for the academic year 2025/26

Please note that, as outlined in the Parent Handbook, all registration and examination fees for both A Level and BTEC courses are charged to parents when the school is invoiced by the examination board.

Supercurricular and Enrichment

These courses are a great way to help build students' wider skills such as those in confident communication, critical thinking or problem solving.

Every week, small group sessions focus on super-curricular activities which are related to future academic and career interests. Super-curricular activity and experience is becoming increasingly important in university applications and this is an opportunity to extend learning beyond the curriculum. These groups will also help prepare students to sit university admissions tests for medicine, law, mathematics and other courses.

Personal Development Programme

Personal Development is a compulsory and essential course for all Year 12 students. This one-hr, weekly session covers key information regarding relationship, health and careers education, alongside building awareness and understanding of issues such as safe driving, finance and personal responsibility.





TRANSITION FROM YEAR 12 TO YEAR 13

We have high expectations of our students and anticipate that they all should be able to achieve a minimum of 3 B grades at A Level, or the BTEC equivalent. This will depend on the correct subject and course decisions being made, and the individual student demonstrating the expected approach to learning. This set of grades will enable them to apply for the best possible university or career choices. In order to achieve this aim the school reserves the right to make final decisions about a student's courses as they make the transition into Year 13.

A Level subjects

We will review all students' academic programmes of study at the end of Year 12. Wherever possible, students are supported in continuing with their existing subjects. However, students achieving lower than a B grade at AS Level are usually unable to continue with this subject into Year 13. Where we make exceptions to this rule, it is based on analysis of a student's individual academic profile, including performance in individual examination components, baseline ability scores, work ethic, and the balance of workload with other subjects. Exceptions will only be made if there is a strong chance of the student achieving at least a B grade in the full A Level, backed up by clear, factual evidence. Students who achieve B or A grades at AS Level may also be asked to undertake extra tuition or occasionally a change of course, if there is evidence to suggest that they will not maintain this performance at A Level. All of the above, aims to ensure that students are able to achieve at the highest possible level, to support their future aspirations.

BTEC and other vocational subjects

BTECs are assessed on an ongoing basis, largely through the production of a number of mandatory and optional assignments, but with a minimum of one mandatory external assessment. Students must accumulate the necessary number of assignments and assessments that their level of course requires. Students will sometimes be eligible for re-submissions or re-takes of assignments and assessments, if time allows, although this is not guaranteed. Students who fail mandatory assignments and/or assessments and who have exhausted re-sit opportunities, will find their qualification reduced in size or, in the worst case scenario, that they fail the entire course.

If, at the end of Year 12, a student is not achieving Merit grades in the majority of their BTEC modules, then their place on this course will be reviewed and they may be required to discontinue the subject, reduce the size of their qualification, or take an alternative course. Similarly, we would expect that all BTEC students have completed half of their required units by the end of Year 12 and we will review their course if this is not the case.

English Language Qualifications

We will review the IELTS scores that a student has achieved by the end of Year 12. Students who do not have a GCSE first language English qualification at Grade B or above will need IELTS 6.5 or higher for most good university courses. If they are not likely to achieve this level by the end of Year 13 we will make recommendations for their English studies. This may involve taking additional lessons during holiday periods

to improve their level of English to a level sufficient to progress into Year 13.

The majority of students are able to successfully complete their sixth form courses in two years. Occasionally, some students may take longer to achieve their qualifications and will receive extensive support from the school throughout this process. The school reserves the right to make final decisions about a student's courses in Year 13 in order to enable them to apply for the best possible university or to maximise career choices.



Mathematics and Sciences

"The Mathematics department has been incredible; you can have really good relations with staff and students in class. All the teachers are incredibly helpful answering questions and aiding your understanding. My main challenges are in mechanics but I worked a lot with teachers last year to help overcome that, specifically circular motion. Advice I would give is to make sure you complete your prep and understand how much work you have to do on a topic: if you are not confident in something get it sorted sooner rather than later."

"Chemistry has opened up many future options in university, STEM based careers are more prevalent now because of an increasingly technological world."

"I furthered my knowledge into biology by taking A Level which was a great decision because the topics are all fascinating and jam packed with content. My favourite topics are DNA and response to stimuli! I am now applying to do medicine so I can use my skills."

APPLIED SCIENCE

LEVEL 3 ALTERNATIVE ACADEMIC QUALIFICATION BTEC NATIONAL (EXTENDED CERTIFICATE)

Topics covered

The qualification has four mandatory units covering the following topics:

- Principles and Applications of Biology - Structure and function of cells and tissues, biological molecules, enzymes and their role in organisms
- Principles and Applications of Chemistry - Structure of the Periodic Table and its implications on physical and chemical properties of substances, through analysis of different bonding methods
- Principles and Applications of Physics - Waves and their applications; force principles and their application in transportation and construction of electrical circuits
- Practical Scientific Procedures and Techniques - Practical applications across the sciences, including chromatography, colorimetry and electrical circuits. Students have a choice from two optional units covering the following topics:
- Scientific Investigation Skills - Investigative research, including planning, data collection, analysis and evaluation.
- Contemporary Issues in Science - Contemporary scientific issues including the reliability of sources of scientific information and their associated validity.

Assessment

Examination/Assignment

External assessment 50%:

Unit 1: Principles and Applications of Biology 1hr

Unit 2: Principles and Applications of Chemistry 1hr

Unit 3: Principles and Applications of Physics 1hr

Internal assessment 50%:

Unit 4: Practical Scientific Procedures and Techniques 75hrs

Unit 5: Science Investigation Skills 60hrs or

Unit 6: Contemporary issues in Science 65hrs

Why should I study this subject?

This course is for students who want to combine their interest in science with practical, real-world learning. This course covers essential topics in biology, chemistry, and physics, alongside hands-on laboratory techniques and investigative skills. With a focus on coursework and practical assessments, it suits students who prefer a more applied approach to learning rather than traditional exams.

"The combination of coursework and practical assessments gave me the confidence to tackle my university degree in medical science."

"The course gave me a strong foundation in biology, chemistry, and physics, which has been useful for both university and job applications."

"BTEC Applied Science helped me discover different science careers I hadn't considered before, like biomedical science and forensic analysis."

Where this course can lead

Recognised by universities and employers, the qualification provides an excellent foundation for further study or careers in healthcare, science, and technology-based industries.

BIOLOGY

AS AND A LEVEL - AQA

Topics covered

Year 1
Biological molecules
Cells
Organisms and substances within their environment
Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms
Year 2
Energy transfers in and between organisms
Genetic, populations, ecosystems
The control and expression of genes

Assessment

Year 1 (both papers on topic 1-4 content +practical skills)
Paper 1:
1 hr 30 mins - 75 marks - 50% AS
Paper 2:
1 hr 30 mins - 75 marks - 50% AS
Year 2
Paper 1: (topic 1-4 + practical skills)
2 hrs - 91 marks - 35% A2 grade
Paper 2 (topic 5-8 + practical skills)
2 hrs - 91 marks - 35% A2 grade
Paper 3 (topic1-8 + practical skills)
2 hrs - 78 marks - 30% A2 qualification

Why should I study this subject?

The study of Biology is a fascinating insight into how the world works on a biological level. It includes the detail of genetics and DNA, a focus on the transfer of energy as well as the role of all organisms within their ecosystem - what better subject to study to build a knowledge of the building blocks of the planet?

"I furthered my knowledge into biology by taking A Level which was a great decision because the topics are all fascinating and jam packed with content. My favourite topics are DNA and response to stimuli! I am now applying to do medicine so I can use my skills."



Where this course can lead

Advanced Level qualifications enable successful progression to undergraduate studies, further education or employment. This course can be used to apply for several medical and STEM careers.
The course can be taken for one year for an AS. Alternatively, the course can be used to progress into year 2 to gain A2.

CHEMISTRY
AS AND A LEVEL - AQA

Topics covered

Year 1

- Physical chemistry
  Atomic structure, Amount of substance, Bonding, Energetics, Kinetics, Chemical equilibria, Le Chatelier's principle and Kc, Oxidation, reduction and redox, equations,
- Inorganic chemistry
  Periodicity, Group 2, the alkaline earth metals, Group 7(17), the halogens
- Organic chemistry
  Introduction to organic chemistry, Alkanes, Halogenoalkanes, Alkenes, Alcohols, Organic analysis

Year 2

- Physical chemistry
  Thermodynamics, Rate equations, Equilibrium constant Kp for homogeneous systems, Electrode potentials and electrochemical cells, Acids and bases
- 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, Amines, Polymers, Amino acids, proteins and DNA, Organic synthesis, Nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy, Chromatography

Assessment

Year 1
Paper 1:
Inorganic chemistry
Relevant practical skills
1 hr 30 mins - 80 marks - 50% AS
Paper 2:
Organic chemistry
Relevant practical skills
1 hr 30 mins - 80 marks - 50% AS
Year 2
Paper 1:
What's Assessed:
Relevant physical chemistry topics
Inorganic chemistry
Relevant practical skills
2 hrs - 105 marks - 35% A2 grade
Paper 2:
Organic chemistry
Relevant practical skills
2 hrs - 105 marks - 35% A2 grade
Paper 3
2 hrs - 90 marks - 30% A2 qualification

Why should I study this subject?

Organic and Inorganic Chemistry are the foundations of life. This is a challenging subject but one that is incredibly rewarding! What better way to test your mind and creativity than by studying something conceptual, that we cannot even see? It is a practical and relevant subject and essential for anyone considering a degree in Medicine!

Chemistry has opened up many future options in university, STEM based careers are more prevalent now because of an increasingly technological world.



Where this course can lead

Advanced Level qualifications enable successful progression to undergraduate studies, further education or employment. This course can be used to apply for a number of medical and STEM careers. The course can be taken for one year for an AS. Alternatively, the course can be used to progress into year 2 to gain A2.

MATHEMATICS

AS AND A LEVEL - OCR

Topics covered

- Pure mathematics
  proof, algebra and functions, coordinate geometry in the x-y plane, sequences and series, trigonometry, exponentials and logarithms, differentiation, Integration, vectors
- Statistics
  statistical sampling, data presentation and interpretation, probability, statistical distributions statistical hypothesis testing
- Mechanics
  quantities and units in mechanics, kinematics, forces and Newton's laws

Assessment

Year 1
Paper 1: 1hr 30, 50%
Paper 2: 1hr 30, 50%

Year 2
Paper 1: 2hrs 33 1/3%
Paper 2: 2hrs 33 1/3%
Paper 3: 2hrs 33 1/3%

Why should I study this subject?

If you have a natural flair for numbers, then you might want to consider studying Mathematics at A Level. A recent study by Which? in 2016 showed that Mathematics is the most popular subject choice at A Level, and it's clear to see why. Mathematics can play an integral part in many careers, and can provide numerous opportunities, both academically and career-wise.

As technology continues to advance, so too does mathematics, increasing its essential role in both everyday and corporate life. New mathematical theories are being discovered and developed every day, enabling inventions and scientific discoveries to continue to flourish. By studying Mathematics at A Level, students will have the opportunity to forge a career that's at the forefront of technological advancement.

"My experience of studying A Level Mathematics in the sixth form has been amazing. I appreciate the extra support sessions the teaching staff put in place and the extra effort teachers make. The publication of the retrospective revision timetable has contributed to my revision and the same goes for most of my peers."

Where this course can lead

The subject is suitable preparation for any degree courses which rely heavily on the methods of Mathematics, such as Engineering, Natural Sciences, Business, Economics and others. The foundations of clear thinking laid down in the course are also valued for undergraduate courses in Law, Humanities and the qualitative Sciences.

FURTHER MATHEMATICS

AS AND A LEVEL - OCR

Topics covered

Papers 1 & 2 - Pure mathematics
Proof
Complex numbers
Matrices
Further vectors
Further algebra
Series
Hyperbolic functions
Further calculus
Polar coordinates
Differential equations
Paper 3 - Statistics
Probability
Discrete random variables
Continuous random variables
Linear combinations of random variables
Hypothesis tests and confidence intervals
Chi-squared tests
Non-parametric tests
Correlation
Linear regression

Paper 4 - Mechanics
Dimensional analysis
Work, energy and power
Impulse and momentum
Centre of mass
Motion in a circle
Further dynamics and kinematics

Assessment

Year 1
Paper 1: 1hr 15, 33 1/3%
Paper 2: 1hr 15, 33 1/3%
Paper 3: 1hr 15, 33 1/3%

Year 2
Paper 1: 1hr 15, 25%
Paper 2: 1hr 15, 25%
Paper 3: 1hr 15, 25%
Paper 4: 1hr 15, 25%

Students who choose to study Further Mathematics will complete AS Mathematics and AS Further Mathematics in Year 12, completed in two option blocks. Although the transition guidance earlier in this booklet states that it is only necessary to achieve a B at AS to continue with the subject, due to the difficulty of the A Level Further Mathematics course, students will need to gain an A in both AS Mathematics and AS Further Mathematics to show the necessary aptitude to continue onto the full A Level in Year 13. Students who gain an A grade in AS Mathematics and AS Further Mathematics can choose to continue with both qualifications in Year 13 if they wish.

Why should I study this subject?

A Level Further Mathematics is a good extra choice if students want to do a degree in Mathematics as it introduces a broader range of pure and applied content, such as Logic, Statistics, Mechanics, and Pure Mathematics. Plus, around a third of Mathematics and BSc degree courses mention Further Mathematics in their entry requirements. Bear in mind, though, that it's harder and more in-depth than A Level Mathematics, and students cannot take it on its own. This is because Further Mathematics includes content and concepts that are learnt in A Level Mathematics. Students are advised that they should not consider taking Mathematics, Further Mathematics and Statistics as three A Levels as this is considered too narrow a subject profile for many universities.



Where this course can lead

A Level Further Mathematics is a facilitating subject for many universities, including the Russell Group universities. The subject is suitable preparation for degrees in which mathematical understanding and methods are the main or major aspects of the course for example: Mathematics, Physics, Statistics, Actuarial Science. The foundations of clear thinking laid down in the course are also valued for undergraduate courses in Law, Humanities and the Qualitative Sciences.

PHYSICS

AS AND A LEVEL - AQA

Topics covered

Year 1

1 Measurements and their errors

2 Particles and radiation

3 Waves

4 Mechanics and materials

5 Electricity

Year 2

6 Further mechanics and thermal physics

7 Fields and their consequences

8 Nuclear physics

9 Astrophysics

Assessment

Year 1

Paper 1: Covering - Sections 1-5

1 hr 30 mins - 70 marks - 50% AS

Paper 2: Covering - Sections 1-5

1 hr 30 mins - 70 marks - 50% AS

Year 2

Paper 1: Covering - Sections 1 to 5 and 6.1 (Periodic motion)

2 hrs - 85 marks - 34% A2 grade

Paper 2: Covering - Sections 6.2 (Thermal Physics), 7 and 8, Assumed knowledge from sections 1 to 6.1

2 hrs - 85 marks - 34% A2 grade

Paper 3: Covering - Section A Compulsory section: Practical skills and data analysis. Section B: Topic 9.

2 hrs - 80 marks - 32% A2 qualification

Why should I study this subject?

Physics is applied mathematics! If a student loves Mathematics but prefers to see how it works in the real world then Physics is for them. It is essential for anyone considering a career in Engineering or technical design as it provides the knowledge and skills needed in understanding mechanics.

"I chose physics because I like how it applies mathematics to the real world. I also enjoy putting the theoretical concepts into practice through the required practicals. I know that the skills I have acquired through the A Level course will be hugely beneficial when it comes to my university studies."



Where this course can lead

Advanced Level qualifications enable successful progression to undergraduate studies, further education or employment. This course can be used to apply for a number of medical and STEM careers. The course can be taken for one year for an AS. Alternatively, the course can be used to progress into year 2 to gain A2.

STATISTICS
A LEVEL - EDEXCEL

Topics covered

Paper 1 (Data and Probability):
Numerical measures, graphs and diagrams Probability
Population and samples
Probability distributions (including Binomial, Normal, Exponential and Poisson)
Correlation and linear regression
Bayes' theorem
Experimental design
Statistical Enquiry Cycle

Paper 2 (Statistical Inference):
Correlation and linear regression
Contingency tables
Experimental design
Sampling, estimates and resampling
Hypothesis testing (for 1 and 2 samples, including non-parametric and paired tests), significance testing, confidence intervals and power
Goodness of fit
Analysis of variance
Effect size
Statistical Enquiry Cycle

Paper 3 (Statistics in Practice):
All topics

Assessment

Paper 1: 2 hrs, 33 1/3%
Paper 2: 2 hrs, 33 1/3%
Paper 3: 2 hrs, 33 1/3%

Why should I study this subject?

A Level Statistics provides students with a wide range of techniques for understanding and analysing data, which are increasingly important skills in a world of constant change. The emphasis of the qualification is on understanding the implications and limitations of the various statistical techniques in the context of practical situations, rather than just being able to use a formula. Students can study this alongside AS/A Level Mathematics, or as a standalone subject.

"Excellent experience for studying, teachers are all very kind, patient and helpful. I would advise future students to focus in lessons and don't hesitate to ask any questions they have, as even something that seems totally unrelated to the exam can be very useful."



Where this course can lead

The course provides useful support for a variety of other subjects, including the Sciences, Humanities subjects or Social Sciences. It is a way of continuing a mathematical education, without further study of pure mathematics or mechanics. It will also be useful if students are planning on studying any behavioural science course at university, as statistics is how science is effectively communicated.

Digital and Commerce

"Economics has given me a wider perspective on the issue faced in the UK and globally. I love economics"

'Business has been a really enjoyable subject for me at A Level. In particular I have found strategic analysis to be interesting, models such as SWOT and PESTLE have demonstrated how analysis of a business and its decisions can improve its likelihood of success. Business studies is incredibly useful, because we live in a world surrounded by enterprise and anyone with advanced knowledge on how such enterprises function could gain an important advantage.

"I like studying Criminology as it gives me detailed knowledge of how crime is monitored and controlled and why it is committed. Criminology enables me to gain a deeper understanding of laws and criminal cases and how they are handled by the criminal justice system"

BUSINESS
AS AND A LEVEL - CIE

Topics covered

Year 1

Business Structure. Enterprise

Business Objectives. Stakeholders

HRM. Motivation. Management. Business Finance. Marketing Mix. Market Research. Inventory Management. Forecasting and Managing Cashflows.

Year 2

External economic influences. Business Strategy. Corporate planning and implementation. Organisational Structure. Business Communication and Leadership. Location Decisions. Marketing Strategy. Quality Management. Operations Strategy. Investment Appraisal. Finance and Accounting Strategy.

Assessment

Paper 1: Business Concepts: 1 hr 15 mins, 20% (year 1)

Paper 2: Business Concepts (case study): 1 hr 30 mins, 30% (year 1)

Paper 3: Decision Making: 1 hr 45 mins, 30% (year 2)

Paper 4: Business Strategy: 1 hr 15 mins, 20% (year 2)

As this is an International GCE, the AS grade and marks achieved in Year 1 count for 50% of the final A Level grade. There is also the opportunity for a resit of this content in October of Year 13, and again in the summer of Year 13.

Why should I study this subject?

If students have an interest in how a business functions, its structure, how important decisions get made and most importantly how the world that we live in affects business' success or failure then they will enjoy this course. Students need to have a lively and curious mind and bring all of their ideas into class. This course is heavily essay based, so students should enjoy writing essays in assessments and be comfortable giving recommendations based on their own judgements.

'Business has been a really enjoyable subject for me at A Level. In particular I have found strategic analysis to be interesting, models such as SWOT and PESTLE have demonstrated how analysis of a business and its decisions can improve its likelihood of success. Business studies is incredibly useful, because we live in a world surrounded by enterprise and anyone with advanced knowledge on how such enterprises function could gain an important advantage.



Where this course can lead

Business A Level is respected at all universities and will act as a steppingstone onto other management courses. It also provides a general understanding of business which will help the learner progress onto apprenticeships or junior management programmes.

BUSINESS

BTEC LEVEL 3 NATIONAL EXTENDED CERTIFICATE AND DIPLOMA - PEARSON

Topics covered

Year 1

Extended Certificate:

Unit 1 - Investigating Business (Coursework), Unit 3 - Personal and Business Finance (External Examination).

Diploma:

Unit 1 and Unit 3 (as above) plus Unit 4 - Managing an Event (Coursework) and Unit 5 - International Business (Coursework).

Year 2

Extended Certificate:

Unit 2 - Developing a Marketing Campaign (External Examination), Unit 8 - Recruitment and Selection (Coursework).

Diploma:

Unit 6: Principles and Management (External Examination), Unit 19 - Pitching for a New Business (Coursework).

Assessment

Extended Certificate Coursework Units: Unit 1 and Unit 8.

Extended Certificate Examination Units: Unit 2 (3 Hr Typed Examination) and Unit 3 (2 hr Written Examination).

Diploma Coursework Units: Unit 4, Unit 5 and Unit 19.

Diploma Examination Units: Unit 6 (3 Hr Typed Examination).

Why should I study this subject?

The Level 3 BTEC Business courses are two-year programmes, designed to allow the students to gain an effective understanding of the overall business environment. It provides a solid understanding of the business world and gives the students knowledge of the business functions and skills required to succeed.

The courses are predominantly vocational courses which help the students to develop several skills desired by universities, such as assignment writing, research skills, teamwork, presentation skills and independent learning.

The courses consist of a range of assignment based, examination and synoptic units which gives the opportunity for all types of students to succeed.



Where this course can lead

These courses are excellent preparation for university. Alternatively, BTEC Business offers the skills and knowledge for students to directly enter employment either via apprenticeship programme or full-time employment.

COMPUTER SCIENCE

AS AND A LEVEL - OCR

Topics covered

- Principles of algorithms
- Computational thinking
- Programming techniques and structures
  The characteristics of contemporary processors,
- Input, output and storage devices
- Software and software development
- Exchanging data
- Data types, data structures and algorithms
- Legal, moral, cultural and ethical issues
- Elements of computational thinking
- Problem solving and programming
- Algorithms to solve problems and standard algorithms

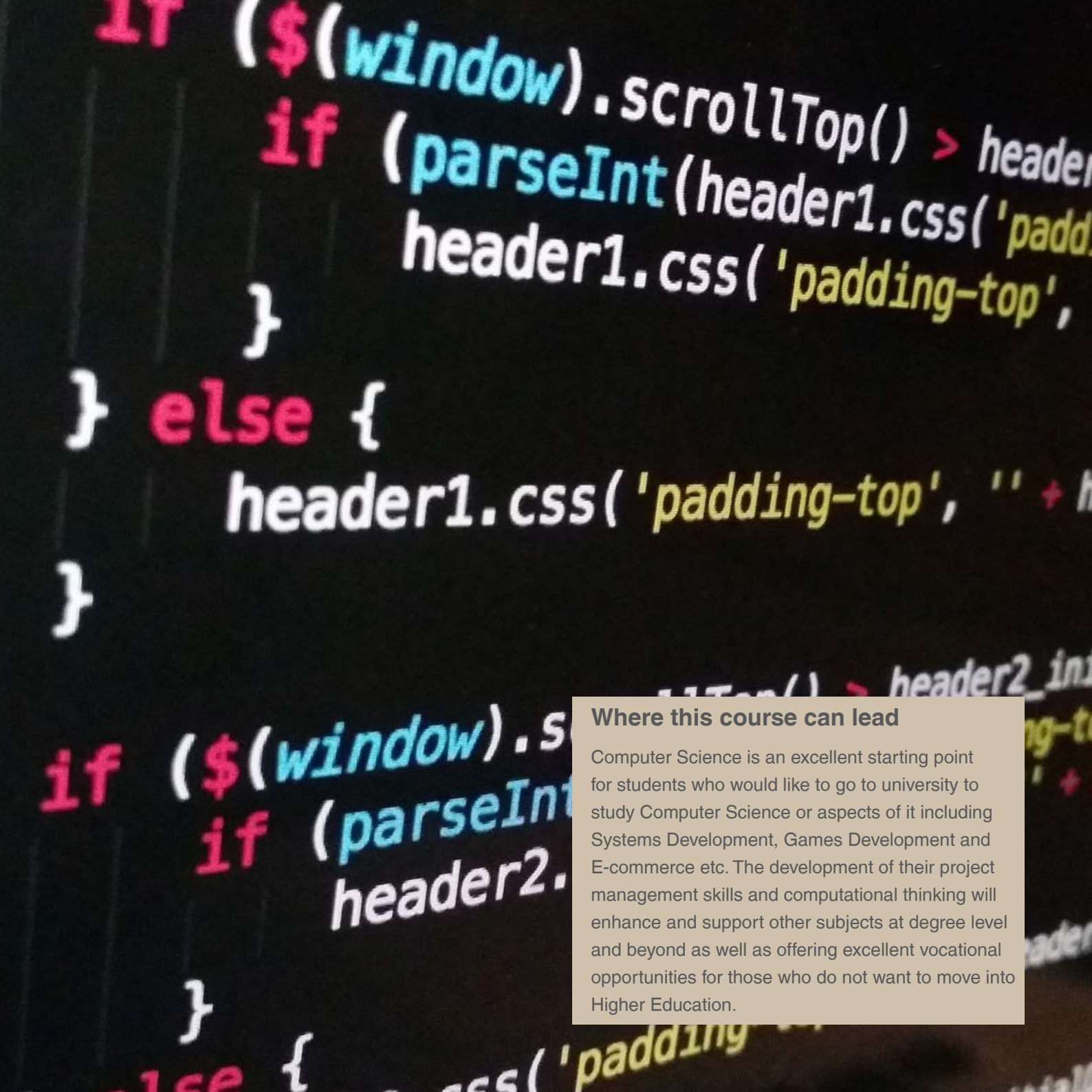
Assessment

The 2 Examination Units: Computer Systems (01) and Algorithms and Programming (02), are both assessed by a 2 hrs 30 mins written examination each of which represents 40% of the course.
The Practical Programming Task (03 or 04) is assessed through a Controlled Assessment which represents 20% of the course.

Why should I study this subject?

OCR Computer Science will, above all else, be relevant to the modern and changing world of computing. Computer Science is a practical subject where learners can apply the academic principles learned in the classroom to real world systems. It is an intensely creative subject that combines invention and excitement and can look at the natural world through a digital prism.
A Level Computer Science values computational thinking, helping learners to develop the skills to solve problems, design systems and understand the power and limits of human and machine intelligence. Learners will develop an ability to analyse, critically evaluate and make decisions.

"I chose computing because I enjoy learning and developing my knowledge around computers and their functionalities as I think that the knowledge is very useful for the future. Additionally, I enjoy the lessons because the information is taught in a practical way relating to the real world which some subjects don't include."
"One of the many reasons why I love, and chose computer science is because of the endless possibilities of things you can create, and problems you can solve with code. I especially like the hardware and networking aspects of the course too, as they allow you to gain a deeper understanding of how the world works."
"I took computer science because it allowed me to further my knowledge in the field of computing, a field that I am extremely passionate about and interested in, and where I hope to get a future career. It has allowed me to consolidate things I already knew, as well as learn new skills and topics which will be extremely useful when searching for employment."



Where this course can lead

Computer Science is an excellent starting point for students who would like to go to university to study Computer Science or aspects of it including Systems Development, Games Development and E-commerce etc. The development of their project management skills and computational thinking will enhance and support other subjects at degree level and beyond as well as offering excellent vocational opportunities for those who do not want to move into Higher Education.

COMPUTING

AAQ BTEC NATIONAL (EXTENDED CERTIFICATE)

Topics covered

Programming Fundamentals

Computer Network Security and Encryption

Human-Computer Interaction

Practical Programming

Assessment

Examination/Assignment

There are two mandatory examined units and two mandatory internally assessed units.

External assessment 66%:

Unit 1: Programming Fundamentals 2hrs 30mins

Unit 2: Computer Network Security and Encryption 2hrs 15mins

Internal assessment 33%:

Human-Computer Interaction 20 hrs

Practical Programming 36 hrs

Why should I study this subject?

This course is aimed at students who are interested in studying Computing, particularly in developing code and understanding cyber security and encryption. It is very topical to today's markets and acts as a gateway to University and Higher Education as well as leading to Graduate Diplomas.

"BTEC Computing is an excellent course, I especially like the unit on cyber security and encryption."



Where this course can lead

This course gives you the same number of UCAS points as an A level and will allow you to access Higher Education Graduate training schemes or employment. The school offers the possibility of extending the Security provision with the Cyber EPQ.

ECONOMICS

AS AND A LEVEL ECONOMICS (PEARSON)

What will I do on the course?

Economics is concerned with the key issues facing us today, including globalisation, pollution and poverty. It is essentially about choice: why different sorts of people and groups of people, such as governments, have to make choices; the choices that they make; and the consequences of those choices. The work of economists transforms our lives - whether you are a firm, consumer, worker, homeowner or part of the government, you are concerned with, and affected by, Economics.

Economics teaches students to think logically and to use theories to understand how economies operate. Students will be taught methods used by economists and how to understand issues such as inflation, unemployment, growth, pollution, demand and supply, exchange rates, interest rates, and the difficult decisions the UK Government faces when attempting to steer the economy in a chosen direction.

Students will need to apply their knowledge and understanding to both familiar and unfamiliar real-life contexts in their lessons and assessments. They will also need to demonstrate an awareness of current economic events, trends and policies.

Course content

Year 12

Theme 1: Introduction to markets and market failure
This focuses on microeconomic concepts: the Nature of Economics, How Markets Work, Market Failure and Government Intervention.

Theme 2: The UK economy - performance and policies
This focuses on macroeconomic concepts: Measures of Economic Performance, Aggregate Demand, Aggregate Supply, National Income, Economic Growth, Macroeconomic Objectives such as unemployment and inflation, and Government Policy.

Year 13

Theme 3: Business behaviour and the labour market
This develops the microeconomic concepts from Theme 1 and examines business economics: Business Growth, Business Objectives, Revenue, Costs and Profits, Market Structures and the Labour Market.

Theme 4: A global perspective
This develops the macroeconomic concepts from Theme 2 and applies them in a global context: International Economics, Poverty and Inequality, Emerging and Developing Economies, the Financial Sector and the Role of the State in the Macroeconomy.

How will students be assessed?

AS Level (Themes 1 and 2 only)
Each component is assessed in a 90-minute examination.

Paper 1: Introduction to markets and market failure
1 hr 30 mins examination - 50% of the qualification

Paper 2: The UK economy - performance and policies
1 hr 30 mins examination - 50% of the qualification

A Level (all four themes)
Students sit three examination papers, each 1hr 30 mins minutes long.

Paper 1: Markets and business behaviour
2 hrs examination - 35%

Paper 2: The national and global economy
2 hrs examination - 35%

Paper 3: Microeconomics and macroeconomics
2 hrs examination - 30%

How is this course different to GCSE?

Although the topics and course content for A Level may seem similar to GCSE, the required depth of understanding is much greater. There is more focus on the examination skills of knowledge, application, analysis and evaluation, and students will develop a deeper understanding of the subject.

It is important that students have an interest in current economic events and issues, as A Level requires them to know about real-life situations alongside theory.

The examination questions are longer and require more detailed, well-structured answers.

"Economics provides an understanding of the decisions we make in our lives surrounding finance and ability to connect the dots on nationwide events."

"Economics is an extremely mind-opening subject, with a variety of core topics on macro and micro economics, it really explains the basics of the markets and how they work, as well as giving one a useful skill set of analysis, evaluation and critical thinking!"



Where this course can lead

Careers in Economics include: Economist, Banking, Insurance, Business and Financial Consultancy, Pricing Analyst, Social Research, Public Sector roles, Accountancy, Public Relations, Journalism, Financial Consultant, Stockbroker, Taxation, Actuarial Work and Data Analysis.

E-SPORTS

BTEC LEVEL 3 NATIONAL EXTENDED CERTIFICATE - PEARSON

Topics covered

Year 1

Unit 1: Introduction to Esports

Unit 2: Esports Skills, Strategies and Analysis

Year 2

Unit 3: Enterprise and Entrepreneurship in the Esports Industry

Unit 4: Health, Wellbeing and Fitness for Esports Players.

Assessment

Paper 1: 2 hrs 15 mins, 25%

Paper 2: 2 hrs 15 mins, 25%

Paper 3: 2 hrs 15 mins, 25%

Paper 4: 2 hrs 15 mins, 25%

Why should I study this subject?

Business is an ever-changing and evolving industry. The Esports industry is worth over £1 billion globally, and is growing every year.

The qualification will explore the structure of the Esports industry in the UK, and the various roles and routes associated with the business, before moving on to looking at specific tactics and strategies used by high performing Esports teams. Students will learn how to improve strategy and performance to teams. Following on from this, in Year 2 students will look into the Entrepreneurship in Esports, looking at how individuals identify opportunities and begin enterprises. This will explore players of the games, management, coaches and analysts, product developers, and related services such as solicitation and finance. Finally, Unit 4 examines physical, psychological and social wellbeing for Esports players and how these can affect performance.



Where this course can lead

This course is for anybody wanting to progress to employment in the esports industry and other related industries. A student could move into studying any number of options at university, including Business, Computing, Game Development, Esports, or move into apprenticeships in fields such as Game Development and Creative Media. The qualification is endorsed by the British Esports Association as being suitable for learners who want to work in the industry. This means that it will be recognised by employers and will support entry into the industry in a range of roles. Jobs associated with this BTEC include: esports player, team coach, events organiser, shoutcaster and presenter, social media influencer, video production editor, photographer, data analyst.

MARKETING

BTEC LEVEL 3 NATIONAL EXTENDED CERTIFICATE - PEARSON

Topics covered

Learners taking this qualification will study three mandatory units:

Year 1

Careers in Marketing

Marketing Principles (externally assessed)

Year 2

Customer Communications.

The mandatory content allows learners to develop their skills, supported by underpinning knowledge, and provides the opportunity for learners to relate these to the marketing industry.

Assessment

Unit 1 - Careers in Marketing - (Internal Coursework)

Unit 2 - Marketing Principles - (External Examination 1.5 Hrs written paper)

Unit 3 - Customer Communications - (Internal Coursework)

Why should I study this subject?

The Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Marketing is equivalent in size to one A Level. It may be taken alongside other Level 3 vocational qualifications and/or A Levels as part of a two-year, including BTEC Business and so broadening learners' potential career options.

This course is an excellent option for any student interested in the marketing side of business strategy. Those students who aspire to set up their own businesses in future or who aim to work within business development will find this insight fascinating.



Where this course can lead

The qualification is aimed at learners who are looking to progress to employment in the sector via an apprenticeship and whose aspirations may also be to enter higher education. The qualification is fully mapped to the CIM L3 Foundation Certificate in Professional Marketing. This means that it will be recognised by employers and will support entry into this industry as a marketing executive. When combined with other Level 3 qualifications, this qualification also offers learners the opportunity to progress to a broad range of higher education programmes, including Higher National Diploma and bachelor degrees.

People and Places

"Studying geography has opened up my future options in university and has given me an expanded outlook on arising issues that we face."

"Studying French at A Level showed me how truly beautiful the language is and sound. It has also helped me to learn other languages as there are many similarities."

"English Literature is a subject that I really enjoyed at GCSE, I loved that we had to come up with our own original ideas and I picked it for my love of the literature we would be studying. I would recommend AS literature for students in GCSE who are creative, open minded and ambitious. You will fall in love with the texts you are studying!"

APPLIED LAW

BTEC LEVEL 3 NATIONAL EXTENDED CERTIFICATE - PEARSON

Topics covered

Year 1

Unit 1 - Dispute Solving in Civil Law: Structure and Hierarchy of Civil Courts, Alternative Dispute Resolution, Funding Legal Advice and Representation, The Roles of Solicitors, Barristers and Judges, Judicial Precedent and the Tort of Negligence.

Unit 2 - Investigating Aspects of Criminal Law and the Legal System: Acts of Parliament, Statutory Interpretation, Delegated Legislation, European Union Law, Lay People, Elements of a Crime, Non-fatal Offences and Sentencing.

Year 2

Unit 3 - Applying the Law: Murder, Manslaughter, Property offences, General defences and Police Powers.

Unit 6 - Contract Law.

Assessment

Unit 1 (2 hr external examination) 25% of Extended Certificate Qualification.

Unit 2 (Coursework) 25% of Extended Certificate Qualification.

Unit 3 (3 hr external examination) 25% of Extended Certificate Qualification.

Unit 6 (Coursework) 25% of Extended Certificate Qualification.

Why should I study this subject?

BTEC L3 Applied Law qualification has been developed in consultation with employers and. It includes the opportunity to develop the research, communication, presentation, decision-making and critical-thinking skills valued by higher education.

This course enables students to become aware of the relevance and role of the law in real-world situations and encourages their interest in its use and development, but with an applied focus throughout. Studying this subject helps students to use relevant knowledge and understanding, analyse and learn to apply legal concepts, principles and rules to a range of situations, and communicate an argument through problem-solving and evaluative writing. These transferable skills equip students in a wide range of subjects and real-world situations.



Where this course can lead

Successful completion of this course will enable progression to university. It will provide students with the foundation knowledge and skills to assist studying courses such as Law, Politics, Business Studies and Criminology and will aid a career in a variety of related areas.

CRIMINOLOGY

WJEC LEVEL 3 APPLIED CERTIFICATE IN CRIMINOLOGY

Topics covered

The qualification has two mandatory units for the Applied Certificate and four for the Applied Diploma covering the following topics:

Year 12

Unit 1: Changing Awareness of Crime

Unit 2: Criminological Theories

Year 13

Unit 3: Crime Scene to Courtroom

Unit 4: Crime and Punishment

Assessment

Examination/Assignment : 50%

External assessment: 50%

Year 12

Unit 1: 8 hr controlled assessment sat internally. This is internally marked and then externally moderated.

Unit 2: 1 hr 30 min exam consisting of short answer and extended writing questions.

Year 13

Unit 3: 8 hr controlled assessment sat internally. This is internally marked and then externally moderated.

Unit 4: 1 hr 30 min exam consisting of short answer and extended writing questions

Why should I study this subject?

This qualification looks at the types of crime that take place within our society. How do we decide which behaviour is criminal? How do we explain why some people commit crime and how can we use different theories of criminality to explain this behaviour? You will study real life cases in order to gain an understanding of the criminal justice system from the crime scene all the way to the courtroom and look at how social control is achieved within our society.

Criminology is an Applied General qualification primarily designed to support learners progressing to university; however, much of the course is vocationally relevant, offering opportunities to learn from practical activities and the expertise of professionals currently working in criminology. It offers exciting and interesting learning experiences in purposeful contexts linked to the criminal justice system. If you are fascinated by the workings of crime and punishment, this course could be for you.

Where this course can lead

Criminology can open the door to an array of career paths that require understanding of the criminal justice sector. These may include careers in the police force or in police support roles, the field of forensic psychology, social and probation work or the prison service.

This qualification also supports access to Higher education degree courses such as:

• BSc Criminology • BA Criminology • BA Criminology and Criminal Justice • BSc (Hons) Criminology and Psychology • LLB (Hons) Law with Criminology • BA (Hons) Criminology and Sociology • BA (Hons) Criminology • BSc (Hons) Psychology and Sociology • BSc Criminology with Law

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

AS AND A LEVEL - CIE

Topics covered

Year 1
Reading (Paper 1)
Writing (Paper 2)

Year 2
Language Analysis- Change and Acquisition (Paper 3)
Language Topics- English in the world and Language and self (Paper 4)

Assessment

Paper 1: 2 hrs 15 mins, 25%
Paper 2: 2 hrs, 25%
Paper 3: 2 hrs 15 mins, 25%
Paper 4: 2 hrs 15 mins, 25%
As this is an International GCE, the AS grade and marks achieved in Year 1 count for 50% of the final A Level grade. There is also the opportunity for a resit of this content in October of Year 13, and again in the summer of Year 13.

Why should I study this subject?

The study of language offers a core of analytical methods, topic and skills which have proven value and should inform and supplement many other A Level courses.

"A Level English Language is so different to what you expect at GCSE - it's so much more in-depth and fun. You get to learn about how people's accents change opinions about them, and how people's ideas and stereotypes impact how they speak and write. I would recommend it to anyone willing to take the chance to learn it - it's not the easiest subject but I find it to be one my most enjoyed ones."

"English Language allowed me to learn about theories and concepts behind everyday language. The difference between GCSE and A Level content is massive, in A Level we study how things like gender and age impact language as well accents from around the UK and the world. English has helped me to understand more about how and why we speak the way we do."



Where this course can lead

This course will undoubtedly develop the written and spoken skills needed for any career or Higher Education course and will be especially valuable to a career in law, teaching, advertising, television, journalism, public relations and sales.

LITERATURE IN ENGLISH

AS AND A LEVEL - CIE

Topics covered

Year 1
Drama and Poetry (Paper 1)
Prose and Unseen (Paper 2)

Year 2
Shakespeare and Drama (Paper 1)
Pre and post 1900 Poetry and Prose (Paper 2)

Assessment
Paper 1: 2 hrs, 25%
Paper 2: 2 hrs, 25%
Paper 3: 2 hrs, 25%
Paper 4: 2 hrs, 25%
As this is an International GCE, the AS grade and marks achieved in Year 1 count for 50% of the final A Level grade. There is also the opportunity for a resit of this content in October of Year 13, and again in the summer of Year 13.

Why should I study this subject?

Studying Literature develops transferable skills in analysis, critical thinking and written/spoken communication, which are essential to support any essay-based subjects at A Level or to prepare for Higher Education. It creates an empathetic and reflective student by promoting personal, cultural and historical awareness.

"Literature allows you to learn about human behaviour and society on a deeper level. It helps you to think critically through reflection, which is really useful when it comes to choosing subjects like law for your future career."

"English Literature is a subject that I really enjoyed at GCSE, I loved that we had to come up with our own original ideas and I picked it for my love of the literature we would be studying. I would recommend AS literature for students in GCSE who are creative, open minded and ambitious. You will fall in love with the texts you are studying!"



Where this course can lead

Literature is a 'facilitating' subject that is highly regarded by universities. The skills developed will support any post-18 pathway including careers in journalism, law, politics, teaching, advertising, public relations, television/film, writing, etc. Famous people who studied Literature at university include Stephen King, Emma Watson and many actors and directors.

FRENCH

AS AND A LEVEL - AQA

Topics covered

Year 1
Changing family
Cyber-society
Charity work
Heritage
French music
French cinema

Year 2
Social issues: diversity, marginalised, criminality
Political issues: voting, strikes, immigration
Artistic culture: film La Haine, book No et Moi

Assessment

Paper 1 Listening, Reading, Translation: 2h30, 50%
Paper 2 Writing essays: 2h, 20%
Paper 3 Speaking (cards stimuli + IRP): 21-23 min, 30%

Why should I study this subject?

The language of the Enlightenment! French is the language of the universal ideals advocated by the philosophers of the 18th century Enlightenment, who helped to spread the idea of human rights throughout the world. The language of international relations! French is both a working language and an official language of the United Nations, the European Union, UNESCO, NATO, the International Olympic Committee, the International Red Cross and international courts. Proficiency in French is essential for anyone considering a career in any international organisation.

An advantage for studying in France!

Speaking French opens up opportunities for higher education at some of France's best-known universities (the Sorbonne, Pierre Marie Curie University, etc.) or elite grandes écoles (HEC, Polytechnique, ESSEC), often on very favourable financial terms. Students with a good level of French may be eligible to apply for a French Government grant to enrol on a postgraduate course of their choice in France, leading to an internationally recognised postgraduate degree.

"Studying French at A Level showed me how truly beautiful the language is and sound. It has also helped me to learn other languages as there are many similarities."

Where this course can lead

With our world becoming more globalised by the day, the ability to speak another language, even if only to A Level, can open up many doors in your career and academic life.

49% of UK businesses look for employees who can speak French, meaning studying the language will be a huge asset to anyone's career. With a projected 750 million speakers by 2050, being able to speak the French language is a powerful skill to have.

Your knowledge of French will give students the opportunity to take a gap year in various French-speaking countries.

Given its cultural history, French also goes well with subjects such as Music and most arts-based study areas. Psychology and History are also subjects students could consider pairing with French.

GEOGRAPHY

AS AND A LEVEL - PEARSON

Topics covered

Year 1

Tectonics Processes and Hazards (Paper 1)

Coastal Landscapes and Change (Paper 1)

Globalisation (Paper 2)

Regenerating Places (Paper 2)

Year 2

Water Cycle and Water Insecurity (Paper 1)

Carbon Cycle and Energy Security (Paper 1)

Superpowers (Paper 2)

Migration, Identity and Sovereignty (Paper 2)

Assessment

Paper 1: 2 hrs 15 mins, 30%

Paper 2: 2 hrs 15 mins, 30%

Paper 3: Synoptic Assessment, 2 hrs 15 mins, 20%

Coursework: Independent Investigation, 20%

Why should I study this subject?

Geography is arguably the most important subject of all. A good understanding of the physical and human processes taking place in the world is essential for the very future of the planet. The course will not only teach you how the world works but how to think critically about the problems and solutions for forthcoming generations.

"*Studying geography has opened up my future options in university and has given me an expanded outlook on arising issues that we face."*

"*Geography is my favourite subject in the Sixth Form. I love how it combines features of all subjects ranging from economics all the way to biology and chemistry whilst still maintaining a geographical core. It has helped me to thrive in all my subjects! I find geography very useful in day-to-day life and enjoy the fact that I can use what I've learnt to find out about how and why things happen in the environment making the subject so much more interesting and appealing."*



Where this course can lead

Geography is highly valued and respected by universities and employers and is one of the 'facilitating' subjects.

GERMAN

AS AND A LEVEL - AQA

"German encompasses everything I am passionate about - History, Literature and Language. And my multi-lingualism will hopefully make me very employable"

Topics covered

Year 1
The Changing Face of the Family
Technology and Social Media
Youth Culture (Fashion, Music)
Architecture
Berlin
Festivals and Traditions

Year 2
Immigration
Racism
Integration
Germany and the EU
The Reunification of Germany
Film - Das Leben der Anderen
Book - Der Vorleser

Assessment
Paper 1: Listening, Reading, Writing - 2 hrs 30 mins, 50%
Paper 2: Film and Book Essays - 2 hrs, 20%
Paper 3 Speaking - 16 to 18 mins, 30%

Why should I study this subject?

Knowledge of German increases job opportunities with German and foreign companies in your own country and abroad. Proficiency in German helps students to function productively for an employer with global business connections. German is also the 2nd most important language in the world of science and engineering and is the language of music and philosophy.



Where this course can lead

Business, science, mechanical and chemical engineering, research and development. Not to mention international banking and law and obviously translation services.

HISTORY
AS AND A LEVEL - OCR

Topics covered

Year 1

England 1547-1603: The Later Tudors

Democracy and Dictatorship in Germany 1919-1963

Year 2

Civil Rights in the USA 1865-1992

Topic Based Essay - coursework

Assessment

Paper 1 1 hr 30 mins 25%

Paper 2 1 hr 30 mins 15%

Paper 3 2 hrs 30 mins 40%

Paper 4 - 4,000-word essay 20%

Why should I study this subject?

History develops critical and reflective thinking with an understanding of historical topics and issues. It encourages awareness of the importance of historical knowledge in explaining contemporary issues. The topics covered over the two year course are diverse and should appeal to all learners. They give a real insight into key historical time periods - the people making decisions, how countries interacted and the society that was created. What better way to understand the modern world than from learning from the past!?

"*A captivating subject that broadens your understanding of the current world situation. It makes you think how different the world could be if certain events did not happen and how important they are to current world affairs.*"

"I like that History is useful for lots of different things - the content you learn and skills that you gain can be applied to various other subjects, as well as preparing you for future study and careers."

"*History A Level prepares you for university/higher education as it allows you to develop your analytical and evaluation skills whilst the NEA improves your time management.*"



Where this course can lead

This course creates independent learners, critical thinkers and decision-makers - all personal assets that can make learners stand out as they progress to Higher Education or the workplace.

IELTS

ESOL - CAMBRIDGE

Topics covered

Technology
Environmental issues
Infrastructure
Geography and topology
History and artifacts
Scientific breakthroughs
Family and society
Work and education
Global issues and opportunities
The future
Money and the economy
Well being
The natural world
Ageing populations
Traffic and transport

Assessment

Paper 1: Listening 40 mins
Paper 2: Reading 1hr
Paper 3: Writing 1 hr
Paper 4: Speaking 15 mins

Why should I study this subject?

As IELTS is accepted by more than 10,000 institutions around the world, it is incredibly useful for students. Having a high score in IELTS can help students attend university in the UK, USA, or many other countries Doing a Masters or PhD program, or attending a particularly good school, will require a higher IELTS score than doing a basic BA program at a not-so-famous institution.

IELTS is useful for all steps and stages of your life as it is recognised worldwide and accepted in many countries. IELTS helped me in different ways: from improving my English language skills to building personality and developing as a person by considering various aspects of life.



Where this course can lead

Learning English is a life-long journey of personal development that leads to many wonderful experiences. By getting focused now students can help guarantee their successful future by making sure they are ready to apply to the best universities and get accepted, improve their communication skills to prepare for a career or earn more money in business, immigrate to an English speaking country, and become more confident as they see themselves growing and improving every day.

PSYCHOLOGY

AS AND A LEVEL - AQA

Topics covered

Year 1

Social influence, Memory, Attachment, Approaches in Psychology, Psychopathology and Research methods.

Year 2

Issues and Debates in Psychology, Biological Psychology, Cognition and Development, Schizophrenia, Addiction and further research methods and approaches in psychology

Assessment

Paper 1: 1 hr 30 mins 50% of AS qualification
Paper 2: 1 hr 30 mins 50% of AS qualification
Paper 1 (year 2) 2 hr written 33% of A Level qualification
Paper 2 (year 2) 2 hr written 33% of A Level qualification
Paper 3 (year 2) 2 hr written 33% of A Level qualification

Why should I study this subject?

Psychology is the scientific study of the human mind and behaviour. Psychologists seek to understand and explain why people behave in the ways they do. Studying Psychology A Level offers students the opportunity to apply psychological concepts and theory to explain real world phenomenon. Students will learn about and put into practice principles of scientific investigation and be able to assess a range of theories and research studies covering areas such as cognitive psychology, developmental psychology psychopathology and social psychology. Studying A Level Psychology enables students to develop their skills in extended writing skills, critical thinking, problem solving, analysis and application.

'I really enjoy Psychology because the content has helped me personally build a foundation of knowledge for a career in medicine. Psychology A Level has elements of real life application that you can use for your whole life. My favourite topics are attachment and schizophrenia.'

'I chose Psychology because the course is very interesting and relates to every part of life, particularly topics like social influence. Learning about how to understand people make me more empathetic and allows to put myself in someone else's shoes.

Studying A Level Psychology has led me to apply for a course in psychology at university, all thanks to engaging and fascinating Psychology lessons are at QE.'

'I chose Psychology because I find it one of the most interesting subjects. It gives you an insight and better understanding of people and daily life phenomenon. The way Psychology is taught makes me understand the content even though it is not an easy subject.'

Where this course can lead

Successful completion of this course will enable progression into a range of undergraduate courses and careers. It will provide you with the foundation knowledge and skills to assist studying courses such as Psychology, Business, Law, Politics, Medicine and Sport and Exercise Science.

SPANISH

AS AND A LEVEL - AQA

Topics covered

Year 1

- Listening, reading and writing
  Aspects of Hispanic society, Modern and traditional values, Cyberspace, Equal rights, Artistic culture in the Hispanic world, Modern day idols, Aspects of political life in Hispanic society, Today's youth, tomorrow's citizens
- Grammar
  One text or one film from the lists in the specification
- Grammar (currently we do the film "El laberinto del fauno"
- Speaking
  One sub-theme from Artistic culture in the Hispanic world

Year 2

- Listening, reading and writing
  Aspects of political life in the Hispanic world, Monarchies and dictatorships, Popular movements, Artistic Culture in the Hispanic world, Spanish regional identity, Cultural heritage, Multiculturalism in Hispanic society, Immigration, Racism, Integration

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

- Grammar
  Currently at school we do "El laberinto del fauno" and "La casa de Bernarda Alba"
- Speaking
  Individual Research Project
  One of four themes (Aspects of Hispanic society or Artistic culture in the Hispanic world or Multiculturalism in Hispanic society or Aspects of political life in Hispanic society

Assessment

Paper 1: Written exam 2 hrs 30 mins
100 marks
50% of A Level
Paper 2: Written exam 2 hrs
80 marks in total
20% of A Level
Paper 3: Oral exam: 21-23 mins (including 5 mins preparation time)
60 marks
30% of A Level

Why should I study this subject?

"Speaking a second language teaches you communication, presentation and soft skills that help you to connect to your audience more. All these transferable skills will give your overall confidence levels a boost, regardless of the scenario."

8 Reasons to Choose a Language at GCSE and A Level | School Guide Blog

'All throughout high school languages were my favourite subjects - I was never a mathematics or science person. Spanish is the perfect blend of fun and academics. its a mix of history, the language and the culture and so I would recommend it to anyone who has these interests. I love Spanish and I would recommend it to anyone who is interested in studying it, it's one of my favourite lessons every day and the teachers are phenomenal!'

‘Learning Spanish unlocks whole new parts of the world to explore and allows you to engage with exciting new cultures and people.’

‘Spanish was a way for me to get an all encompassing understanding of a large part of the world from my classroom seat. It has exposed me to new ways of thinking and consequentially changed how I communicate with others for the better’. Lucy Hirst

‘I chose Spanish because learning a language can give you access to many more opportunities since you’re able to communicate with a greater number of people from around the world. Additionally, the Spanish culture and their traditions are very interesting as there is such a large variety.’



Where this course can lead

“Being able to speak, write and understand Spanish is an important skill for many workplaces, especially as businesses expand internationally. Getting a degree in Spanish can make you eligible for job opportunities in government, social services, education, business and international relations among many other exciting fields.” What Jobs Can You Get With a Spanish Degree? | Indeed.com

Creative and Physical

"The tutors were super-flexible in tailoring the course options to match my interests and support my university choices. I felt a welcome part of the art department as I worked alongside the tutors to develop my fashion aspirations. QE's fashion course is a rare find and I'm so glad I came here for it."

"Studying Creative Arts helped me a lot throughout my years at QE. My teachers gave me guidance with my portfolio and personal statement to help me gain a place at my first-choice university."

"Studying a variety of Creative Arts subjects at QE encouraged me to develop my self-expression and creativity. My teachers were very supportive and boosted my confidence and helped me to develop as an artist and a person."

3D DESIGN

A LEVEL - AQA

Topics covered

Course content

Developing ideas through sustained and focused visual investigations informed by contextual sources, demonstrating analytical and critical understanding. Experimenting with a range of 3D media, materials and processes exploring both traditional and new media techniques, reviewing and refining work as it develops. Visually recording from observations and critically reflecting and developing work as it progresses. Presenting a personal, informed and meaningful response realising intentions and making connections between visual and other elements.

Assessment

All work assessed is portfolio and practical outcomes. There is no AS qualification, all work produced in year 12 and 13 is assessed for the A Level qualification.

- Personal Investigation + Portfolio from year 1 (60%) Students select their own practical investigation into an idea, concept or theme from which a major sustained investigation develops, demonstrating the importance of process as well as product. Students are also required to complete a critical and contextual essay (1000-3000 words) making connections with the chosen theme.

Component 2: Externally set assignment (40%) This is in response to an externally set examination paper. Students select one theme and produce a sustained practical investigation that culminates in a practical examination (15 hrs)

Why should I study this subject?

3D Design is the creative design led approach to design technology. 3D Design will develop a range of experimental recording skills, practical making skills and critical thinking skills. This course is recommended for students who have studied an Art or Design based subject at GCSE. The curriculum is designed to extend a foundation of skills, exploring a range of innovative media, materials and technical processes. Students are encouraged to work independently responding to contextual challenges. This course is recommended for anyone planning a career in the creative design industry. 3D Design A Level offers much of the creative content of a Design Technology A Level without the theoretical written examination.

Where this course can lead

3D Design develops creative thinkers with the ability to analyse, question and solve problems. Combined with a broad range of technical skills, modelling and developing prototypes students will become confident communicators with the ability to present their ideas in preparation to progress towards the following degree courses: Architecture, Environmental Design, Interior Design, Theatre/Set Design, Exhibition Design, Product Design, Jewellery Design, 3D Digital Design, Ceramics, Sculpture, Television and Film Design, Game Design and Graphic Design.

ART, CRAFT AND DESIGN

A LEVEL - AQA

Topics covered

This is a 2 year course exploring practical and critical/ contextual work through a range of 2D and/or 3D processes and media. Year 12 will be spent developing a portfolio of work using both practical physical and digital art.

Moving from year 12 into year 13 students develop personal self-directed work based on an idea, issue, concept or theme leading to a finished outcome or a series. Practical elements should make connections with some aspect of contemporary or past practice of artist(s), designer(s), photographers or craftspeople and include written work of no less than 1000 and no more than 3000 words which supports the practical work.

Assessment

Component 1: Portfolio (60%). Students will produce a portfolio of work in response to a theme that exemplifies aspects of their developing knowledge, skills and understanding. They will demonstrate creative art-based skills both practical and critical. Students are expected to work in an independent manner.

Component 2: Externally set assignment (40%) must show evidence of areas of study drawn from one or more of the endorsed titles listed above. This is in response to an externally set examination paper. Students select one theme and produce a sustained practical investigation that culminates in a practical examination (15 hrs).

Why should I study this subject?

Designed to build on your success at GCSE (or equivalent) this advanced art course allows students to progress, experiences and explore a range of two-dimensional and three-dimensional media, processes and techniques. Students will explore the use of drawing for different purposes, using a variety of methods and media. Integral to the investigating and making processes, students will take inspiration and explore relevant images, artefacts and resources relating to a range of art, craft and design, from the past and from recent times. Students' responses to these examples must be shown through practical and critical activities that demonstrate their understanding of different styles, genres and traditions. A Level Art Craft and Design is a highly practical course with all work assessed in sketchbooks/portfolio, physical and digital visual outcomes. There is no theoretical written examination; the examination is practically based in response to exam board set themes.

"Studying a variety of Creative Arts subjects at QE encouraged me to develop my self- expression and creativity. My teachers were very supportive and boosted my confidence and helped me to develop as an artist and a person."



Where this course can lead

A Level Art Craft and Design is the perfect choice if students are creative and imaginative and could lead to a degree in art or a related subject such as Architecture, Ceramics, Product Design or Fashion and Textiles. The most popular route from A Level into an art related degree is to complete an art foundation course at a higher education college or university. A Level Art also demonstrates students are creative thinkers and is a valuable qualification in a wide range of subjects at degree level, such as media, marketing, public relations and even accounting.

Art and Design Practice

BTEC LEVEL 3 540 DIPLOMA AND EXTENDED DIPLOMA - PEARSON

Topics covered

Students can choose which area of study they would like to specialise in with options available in Fine Art/ illustration, Fashion and 3D Design. All lead to the overall Art and Design Practice qualification, so only one option can be chosen.

Assessment

All options are 100% Internally assessed and verified by the examination board.

540 Diploma

Module A Exploring and Developing Art and Design Skills - 540 GLH

A1 Skills Development

A2 Creative Project

Extended Diploma

Module A, as the 540 Diploma plus

Module B Advancing Creative Practice - 540 GLH

B1 Personal Progression

B2 Creative Industry Response

Why should I study this subject?

BTEC Art and Design Practice continues to be the strongest and most flexible route into an art and design-based degree or career for students. The two sizes of qualification mean that students can choose to either choose a full and focused timetable with the Extended Diploma or continue with a mixed curriculum of subjects with the 540 Diploma - equal to 1.5 A-levels. In addition, within the qualifications students can stay on a broad-based art/illustration option or choose to specialise in Fashion, or 3D Design.

Both sizes of the qualification have simple easy to understand structure and do not require any examinations. Work is assessed by the teachers and verified by the examination board. This allows students to develop their art and design skills in all disciplines, exploring ways of informing ideas, to show understanding and development of solutions to design challenges.

In all options students develop work practically through experimenting with a range of ideas and techniques that reflect industry practices, resulting in the production of a portfolio of work ready for progression to further study in the arts or direct to a career or apprenticeship. Throughout the programme we encourage student become mature and reflective, commenting on their own work and the work of others, while developing independent study skills.

Fine Art and Illustration

BTEC Art and Design Practice offers a dynamic and hands-on approach to exploring creativity. This course allows students to delve into various artistic disciplines, from fine arts, painting drawing, and printmaking to digital design, providing a solid foundation in both traditional and contemporary techniques. Students will engage in practical projects, develop a professional portfolio, and gain valuable insights from industry professionals. This experience not only hones technical skills but also encourages critical thinking and innovation, preparing students for a range of careers in the creative industries. An exciting journey of self-expression and professional growth.

Fashion

BTEC Fashion is a fantastic option for anyone with a passion for the fashion industry. This course combines practical skills with theoretical knowledge, covering areas such as design, textiles, marketing, technical fashion and fashion history. Students engage in real-world projects designing for well-known brands and designers as well as finding their own creative direction, build a professional portfolio, and learn from industry experts. This hands-on experience not only boosts creativity but also equips students for various roles in the fashion sector, including designer, stylist, and merchandiser. It's a wonderful way to transform your love for fashion into a fulfilling career.

3D Design

Studying 3D Design opens up a world of creative possibilities, allowing you to bring ideas to life in three dimensions. This course provides a solid foundation in various techniques and tools, from traditional sculpting to cutting-edge digital modelling. Students work on diverse projects, ranging from product design to architectural visualisation, gaining hands-on experience and building a versatile portfolio. The skills students develop in 3D design are highly sought after in industries such as architecture, gaming, and industrial design. It's an exciting field that combines creativity with technical expertise, offering numerous career opportunities for innovative thinkers.



Where this course can lead

Many students who complete the 540 diploma choose an Art and design Foundation course before progressing to a degree in a creative subject. The Extended Diploma, equivalent to three A Levels, is a two-year, full-time course that meets entry requirements for students who want to progress to higher education courses in art and design areas before entering employment. Courses might include: Creative Technology BSc, Fashion Jewellery BA,Fine Art BFA/BA, Fashion Design BA, Graphic Design BA, History, Communication and Curation BA, Product and Industrial Design BA.

Creative Media Practice

CREATIVE MEDIA PRACTICE BTEC LEVEL 3 NATIONAL 540 DIPLOMA / EXTENDED DIPLOMA - PEARSON

Topics covered

In BTEC Creative media practice, the aim is for students to learn to enrich the world by developing technical and communication skills through exploring and refining various interrelated practices, such as moving image, text, sound, lens and graphics.

Assessment

100% Coursework assessed over 4 or 7 projects. Internally marked externally moderated/verified.

Why should I study this subject?

Studying BTEC Creative Media Practice offers numerous benefits, including the development of practical skills in areas such as film production, photography, graphics, lighting, sound, digital and editing. Before entering the industry, media practitioners need to explore and refine different interrelated practices to develop technical and communication skills and build confidence in producing outcomes that meet a need or fulfil a purpose. This course prepares you for higher education and careers in film production, and media production. Students can take advantage of working in our digital media labs, photo studio, and darkroom. Additionally, you'll have the opportunity to build a showreel and/or personal portfolio, showcasing your work to potential employers or for further studies.

The course also provides real-world experience by allowing you to work on live projects and with real clients, helping you build professional experience and confidence.



Where this course can lead

The qualification helps learners develop transferable and higher-order skills valued by higher education and employers, such as self-direction, reflection, problem-solving, and the ability to synthesize approaches. It encourages creative responses to industry demands, effective communication of personal ideas, and audience awareness. Through critical evaluation, practice, and review, learners enhance their technical creative media skills, build confidence in managing projects, and meet UCAS Tariff points for relevant courses like film, television, video, radio, games, web/app, visual communication, and digital media.

DANCE

BTEC NATIONAL EXTENDED CERTFICATE - PEARSON

Topics covered

Component 1: Performance and choreography
Solo performance linked to a specific practitioner within and area of study Performance in a quartet Group choreography
Component 2: Critical engagement
Knowledge, understanding and critical appreciation of two set works
One compulsory set work within the compulsory area of study
One optional set work within the corresponding area of study, from a choice of four.

Assessment

100% Internal assessment

Why should I study this subject?

Studying Dance at BTEC Level 3 is an exciting, practical pathway for students who want to turn passion into professional skills. The course develops physical discipline, creativity and self-expression while preparing students for the real demands of the creative industries. Through performance, choreography and reflective practice, students build confidence, resilience and a strong work ethic. Dance also nurtures teamwork, communication and time-management, as students collaborate and meet professional briefs. These transferable skills are invaluable in any career, from the arts and education to business and leadership. BTEC Dance empowers students to move forward with confidence, creativity and ambition.



Where this course can lead

BTEC Dance can lead to professional training as well as performing and creative careers. BTEC Dance cultivates a wide range of transferable skills that can benefit every career or industry, including critical thinking, discipline, creativity, teamwork and adaptability.

Drama and Theatre Studies

A LEVEL

Topics covered

Devised Performance and creating theatre

Performing

Written exam utilising knowledge on a set text and a piece of live theatre

Assessment

Devising - 40%

Performing - 20%

Written Exam - 40%

Why should I study this subject?

Studying A Level Drama and Theatre Studies challenges students to think deeply, creatively and critically about the world around them. Through analysing texts, evaluating performances and creating original work, students develop higher-order thinking skills such as interpretation, problem-solving and reflection. The course also builds the soft skills employers value most: confidence, clear communication and the ability to collaborate effectively. Rehearsals and performances teach students how to work under pressure, manage time and show resilience when facing challenges. Drama nurtures adaptable, articulate and self-assured individuals, preparing students for success in any career that values creativity, leadership and strong interpersonal skills.



Where this course can lead

An A-Level in Drama can support almost any chosen career path. The key skills involved compliment the needs and requirements of the majority of professional fields.

FASHION/ TEXTILES

A LEVEL - AQA

Topics covered

Course content

Developing ideas through sustained and focused visual investigations informed by contextual sources, demonstrating analytical and critical understanding

Experimenting with a range of textile and fashion media, materials and processes exploring both traditional and new media techniques, reviewing and refining work as it develops.

Visually recording from observations and critically reflecting and developing work as it progresses

Presenting a personal, informed and meaningful response realising intentions and making connections between visual and other elements.

Assessment

All assessed work consists of portfolio evidence and practical outcomes. There is no AS qualification; all work produced in Years 12 and 13 is assessed towards the final A Level.

Component 1: Personal Investigation and Portfolio (60%)

Students select their own practical investigation based on an idea, concept or theme. This develops into a major sustained project demonstrating the importance of both process and final outcome. Students are also required to complete a critical and contextual essay of 1,000–3,000 words, making connections with their chosen theme.

Component 2: Externally Set Assignment (40%)

This component is based on an externally set exam paper. Students select one theme and develop a sustained practical investigation, which culminates in a 15hour practical examination.

Why should I study this subject?

A Level Textiles is designed to allow students to respond to the visual world in a creative way through hands-on making, exploring exciting textile design techniques. Using our dedicated textile and fashion studio students can find all sorts of opportunities to indulge your creative impulses. Students will be encouraged to discover a unique style, push the boundaries of their creative thinking and build on their strengths.

Students will have opportunities to direct their work towards fashion, textiles, theatrical costume or interiors. The textiles teachers devise projects that encourage students to explore their creative instincts through a wide range of materials and techniques developing skills and knowledge. Students will also examine the work of contemporary textile and fashion designers to discover their own way of working that gives them the confidence to progress.

Where this course can lead

The diversity of our course makes it ideally suited if students are intending to go on to study in a more specialised area of art and design Advertising, Costume Design, Fashion Design, Fine Art, Graphic Design, Illustration, Special Effects for Cinema, Photography, 3D Product Design, Sculpture, Textiles and more... It is an excellent pre-degree course and will provide students with rich and vibrant portfolio work.

MUSIC

AS AND A LEVEL - EDUQAS

Topics covered

1. Performing 35% Students are encouraged to develop their performance skills by playing a range of styles of music as a soloist and/ or as an ensemble member. At A Level students present a performance of a minimum of 8 mins, at AS 6 mins. It is very important that all students have an instrumental teacher and follow a course of guided study on their instruments.
2. Composing 25%. Students learn how to write for instrument and/or voices and how to develop musical ideas as well as learning to compose using styles and techniques of other composers.
3. Appraising 40% This unit focuses on listening to music and understanding how it works. The unit covers Rock and Pop, Musical Theatre and Jazz

Assessment

AS Unit 1: Performing Total duration of performances: 6-8 mins 12% of qualification 60 marks AS Unit 2: Composing Total duration of compositions: 3-6 mins 12% of qualification 54 marks AS Unit 3: Appraising Written examination: 1 hr 30 mins (approximately) 16% of qualification 72 marks
A2 Unit 4: Performing Option A: Total duration of performances: 10-12 mins 90 marks Option A: 22% of qualification Option B: Total duration of performances: 6-8 mins 60 marks Option B: 14% of qualification
A2 Unit 5: Composing Option A: Total duration of compositions: 3-6 mins 54 marks Option A: 14% of qualification Option B: Total duration of compositions: 5-9 mins 90 marks Option B: 22% of qualification
A2 Unit 6: Appraising Written examination: 2 hrs 15 mins (approximately) 24% of qualification 80 marks

Why should I study this subject?

Music A Level is generally a requirement for most university Music courses and is a wellrespected subject alongside a wide range of other options. It fits well with languages, sciences and humanities, and complements many other subjects. The course covers performance, listening and analysis, composition, and elements of harmony, broadening students' musical knowledge and understanding while introducing areas of study not covered at GCSE.

Students develop far more than their performance skills; they also extend their abilities in composition and analysis, as all components are assessed.

The course caters for a wide range of musicians. Students may choose any instrument(s) and/or voice(s) and perform music in any style. They may perform from a score or improvise, as appropriate. The expected standard of performance corresponds to Grade 7/8 (or Grades 5/6 at AS Level) from examination boards such as the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music, Trinity Guildhall, Rockschool, or the London College of Music. Students performing above Grade 7/8 (or 5/6 at AS) receive additional credit, while performances below this level are scaled accordingly.

MUSIC

MUSIC BTEC LEVEL 3 NATIONAL FOUNDATION DIPLOMA AND EXTENDED DIPLOMA - PEARSON

Topics covered

Students complete either two or four modules to gain each qualification, made up of individual assessment units:

Music Skills Development
The Music Industry
Personal Music Profile (Extended Diploma only)
Collaborative Music Project (Extended Diploma only)

Assessment

100% Coursework

Why should I study this subject?

The course enables students to focus on developing their musical performance and creation techniques and to relate these skills to the wider music industry. Learning takes place through a series of projects that allow students to acquire, refine and independently adapt their skills to a variety of vocational contexts. These projects cover the development of both individual and ensemble performance skills, ensuring that students have the technical proficiency required of modern musicians.

Students will build an understanding of the music industry, alongside organisational and collaborative skills, creative thinking, technical musical abilities and professional behaviours. These attributes are highly valued by higher education institutions and employers, greatly benefiting learners who wish to progress to university or into employment.

Students must already play an instrument or sing to a good basic standard (equivalent to ABRSM Grade 4 or above, or Grade 5 GCSE Music). They will be expected to enrol in specialist instrumental or vocal lessons on their main instrument, participate in at least one extracurricular ensemble, and contribute to internal and external performance events. The projects support the development of key complementary skills for musicians, such as professionalism and critical reflection.



Where this course can lead

The qualification carries UCAS points and meets the admission requirements for many relevant courses, for example: BMus (Hons) in Music (Performance),BA (Hons) in Music Technology and Production,BA (Hons) in Creative Musicianship, BA (Hons) in Digital Music and Sound Arts, BMus (Hons) in Contemporary Music Performance or BA (Hons) in Music Performance, Production and Composition.



Where this course can lead

The study of A Level music can give students a great mix of social, technical and business skills as well as being a great preparation for university or conservatoire study of Music

PERFORMING ARTS PRACTICE

BTEC LEVEL 3 NATIONAL FOUNDATION DIPLOMA AND EXTENDED DIPLOMA - PEARSON

"BTEC allowed me to learn everything on my feet. You actively participate in everything."

"The preparation for drama schools was really helpful and helped to take the pressure off."

Topics covered

Foundation Diploma -There are two learning and teaching modules assessed through four assessment units, with each assessment unit attracting a grade. Extended Diploma - There are four learning modules assessed through ten assessment units. Pathways available in Acting, Musical Theatre and Dance.

Assessment

100% Coursework

Why should I study this subject?

The exciting and diverse BTEC in Performing Arts Practice allows students to explore performance disciplines and genres and to develop and refine their performance skills through a range of different styles and methods. Units throughout the qualification provided a varied insight into the performance industry and offer students the opportunity to study classic as well as contemporary mediums of performance such as site-specific theatre, musical theatre or stand-up comedy. The skills developed in each unit are then applied to live performances and showcases throughout the two years. Performance projects are designed to be a realistic experience of the performance profession and will prepare students for study at Higher Education level or industry opportunities. Students can select a from the following pathways, should they wish to opt for a specialism, however the 'General Performing Arts Pathway' gives learners an all-round experience if preferred.



Where this course can lead

In addition to the performing arts sector, the requirements of the qualification will mean that learners develop the transferable and higher-order skills that are highly regarded by higher education and employers. Key skills in communication, public speaking, working under pressure, creative thinking, analysis and evaluation are the most prominent meaning that our students are well-equipped for the next stage of their academic path. We have a hugely successful programme that prepares student for drama school auditions, if this is their chosen pathway.

PHOTOGRAPHY

A LEVEL - AQA

Topics covered

You will be taught a variety of creative techniques and processes in art, design and photography. Coursework will include the use of camera equipment, dark room, studio work, computer software presentation skills, bookmaking, building a portfolio and a digital sketchbook of creative ideas and personal project work.

Assessment

All work assessed is portfolio and practical outcomes. There is no AS qualification, all work produced in year 12 and 13 is assessed for the A Level qualification. Personal Investigation + Portfolio from year 1 (60%) Students select their own practical investigation into an idea, concept or theme from which a major sustained investigation develops, demonstrating the importance of process as well as product. Students are also required to complete a critical and contextual essay (1000-3000 words) making connections with the chosen theme. Component 2: Externally set assignment (40%) This is in response to an externally set examination paper. Students select one theme and produce a sustained practical investigation that culminates in a practical examination (15 hrs).

Why should I study this subject?

This exciting approach to the study of photography, explores both digital and traditional photography. This course will allow students to learn a variety of creative techniques and processes in not only photography but exploring experimental ways of mixing media and idea. Photography provides students with an opportunity to engage with the world and the people in it through expressing themselves and their ideas. It is a challenging course but a hugely rewarding one. Our team of supportive teachers offer practical advice or ideas and then students develop an original and induvial responses to a themes, artists or ideas, supporting the student as the work progresses, offering a critical response and guiding the student's technical development for a quality final result.

"Studying Creative Arts helped me a lot throughout my years at QE. My teachers gave me guidance with my portfolio and personal statement to help me gain a place at my first-choice university."

Where this course can lead

Studying A Level Photography enhances creative, social and cultural understanding, while developing specialist technical knowledge around equipment, techniques and style. Many students who choose a creative degree with A Level Photography will first complete an Art foundation course at a university or higher/further education college. Transferable skills gained from film and photography A Level and degrees include:- communication skills, commercial awareness, self-motivation and flexible and independent working, and these skills are sought after by employers from industries such as film, publishing, television, public relations, photography, design, computing, education and the arts.



PHYSICAL EDUCATION

A LEVEL - AQA 7582

Topics covered

Year 1 and 2
Applied anatomy and physiology
Skill acquisition
Sport and Society
Exercise physiology
Sports psychology
Biomechanics
Sport and society and the role of technology in physical activity and sport

Assessment

Paper 1 - 2hrs - 35%
Section A: Applied anatomy and physiology Section B: Skill acquisition
Section C: Sport and society
Paper 2 - 2hrs - 35%
Section A: Exercise physiology and biomechanics
Section B: Sport psychology
Section C: Sport and society and technology in sport
Coursework - : Practical performance and analysis in physical activity and sport - 30%

Why should I study this subject?

This course is ideal for students who have a genuine interest and passion for sport. The course is ideal for those who want to learn more about the subject or those who have career aspirations in the sports or fitness industry. These aspirations may be in sports and exercise science, psychology, sociology of sport, Physical education teaching or fitness and physical training. The course offers the chance to learn key concepts in depth based on a strong scientific underpinning. There is also the opportunity for your practical performance to be assessed in a sport of your choice.

"I chose A Level P.E because the knowledge I will gain not only helps me with my future career (as a physiotherapist) but also helps me to understand my body as an athlete. From learning the essential nutrition intake and training methods to make me stronger, fitter and healthier to aid my sport (netball) and well being."



Where this course can lead

Students will usually go on to further study at university. Students may choose courses in sports science or PE related fields. The course is very well respected by universities including those with strong sporting reputations.

SPORT

SPORT BTEC LEVEL 3 NATIONAL EXTENDED CERTIFICATE /DIPLOMA - PEARSON

Topics covered

Unit 1- Anatomy and Physiology (Year 1)
Unit 2- Fitness training and programming (Year 2)
Unit 3 - Professional Development in the Sports Industry (year 2)
Unit 4 - Sports Leadership (year 1)
Unit 5 - Application of Fitness Testing (year 1)
Unit 8 - Coaching for Performance (year 1)
Unit 22 - Investigating Business in the Sport and Active Leisure Industry (year 2)
Unit 23 - Skill Acquisition in Sport (year 2)

Assessment

Extended Certificate
Synoptic assessment
Unit 2- Fitness training and programming (2h30min) Exam
Unit 1- Anatomy and Physiology (90min)
Diploma
Synoptic Assessment
Unit 22 - Investigating Business in the Sport and Active Leisure Industry (3h)
Rest of units are coursework

Why should I study this subject?

This course will build your academic knowledge of human physiology but also includes a number of exciting practical assessments such as fitness testing and training, analysing athlete performance, giving job interviews and player feedback meetings. You will develop real world skills to help you prepare for a future career in sport or elsewhere.

'I chose to study the BTEC Extended certificate in sport as I wanted to build on what I had learnt in GCSE PE and felt it would be very enjoyable to combine with other subjects. I really enjoy the variety in the modules and assignments where there is written work and learning by actually doing. However, the best thing has been able to tailor work to specific sports or areas you are interested in which is different to A Level PE where there are solely exam questions."

Where this course can lead

BTEC Sport is highly valued with a number of universities and employers. Many students go on to study university courses in sports science, sports coaching, physiotherapy, sports therapy or sport and business management. Other students have gone onto further study in the USA combining their academic education with sporting scholarships Usually, students combine study of this course with subjects that support future career choices. Examples include studying biology alongside to extend knowledge of physiology or business studies alongside to support aspirations of working in sports business management.

UNIVERSITY DESTINATIONS 2026

COURSE	UNIVERSITY
Anglia Ruskin University	Animal Management
Anglia Ruskin University	Criminology [with Placement year]
Arts University Bournemouth	Modelmaking
Birmingham City University	Architectural Technology
Bournemouth University	Business & Management
Cardiff University	Architecture
Durham University	Accounting and Finance
Durham University	Psychology
Durham University	Business and Management with Placement Year
Harper and Keele Veterinary School	Veterinary Medicine and Surgery
Hull York Medical School	Medicine
Hull York Medical School	Medicine
Imperial College London	Biomedical Technology Ventures
Institute of Contemporary Music Performance	Popular Music Performance - Guitar
Keele University	Forensic Science with Foundation Year
Keele University	Pharmacy with Foundation Year
Keele University	Physiotherapy with Integrated Master's
King's College London, University of London	Electronic Engineering
King's College London, University of London	Medicine
King's College London, University of London	Data Analytics for Business and Finance
King's College London, University of London	Medicine
King's College London, University of London	Economics
King's College London, University of London	Biomedical Engineering
King's College London, University of London	Geography
King's College London, University of London	Computer Science
King's College London, University of London	Medicine
King's College London, University of London	Data Analytics for Business and Finance
Leeds Arts University	Comic and Concept Art (with placement year)
Leeds Beckett University	Real Estate and Property Management

COURSE	UNIVERSITY
Leeds Beckett University	Content Creation
Liverpool John Moores University	Business with Digital Marketing
LMA	Musical Theatre
London School of Economics	Psychological and Behavioural Science
Loughborough University	Mathematics
Loughborough University	Economics and Finance (with placement year)
Loughborough University	Economics
Loughborough University	Management
Manchester Metropolitan University	International Business Management
Manchester Metropolitan University	Sport and Exercise Science
Manchester Metropolitan University	International Business Management
Manchester Metropolitan University	Primary Education with QTS
Manchester Metropolitan University	Sports Marketing Management (Foundation Year)
Newcastle University	International Relations
Newcastle University	Business Management
Newcastle University	Business Management
Newcastle University	Pharmacy
Newcastle University	Business Management
Northumbria University, Newcastle	Business Management
Northumbria University, Newcastle	Business and Marketing
Northumbria University, Newcastle	Marketing
Northumbria University, Newcastle	Real Estate
Northumbria University, Newcastle	International Business Management
Nottingham Trent University	Real Estate
Nottingham Trent University	Media Communications
Nottingham Trent University	Law
Nottingham Trent University	Business Management and Marketing
Queen Mary University of London	Law
Queen Mary University of London	Biomedical Sciences
Queen Mary University of London	English and European Law (4 years)
Queen Mary University of London	International Relations with Business Management
Sheffield Hallam University	Business Management and Marketing
Sheffield Hallam University	Financial Trading and Investment Management

COURSE	UNIVERSITY
UCL (University College London)	International Social and Political Studies
UCL (University College London)	Medical Innovation and Enterprise
UCL (University College London)	Mathematics
UCL (University College London)	Pharmacology
UCL (University College London)	Media
UCL (University College London)	Information Management for Business
UCL (University College London)	Neuroscience
UCL (University College London)	Psychology and Language Sciences
UCL (University College London)	Science and Engineering for Social Change
UCL (University College London)	Neuroscience
UCL (University College London)	Statistics
UCL (University College London)	Media
UCL (University College London)	Law
UCL (University College London)	Creative Arts and Humanities
UCL (University College London)	Global Humanitarian Studies
UCL (University College London)	Applied Medical Sciences
UCL (University College London)	Chemistry
University of Bath	Mathematics
University of Bath	Natural Sciences
University of Bath	Accounting and Finance
University of Bath	Computer Science
University of Bath	Accounting and Management
University of Bath	Architecture with professional placement
University of Bath	Architecture with professional placement
University of Birmingham	Psychology
University of Bristol	Veterinary Science
University of Bristol	Aerospace Engineering
University of Cambridge	Natural Sciences
University of Exeter	Media and Communications
University of Exeter	LLB Law with Professional Placement
University of Exeter	Business Economics
University of Exeter	Finance: Business Management
University of Huddersfield	Health Foundation Pathway

COURSE	UNIVERSITY
University of Leeds	Law
University of Leeds	Business Management
University of Leeds	Medicine
University of Leeds	Chemical Engineering
University of Leeds	Actuarial Mathematics
University of Lincoln	Pharmacy with Science Foundation Year
University of Manchester	Medicine
University of Manchester	History and Sociology
University of Manchester	Psychology
University of Manchester	Management (Marketing)
University of Manchester	Psychology
University of Manchester	Mathematics
University of Manchester	Mechanical Engineering
University of Manchester	Civil Engineering
University of Manchester	Planning and Real Estate
University of Manchester	Information Technology Management
University of Manchester	Management (International Business Economics)
University of Nottingham	Economics
University of Nottingham	Industrial Economics
University of Nottingham	Law
University of Nottingham	Geography with Business BA
University of Nottingham	Nutrition and Dietetics
University of Nottingham	Nutrition and Dietetics
University of Sheffield	Law (European and International)
University of Sheffield	Biomedical Science
University of Sheffield	Journalism Studies
University of Sheffield	Medicine
University of Sheffield	Law
University of Sheffield	Architecture
University of Southampton	Business Management and Human Resources
University of Southampton	International Business with Study Abroad Year
University of Southampton	Civil Engineering
University of Surrey	Veterinary Medicine and Science

COURSE	UNIVERSITY
University of Surrey	Biomedical Science
University of Surrey	Biomedical Science
University of Surrey	Sport and Exercise Science
University of the Arts London	Advertising
University of the Arts London	Advertising
University of the Arts London	Media Communications
University of the Arts London	Design Management
University of the Arts London	Fine Art: Sculpture
University of Warwick	Computer Science
University of Warwick	History and Politics
University of Warwick	Cyber Security
University of Westminster, London	Pharmacology and Physiology



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