



SIXTH FORM PROSPECTUS

2020-2021



Sixth Form - A new beginning

At the end of year 11 your world is one of choice. You are free to choose the direction best fitted to your future aspirations. Higher education and future employers demand of recruits that they should be fully rounded, resilient, emotionally intelligent, entrepreneurial and digitally competent. They should also be well qualified individuals capable of teamwork, self-management and leadership with sound communication skills. A good sixth form must be able to offer students the opportunities to gain the key skills to meet all of these demands. At Devonport High School for Boys we offer you a history of outstanding academic success and excellent opportunity to develop yourself through a wide range of extracurricular activities.



SHARON DAVIDSON
ASSISTANT HEADTEACHER – POST 16

At advanced level you finally have the chance to focus your studies on those areas that really interest you. Most students at Devonport High School for Boys now study 3 subjects to A level. It is vitally important that you seek help in making your choices. Teaching Staff will be happy to offer you in-depth advice about your suitability to follow particular courses. You must, however, look further ahead and find out if your choices match your future life aspirations. For the first time in your life the onus for this research rests with you! Take advantage of all of the good sources of advice shared through your tutor, Head of House, lead person for Careers at your school, representatives from the Careers South West group as well as your family and friends and the year group above you.

It is crucial that you do not become narrowly academic in your post 16 life. At Devonport High School for Boys all students follow an Enrichment study programme. This is a course of discussion seminars and visiting speakers which will broaden your horizons and enhance your communication skills.

Outside of lesson time the school seeks to provide support for students in their studies. Departments have areas which can be used for guided self study and members of staff are always willing to provide help when asked. We encourage you to engage in one to one communication with teaching staff, to take responsibility for seeking guidance and to pursue active independent study. In addition to your chosen A levels we facilitate a wide range of non-academic opportunities. Our sixth formers are encouraged to take part in Young Enterprise, the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, work related learning, higher education visits, voluntary community work, various Service Cadet Forces, sport teams, music, overseas expeditions, become Subject Ambassadors, Prefects, Peer Mentors and much more! All these are opportunities to be grasped – remember, it's the whole person we endeavour to develop.

The Sixth Form at Devonport High School for Boys is far more than the sum of its parts. We aim to develop a real sense of community responsibility.

Sixth Form students play a major part in the shape and character of that community through their leading roles in the House system. The selective Prefect system, House leadership and Subject Ambassador positions allow sixth formers to demonstrate fuller leadership in the day to day running of the school and organising a variety of extracurricular events.

The Sixth Form at Devonport High School for Boys really is what you make it. We encourage you to develop the depth and breadth, as well as to explore opportunities to extend and enrich your studies. We offer the expertise; with your commitment, we can work together to open the door to your future.

Sharon Davidson





Courses for 2021

Ancient History	Economics	Mathematics
Art	English Literature	Media Studies
Biology	French	Music (Consortium)
Business	Further Mathematics	Physical Education
Chemistry	Geography	Physics
Computer Science	German	Psychology
Core Mathematics	Government & Politics	Religious Studies
Design & Technology	History	Spanish
Drama (Consortium)	Latin	

Entry to the Sixth Form at Devonport High School for Boys

In order to follow a full A level curriculum at DHSB, you need to have achieved an Average Grade of 6.0 or higher from your best eight GCSEs and at least a grade 5 in both English and Mathematics.

The Curriculum

Never has it been more important to our students in this competitive world to gain the qualifications and skills they will need in their future lives. Devonport High School for Boys enjoys an excellent reputation for its earned successes at Advanced Level. The vast majority of our Sixth Formers go on to study at University or pursue Advanced Apprenticeships, many enrolling on competitive courses at popular institutions. All A level courses have been recently reformed.

The main features of these reformed A levels are:

- Assessment by examination where possible
- More extended answers, fewer short-answer questions and greater challenge in mathematical content, where applicable
- No modules; all A level content is tested at the end of the two year course
- They are still graded A* to E

At DHSB our A level courses will be delivered on a two year model, with all external exams at the end of year 13. However there will be internal practice exams midway through each year and the summer of year 12.

Along with many other high performing schools, including South West Academies Trust Grammar Schools, we now strongly advise the majority of students to study three A levels with the option of a fourth offered to those typically with an Average Grade of 7.0 or more at GCSE. This allows students to focus on a suitable number of courses to ensure they gain the high grades required for their next steps in these more demanding courses, whilst being mindful of their wellbeing and stress levels. Universities make offers based on only three A levels and there is no expectation that students should take four. Many universities are demanding higher A level grades and offering extra financial support at university in the form of scholarships and bursaries that are dependent upon excellent grades at A level.



Sixth Form Study Routine



The timetabled week comprises 25 hour sessions in addition to morning registrations which are timetabled as follows:

- 5 taught hours for each A level subject
- 3 hours for tutorial, assemblies and Enrichment Studies
- 2 hours for Games and Activities

The majority of students are committed to 3 main subjects and consequently they will have 5 hour sessions which are set aside for independent and enrichment study under supervised conditions in the Sixth Form Centre or Learning Commons.

We anticipate that, with the need for wider reading and practice, sixth formers will set aside approximately 3-4 hours per week additionally at home per subject.

No student can ever claim that they manage to cover their workload during school hours thereby obviating the need for study at home.

A successful A level is completed through at least as much time on independent learning as contact time with the teacher.



Sixth Form Common Room

The Sixth Form Common Room is an exclusive space for the sixth form, with areas for group work, private study, relaxation and socialising in our Refuel#6 cafe.

Chromebooks are available to borrow and there is Wi-Fi in the Sixth Form Centre and throughout the school site. Students may also choose to study in the Learning Commons or within available spaces in department areas.





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The DHSB Enrichment Curriculum

A key feature of life in the DHSB Sixth Form is our offer beyond the core A level curriculum. This involves the following areas:

- Tutorial Programme and Enrichment Studies
- Super-curricular Opportunities
- Leadership Development
- The Extended Project Qualification
- Games and Activities
- Work Related Learning

Super Curriculum

At DHSB we believe that it is not only important for students to actively participate in their education during their lessons, but it is also critical that students begin to develop their interests and wider reading beyond the classroom. Regardless of a student's future plans, the ability to extend themselves and research independently into their interests is an invaluable skill – this will support their university applications and future job applications and interviews. Higher institutions expect more than just classroom knowledge, which is where super-curricular activities come in; these are academic enrichment activities that show you are interested in your development beyond what is on the school syllabus.



Tutorial Programme and Enrichment Studies

Through the compulsory tutorials and the enrichment study sessions on Friday mornings, we provide curriculum enrichment for all sixth form students. The programme enables students to develop a level of tolerance for the viewpoints of others and a breadth and depth of knowledge, whilst also maintaining and practising the range of skills acquired at GCSE. It offers a stimulating variety of subject areas and a base for lively discussion. The approach is multidisciplinary and helps make the vital connection between subjects so students become aware of how their specialist academic areas integrate together.

Key topical issues are discussed and the Science, Arts and Social Science contributions and viewpoints are clarified.

Students will also encounter new disciplines that they may not be studying at A level, and this provides a useful taster that helps them decide if they would like to pick these subjects at University. The sessions enable us to develop and explore many transferable skills. Most importantly in enrichment studies, students learn how to present two sides of an argument and make judgements about the validity of evidence presented.

Their critical thinking skills are developed throughout and their broader understanding of the world can be explored. All students are expected to attend the speaker sessions and participate in this enrichment programme. We also use this enrichment time to enhance the students' skills for independent living and many of the activities have been requested by the students themselves.



"Integrity
and an
intent to be
the best a
person can
be"

Support and Help

Devonport High School for Boys aims to provide a friendly and supportive environment and one where there is an experienced team to help and support students with any problem they may have, either in their welfare or curriculum. The KS5 form tutor is a student's main point of contact. Our tutors focus their efforts on support, information and guidance (IAG) to enable our students to achieve and to grow as individuals. Along with the Sixth Form Office team, the KS5 tutors are the first point of contact for administrative information but are also a 'significant adult' in the school community to whom students can turn for help, concerns about well-being or welfare. The team of tutors are supported by the heads of year, who can also mediate on a student's behalf amongst other guidance roles for the year group as a whole. The tutorial programme is structured around facilitating and enriching personal development and runs throughout the two years

Miss Kerswell in the Sixth Form Office has training in mental health and well-being for young people and our KS5 students also have access to Mrs Weaver who is the school welfare counsellor and special educational needs coordinator. Students are encouraged to talk with Ms Davidson if they need help or wish to be directed to someone who can assist them. We have an 'open door' office and no question is too silly or too serious to ask!



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The Link Partnership

We are founder-members of The Link Partnership, working with Devonport High School for Girls, Eggbuckland Community College, Notre Dame School and St Boniface's College to provide an extended curriculum, sharing our good facilities and benefitting from the expertise of our diverse and successful partner schools.

We aim to place all of our students in subjects at our home-school but where there are difficulties in timetabling some options, we work with our partner schools to allow such students the breadth of subjects that they require. Such places are negotiated in September by the Heads of Sixth Form.



"Everyone Succeeds"



ANCIENT HISTORY

SUBJECT LEADER
DR K STEARS
EXAMINATION
BOARD: OCR
SPECIFICATION
CODE: H442

WHERE WILL IT LEAD?



- The skills of analysis and expression that you will develop are fundamental to any degree course and most careers
- If you wish to pursue your interest in Classics further, a variety of courses are available, ranging from Archaeology and Ancient History to Egyptology
- Like most Arts degrees Ancient History can lead on to a very wide range of careers: journalism, management, law,



WHAT YOU WILL STUDY IN YEAR 12

Greek History Linear Study: Relations between Greek and non-Greek states 492 – 404 BC:

You will study the apogee of Athenian politics, including democracy and empire. You will learn about the great conflicts between the allied Greek states and the Persian Empire and how these events led to power shifts among the Greek states resulting in the great conflict between the two power bases of Athens and Sparta, The Peloponnesian war. The works of Herodotus and Thucydides are key reading.

Roman History Linear Study: The Julio - Claudian Emperors 31 BC – AD 68:

You will study the way in which the Roman Republic was transformed into Empire with the establishment of the Principate. You will see how this transformed the government and the appearance and administration of the city of Rome and its place as the centre of the Empire with focus on the reigns of Augustus, Tiberius, Gaius, Claudius, and Nero. Essential texts are Tacitus, Suetonius and the Res Gestae of Augustus.

WHAT YOU WILL STUDY IN YEAR 13

Greek History Period Study:

The Rise of Macedon 359 – 323 BC. This is a depth study focusing on Philip II and his son Alexander the Great. The course analyses the source tradition which chart the rise of Macedon under Philip and its continued expansion under Alexander as he conquers the Persian Empire. The course is centred on understanding the problems facing both men and the extraordinary ways in which they faced them. Key sources are: Arrian, Curtius, Diodorus, Plutarch.

Roman History Period Study: The Breakdown of the Late Republic 88 – 31 BC.

You will study the role of the senate, elections, the cursus honorum; the importance of rhetoric and public speaking; factions in Rome – optimates and populares, patrons and clients; the effects of competition between individuals and groups in Roman politics; the growing influence of military leaders (including Sulla, Pompey, Caesar, Crassus, Cicero, Octavian and Mark Antony); the Catilinarian conspiracy and Cicero's role. You will also study the triumvirates and the Civil Wars. Essential reading includes the works of Cicero, Sallust, Dio Cassius, Appian, Plutarch and Caesar.

Requirements

- A genuine interest in studying literary and historical texts is essential
- No knowledge of Latin or Greek language is required
- Candidates should have achieved at least grade 6 in English GCSE



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WHY CHOOSE TO STUDY A LEVEL ANCIENT HISTORY?

- You have an intelligent interest in the ancient world and would like to know more about the history, literature, politics and culture of Greece and Rome
- You want to complement A level studies of Latin, English Literature, History, Politics, Philosophy Studies
- Or you want a wide ranging and stimulating Arts subject to balance a selection of science subjects

HOW YOU WILL LEARN

- Texts are all read in English and discussed in class
- You will be expected to prepare (including a large amount of independent reading) before a class and take an active part in class discussion
- Personal note-taking is an important skill, both from individual work and within a group
- You will be expected to present your own ideas on a text to begin a discussion
- Each topic has at least one essay and one context question set each half term, to practise exam technique



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video](#)

WHAT YOU WILL STUDY

As well as getting the opportunity to work individually on practical projects, you will learn from direct teaching, peer learning, presentations, trips, reflective reading and writing. All art students are encouraged to experiment and will have the opportunity to use a wide range of materials including ceramics, sculpture, print-making, photography, design, digital media and many others. Recording images and representing the world around you are at the heart of the projects. During your time on the course you will gain a strong understanding of the genres and styles in the history of art which underpin your own work.

"Creativity – We believe that thinking in a creative way is important to everyone, especially today. The world is changing, is less predictable, but is a really exciting one. There are more opportunities out there than ever."

THE COURSE

You will develop a portfolio of work that demonstrates and evidences your creativity and understanding of art and design skills. You may explore a wide range of different subjects within a project such as the figure, architecture or natural forms – you decide.

Year 12

Involves a variety of projects which draw on a range of materials and offer a chance to develop many different styles. All art students build a portfolio of work which will be presented at the end of the academic year.

Year 13

Follows the same format but this time with a personally directed piece of coursework. In this final year the supporting study is also submitted with a 1000 – 3000 word Personal Study as well as several practical outcomes. During the final unit called the “Externally set assignment” the controlled time element for this unit is completed over 15 hours.

Requirements

An enjoyment and passion for Art. We are essentially looking for fabulously creative minds and enthusiastic people. This is a creative course encouraging students to develop their 2D and 3D skills as practising artists.



ART

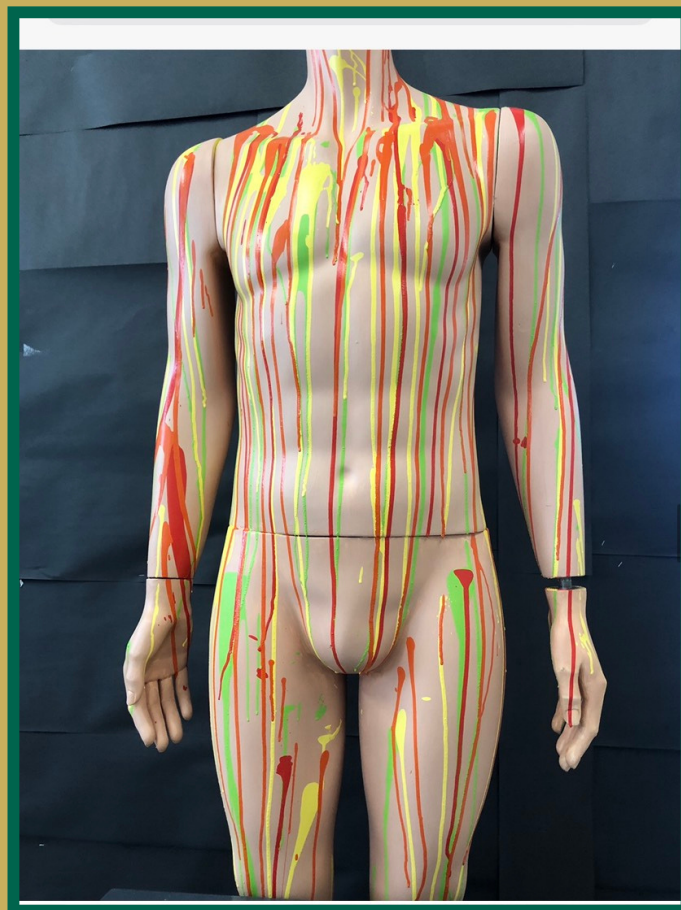
SUBJECT LEADER:
MR A HEAD
EXAMINATION
BOARD: AQA
SPECIFICATION
CODE: FINE ART
7202C

WHY CHOOSE TO STUDY A LEVEL ART?

Students choose art for a variety of reasons. Students can gain entry onto highly selective Undergraduate Degree programmes in Art, Architecture, Fashion, Graphic Design, Textiles, Sculpture, Computer Game Design and many other routes.

In addition, many students choose to progress to an Art Foundation Course. As a complementary area of study to our other A level subjects, Art also presents opportunities to develop lifelong skills in analysis, research, interpretation and creative execution.

We welcome your application!





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BIOLOGY

SUBJECT LEADER:
MR A WIDDECOMBE
**EXAMINATION
BOARD:** OCR
**SPECIFICATION
CODE:** H420



HOW WILL YOU LEARN?

Students are taught for 5 hours per week in mixed ability classes. Practical lessons are aimed at developing the skills required to pass the new endorsed practical assessments.

WHY CHOOSE TO STUDY A LEVEL BIOLOGY?

Biology is the study of living organisms, the physical and chemical processes going on within them, and their interactions with their surroundings. The depth and breadth of the subject, and its applications in modern society, have grown enormously in recent years, and an advanced understanding of the subject is proving useful in an increasing variety of courses and careers. The subject provides a rigorous education for developing knowledge, understanding and the application of ideas, as well as developing investigative skills.

WHAT YOU WILL STUDY

A Level Biology – Modules 1 to 6

- Module 1 - Development of practical skills in Biology
- Module 2 - Foundations in Biology
- Module 3 - Exchange and transport
- Module 4 - Biodiversity, evolution and disease
- Module 5 - Communications, homeostasis and energy
- Module 6 - Genetics, evolution and ecosystems

WHERE WILL IT LEAD?

Biology opens many doors in higher education and the workplace. Advanced understanding of Biology is essential for prospective doctors, veterinarians and physiotherapists, and also for geneticists, dieticians, dentists and biotechnologists. The course will be of interest to those considering careers in social care and public planning as well as providing 'education for life'.

Requirements

- Preferably a grade 7, but at least a grade 6 in both GCSE Biology and either Chemistry or Physics
- OR grades 6-6 in double award Combined Science
- It is strongly recommended that prospective candidates have reasonable confidence in their abilities in Chemistry





BUSINESS

SUBJECT LEADER:
MR A JENKINS
EXAMINATION BOARD: EDEXCEL
SPECIFICATION CODE: 9BS0



WHY CHOOSE TO STUDY A LEVEL BUSINESS?

The course is designed to give students an understanding of the nature and challenges of business. The course involves studying the various functions of a business (internal activities) and how the business reacts to change (external activities). The skills that are involved within Business allow you to improve your own potential within the business community. Business combines well with most other A level subjects.



WHAT WILL YOU STUDY?

There are four key themes to the course:

Theme 1: Marketing and People
Theme 2: Managing Business Activities
Theme 3: Business Decisions and Strategy
Theme 4: Global Business

How is the course assessed?

Paper 1:
Written exam of 2 hours worth 100 marks and 33.3% of the A Level consisting of two sections with data response questions.
Paper 2: Written exam of 2 hours worth 100 marks and 33.3% of the A Level consisting of two sections with data response questions.
Paper 3: Written exam of 2 hours worth 100 marks and 33.3% of the A Level consisting of one compulsory case study with two sections of questions based on a pre-released industry.

WHERE WILL IT LEAD?

A level Business will help with business degree courses or courses combining business with a foreign language, accountancy, engineering or management. It would also be ideal for any student wishing to undertake an apprenticeship or to go directly onto a post A level management trainee course as run by major companies. Business fits well with many A levels. In the past, students taking Business alongside A levels in a Modern Foreign Language, Technology, Geography or Art have found this a useful combination for a future degree course or employment.

Requirements

- At least a grade 5 in Mathematics
- At least a grade 6 in Business if taken at GCSE
- A willingness to take part in the Young Enterprise Company programme
- No previous experience of Business is needed



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HOW WILL YOU LEARN?

A range of teaching methods and strategies are employed throughout the course. The major delivery method is through the use of case study material.

Literacy and numeric skills will be developed and students will learn how to understand and apply figures to the business being studied, as well as to analyse, evaluate and write good reports.

You will have the opportunity to:

- Explore real business situations
- Be practical in the application of business concepts
- Understand the role of the entrepreneur and business in society



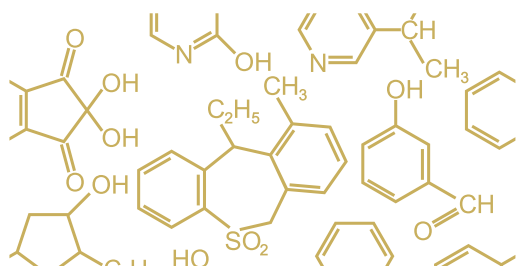
CHEMISTRY

SUBJECT LEADER:
MR L ESPINOSA
EXAMINATION BOARD: OCR
SPECIFICATION CODE: H432

[Click to watch video](#)

WHERE WILL IT LEAD?

- Chemistry can be used in conjunction with other sciences for a variety of Higher Education courses
- Examples are Environmental Science, Biochemistry, Biotechnology
- Pharmacology and Chemical Engineering
- Chemistry is a requirement for some courses, notably Medicine and Veterinary Science



WHAT YOU WILL STUDY IN YEAR 12

Module 1 – Development of practical skills in Chemistry

Skills of planning, implementing, analysis and evaluation.

Module 4 – Core organic Chemistry

- Basic concepts
- Hydrocarbons
- Alcohols and haloalkanes
- Organic synthesis
- Analytical techniques (Infra-Red and Mass Spectroscopy)

Module 2 – Foundations in Chemistry

- Atoms, compounds, molecules and equations
- Amount of substance
- Acid-base and redox reactions
- Electrons, bonding and structure

Module 3 – Periodic table and energy

- The Periodic table and periodicity
- Group 2 and the halogens
- Qualitative analysis
- Enthalpy changes
- Reaction rates and equilibrium (qualitative)

WHAT YOU WILL STUDY IN YEAR 13

Module 1 – Development of practical skills in Chemistry (continued)

Skills of planning, implementing, analysis and evaluation

Module 5 – Physical Chemistry and transition elements

- Reaction rates and equilibrium (quantitative)
- pH and buffers
- Enthalpy, entropy and free energy
- Redox and electrode potentials
- Transition elements

Module 6 – Organic Chemistry and analysis

- Aromatic compounds
- Carbonyl compounds
- Carboxylic acids and esters
- Nitrogen compounds
- Polymers
- Organic synthesis
- Chromatography and NMR spectroscopy



Requirements

- Preferably a grade 7, but at least a grade 6 in both GCSE Chemistry and Maths
- OR grades 6-6 in double award Combined Science and 6 in Maths



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WHY CHOOSE TO STUDY A LEVEL CHEMISTRY?

- To develop an in-depth understanding of the principles underlying chemical phenomena
- To help you to develop informed opinions on some of the controversial scientific issues facing our society today
- Either to complement your A levels in the other sciences or to provide some balance if you have chosen predominantly Humanities subjects
- For the satisfaction of coming to grips with a challenging and interesting subject

HOW YOU WILL LEARN

- Lecture-style lessons where difficult concepts are explained
- Directed self-study where you reinforce the content of the lessons
- Practical work in the laboratory to help you build the practical skills you will need to do well in the practical component of the exam
- Use of IT simulation software to help you explore the effects of different factors on a particular process



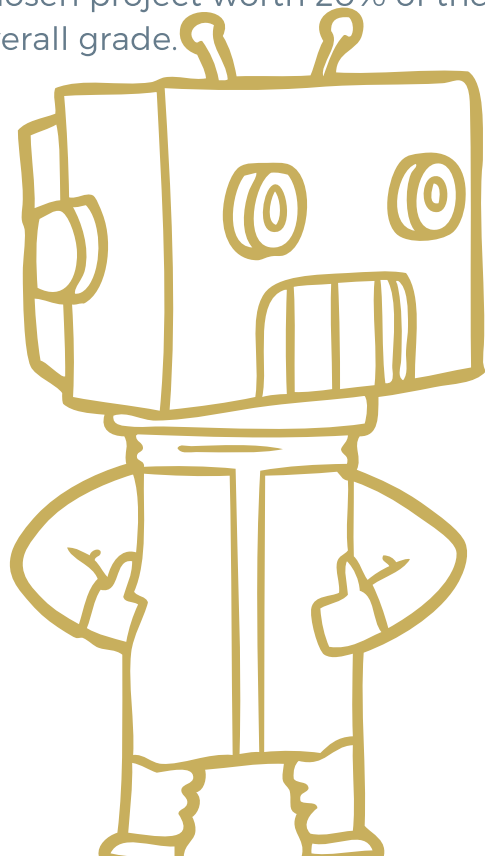
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HOW WILL YOU LEARN?

Through both practical units, theory and group work. This course is not about learning to use tools or training in a programming language. Instead the emphasis is on computational thinking. Computational thinking is a type of reasoning used by both humans and machines and is an important life skill.

This course has an emphasis on abstract thinking, general problem-solving, algorithmic and mathematical reasoning, scientific and engineering-based thinking, and provides a good foundation for understanding these future challenges.

The course includes a student-chosen project worth 20% of the overall grade.



WHAT YOU WILL STUDY

You will spend two years becoming a strong programmer who is able to use a range of programming styles. Through this you will learn how algorithms are used to solve different types of problems.

You will also study a wide range of computing theory topics including:

- 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

You will choose a computing problem to work through according to the guidance in the specification which will include:

- Analysis of the problem
- Design of the solution
- Developing the solution
- Evaluation



"Computer Science is no more about computers than astronomy is about telescopes"



Requirements

- A grade 6+ in Mathematics.
- You do not need to have studied Computer Science at GCSE, but if you have, a grade 6+

[Click to watch video](#)



COMPUTER SCIENCE

SUBJECT LEADER:

MR P SCOTT
EXAMINATION BOARD: OCR
SPECIFICATION CODE: H446

WHY CHOOSE TO STUDY A LEVEL COMPUTER SCIENCE?

Even if you haven't studied Computer Science before, if you enjoy solving problems and are logical and good at maths, then this is the right course for you.

Studying Computer Science will give you a head start if you want to go on and study a technology-based subject at higher level.

A wide array of jobs exist within the field of Computer Science including opportunities in sectors such as healthcare, telecommunications, manufacturing and defence.



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HOW WILL YOU LEARN?

You will be taught, via a mixture of online and printed resources and use up-to-date calculator and computer technology, including spreadsheets, to apply the necessary mathematical concepts and techniques to real world problems.

Requirements

All DHSB sixth form students, who are not taking A level Mathematics, are invited to take this additional qualification if they so wish.

WHY CHOOSE TO STUDY CORE MATHEMATICS?

The Core Maths qualification is equivalent to an AS level and designed to be useful for all learners in their everyday lives; it can be considered a ‘mathematical literacy’ course.

The qualification places emphasis on financial, mathematical and statistical problem solving and is designed to support learners in preparing them for higher education, employment, and their everyday lives as citizens.

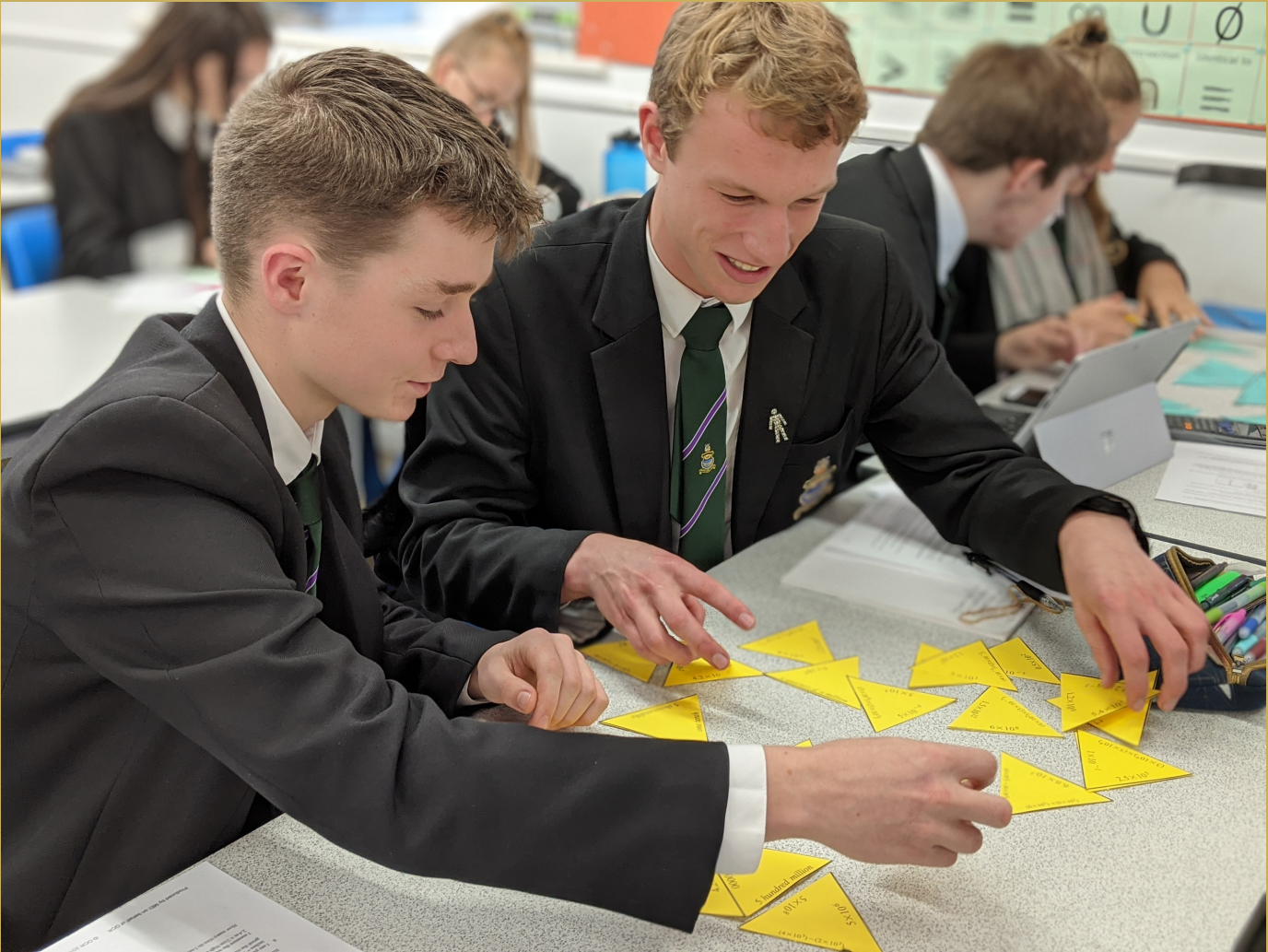
It is intended for:

- learners who wish to continue to gain mathematical skills but do not require the full A Level Mathematics for their next steps
- students who need mathematical skills for current or future courses such as Business, Biology, Chemistry, Computing, Economics, Geography, ICT, Psychology, Sociology or Health and Social Care
- those who intend at some stage to enter into teacher training, the health profession, or an apprenticeship or employment where maths skills will be of benefit

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY?

Areas of study include:

- Modelling
- Statistics
- Finance
- Working with exponentials
- Working with graphs and gradients
- Geometry and measures
- Risk
- Statistical problem solving
- Use of technology



CORE
MATHEMATICS

SUBJECT LEADER:
MR A GUY
EXAMINATION BOARD:
OCR B (MEI)
SPECIFICATION CODE:
H869



WHERE WILL IT LEAD?

Studying Core Maths helps students develop their quantitative and problem-solving skills. This is valuable preparation for the quantitative skills they will need for many degree courses, particularly subjects such as psychology, business-related courses, sports and social sciences, and natural science courses that do not require AS/A Mathematics. These skills are equally relevant to any future employer.



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DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

SUBJECT LEADER:

MR A MORRIS

EXAMINATION BOARD:

AQA

SPECIFICATION CODE:

7552



WHY CHOOSE TO STUDY A LEVEL DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY?

Design and Technology is a perfect choice for designers, technologists and engineers alike. The flexibility within the course allows a wide variety of projects to be carried out which suit any specific interest within the subject of Technology. If you are creative and practical then this course will definitely suit you with the non-examination assessment project being worth 50% of the final grade.

If you're thinking about a career as a designer, engineer or architect then this course will help give you the skills you will need. Likewise, the time-management, problem solving and decision making skills you will learn can be applied towards any other career choice.

KEY FEATURES AND BENEFITS:

- Focused on design and manufacture of products
- Offers relevant content with theoretical knowledge related to design and making activities
- Opportunity to develop practical skills
- The study of historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic influences on Design and Technology
- The development of skills useful for employment and higher education

WHERE WILL IT LEAD?

Design and Technology could take you into a number of exciting career paths. For example: Engineering, Product Design, Architecture, Manufacturing and Project Management.



HOW WILL IT BE ASSESSED?

The A level is split into 3 different assessment strands:

- 50% Non-Examination Assessment (NEA). A single substantial design and make task comprising of a final product and electronic portfolio
- 30% Examination. Paper 1 based on Technical Principles. A mixture of short and extended responses
- 20% Examination. Paper 2 based on Designing and Making Principles including product analysis and commercial manufacturing topics
- 15% of the marks in the exam assess mathematical skills in the context of Design and Technology

HOW YOU WILL LEARN

Lessons will be a mixture of formal teaching, individual studying and practical sessions, where needed there will also be visits to local manufacturing businesses. During the course you will develop your design and manufacturing skills, expanding your experience with different materials and manufacturing processes through challenging design and make tasks. You will also complete your Non Examination Assessment Project (coursework) over 45 hours. The context of this project can be developed by the student to suit a Design and Technology or Engineering specialism.

Requirements

At least a grade 6 in a Technology subject.





DRAMA AND THEATRE STUDIES

OFFERED THROUGH OUR TLP PARTNERSHIP



WHY CHOOSE TO STUDY A LEVEL DRAMA AND THEATRE STUDIES?

- The development of confident communication skills through assimilation and analytical exploration
- Learning self-discipline and group co-operation alongside leadership and team values
- The ability to respond critically and sensitively to a range of social contexts outside of your own experience
- To develop a keen and lively interest in theatre fostering its value in lifelong learning
- To develop your interest and enjoyment in drama and theatre both as an audience member and through your own practice

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY?

Component 1: Drama and theatre

What’s assessed:

- Knowledge and understanding of drama and theatre
- Study of two set plays
- Analysis and evaluation of the work of live theatre makers

Component 2: Creating original drama (practical)

What’s assessed:

- Process of creating devised drama
- Performance of devised drama
- Devised piece must be influenced by the work and methodologies of one prescribed practitioner

Component 3: Making theatre (practical)

What’s assessed:

- Practical exploration and interpretation of three extracts from contrasting plays
- Methodology of a prescribed practitioner must be applied to Extract 3
- Reflective report analysing and evaluating theatrical interpretation of all three extracts



WHERE WILL IT LEAD?

It provides opportunities for progression on to courses in Higher Education in its own specialism or in other subjects as an entry qualification. To becoming a confident and skillful communicator, negotiator and team player.



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HOW WILL YOU LEARN?

In pairs, small groups and larger groups in workshop based discussion and practical demonstration. Through regular visits to see live theatre.

Through workshops offered by professional practitioners (actors and directors).

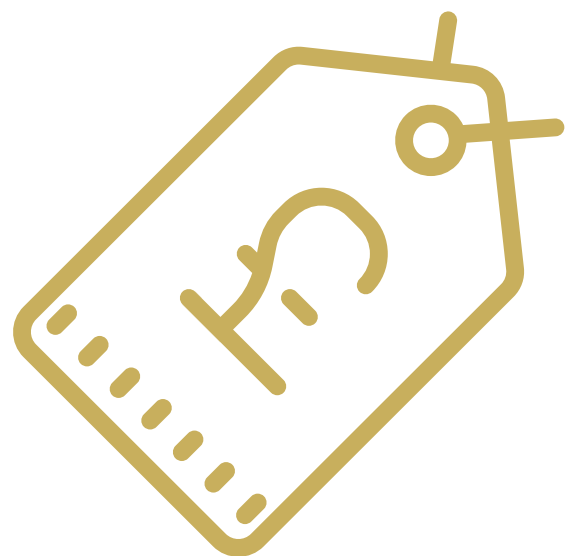
Through developing self-devised improvisation and scripted text for a public audience.



ECONOMICS

SUBJECT LEADER:
MR D ALSOP
EXAMINATION
BOARD:
EDEXCEL
SPECIFICATION
CODE:
9ECO

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WHAT YOU WILL STUDY?

The Economics A level explores the use of economic models and theories that will enable you to analyse and evaluate contemporary issues and situations, both nationally and internationally. The course content is designed to engage students through topics and issues that are relevant in today's society – you will study key contemporary developments such as globalisation, the EU and inequalities in labour markets.

Individuals, firms, markets and market failure

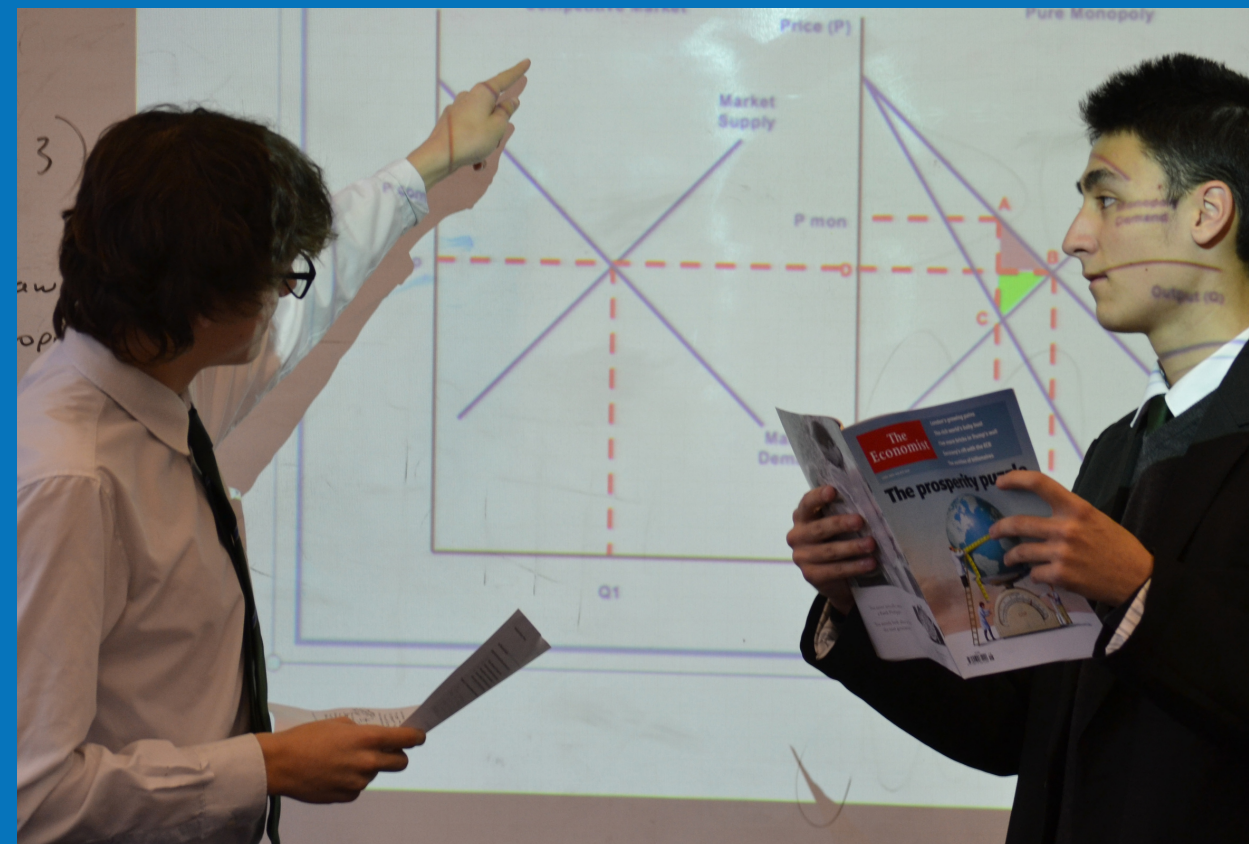
- Price determination in a competitive market
- Perfect competition, imperfectly competitive markets and monopoly
- The distribution of income and wealth: poverty and inequality
- The market mechanism, market failure and government intervention in markets

The national and international economy

- The measurement of macroeconomic performance
- Financial markets and monetary policy
- The international economy

WHERE WILL IT LEAD?

Due to the versatility in economics it can help you in a number of careers. Not only could you find yourself working for big corporations, banks or the government but your qualification in economics could also be valuable support in a career like marketing, law, journalism or teaching.



HOW YOU WILL LEARN?

A range of teaching methods and strategies are employed throughout the course. Literacy and numeracy skills will be developed so that students can identify, analyse and evaluate material, and respond with well-written reports. Through the use of current material we will develop an understanding of a range of concepts and acquire an ability to use these concepts in a variety of different contexts. Also, develop an enquiring, critical and thoughtful 'economist's mind' and practise skills, qualities and attitudes which will equip them for the challenges, opportunities and responsibilities of adult and working life.

Requirements

- At least a grade 6 in Mathematics
- At least a grade 6 in Business if taken at GCSE



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WHY CHOOSE TO STUDY A LEVEL ECONOMICS?

Economics is a fascinating subject because it includes the study of how people behave and interact with each other. The dynamic between consumers, manufacturers and government makes economics a vibrant topic. Of course, Economics can also lead to an exciting career. The course is designed to teach students to think logically and to use theories to understand how economies operate. The course examines resource allocation and how decisions resulting from this affect us all. Economics combines well with most other A level subjects, including other social sciences, humanities, mathematics and science.



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HOW WILL YOU LEARN?

Each module will involve some whole group teaching and discussion. Pair work and individual work will contribute to student led seminars. Drama is one of the active approaches we use. A great deal depends on independent wider reading and knowledge of critical works as well. We find that learning is most successful when students' preparations and contributions are the focus of the lessons.

WHAT YOU WILL STUDY

Summary of Assessment

This specification is divided into a total of 4 components.

Component 1 Poetry Written examination: 2 hours, 30% of qualification

Section A: Poetry pre-1900 (closed-book) One question in two parts, based on the reading of one poetry text from a prescribed list
Section B: Poetry post-1900 (open book comparative) Section B is based on the study of two post-1900 paired poetry texts from a prescribed list.

Component 2 Drama Written examination: 2 hours, 30% of qualification

Section A: Drama pre-1900 (closed-book) One question in two parts, based on the reading of one Shakespeare play from a prescribed list
Section B: Comparative drama (closed book) One question requiring comparative analysis of two plays from a prescribed list.

Component 3 Written examination: 2 hours, 20% of qualification

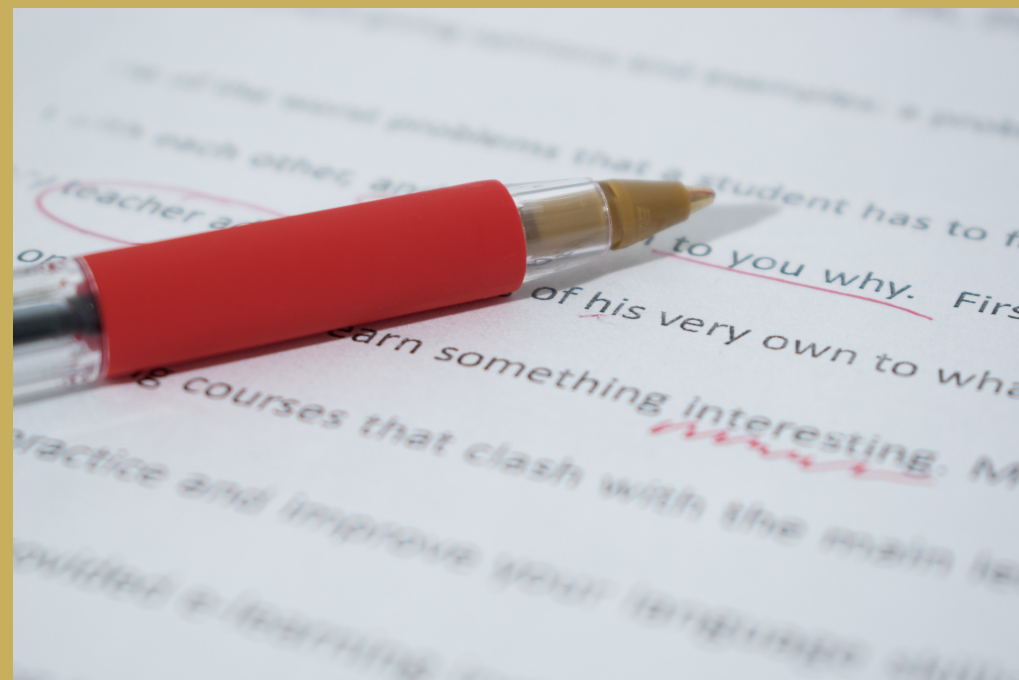
Responses to previously unseen poetry and prose texts from the period 1919 – 1939.

Component 4 Prose Study Non-examination assessment, 20% of qualification

One 2500-3500 word assignment based on the reading of two prose texts from different periods, one pre-2000 and one post-2000, nominated by the Centre.

WHERE WILL IT LEAD?

A qualification in English Literature provides a very wide range of opportunities for courses in the Arts, Humanities and Communication at degree level. As a subject which emphasises creativity, disciplined thought and communication, plus an ability to synthesise and contextualise ideas, English Literature is also welcomed as a qualification for many careers.



Requirements

You should have achieved GCSE English or an equivalent qualification with grade 6 or higher.



ENGLISH LITERATURE

SUBJECT LEADER:

MRS T DOWNES

EXAMINATION

BOARD: WJEC

EDUQAS

SPECIFICATION

CODE: A720QS

WHY CHOOSE TO STUDY A LEVEL ENGLISH LITERATURE?

The aim of this course is to enable you to enjoy reading and discussing English Literature, and to increase your understanding of what the study of literature involves. The emphasis is on getting to know a wide range of texts in depth, by close reading; at the same time you will be encouraged to think about the contexts in which these texts were written and about the different ways in which they were read in the past and can be read now.



FRENCH

SUBJECT LEADER:
MISS G CERVELLE
EXAMINATION
BOARD: AQA
SPECIFICATION
CODE: 7652

HOW YOU WILL LEARN

You are likely to be taught in a small group which enables your teacher to develop a very good knowledge of your linguistic ability. This should also make you more relaxed and enable you to develop and express your own opinions, a vital element of A level study.

WHY CHOOSE TO STUDY A LEVEL FRENCH?

A language is considered, by universities and employers, to be a facilitating subject. Russell Group universities look favourably on students with a language at A level no matter what the course. An A level in a modern language shows, amongst other things, that you are an effective communicator and that you have embraced internationalism.

WHAT YOU WILL STUDY

Over the two years you will study the following four themes:

- 1.Changes in French society
- 2.Political and artistic culture in francophone countries
- 3.Immigration and French multicultural society
- 4.Politics and immigration

You will continue to study the four skills (listening, speaking, reading and writing) as well as building on grammatical knowledge and translation skills.

You will also study two works, one literary work and a feature film.

Requirements

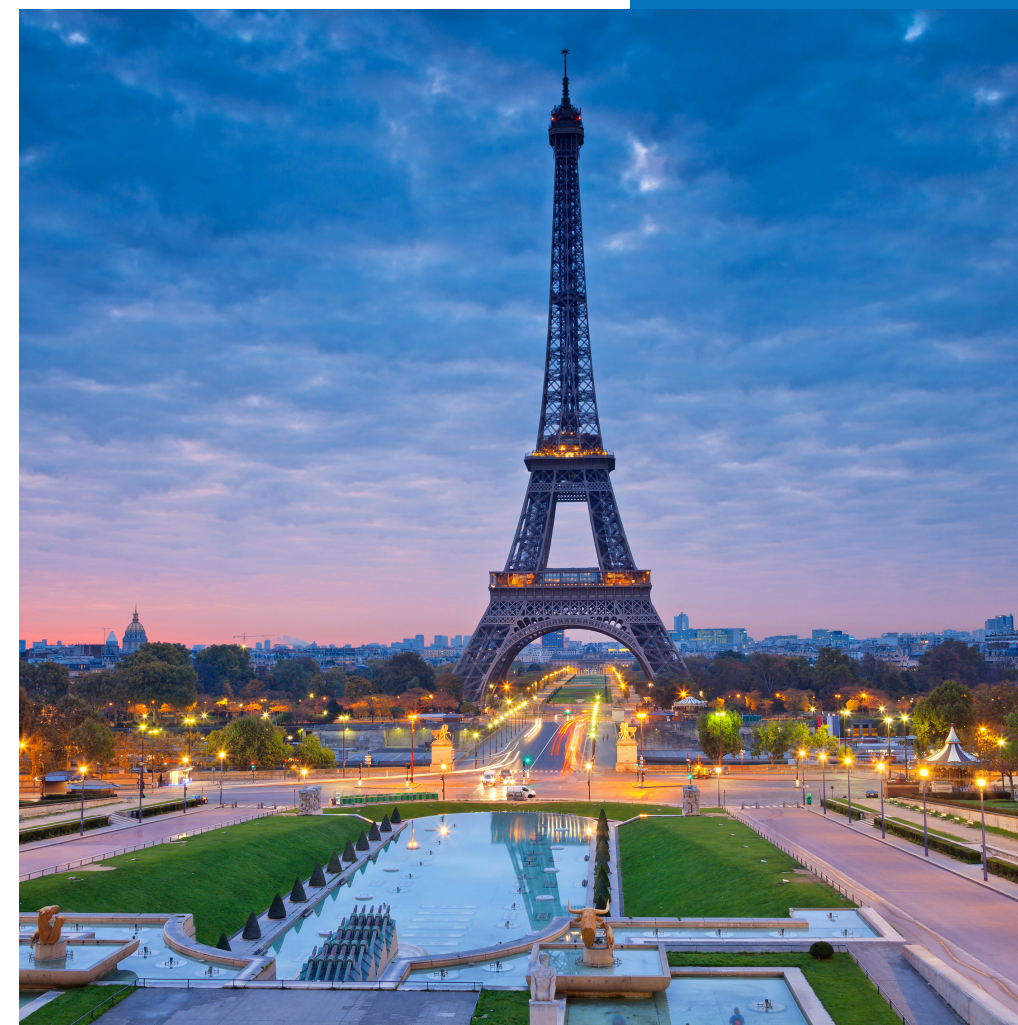
Preferably grade 7 in French GCSE, but students with grade 6 will be considered individually.

ASSESSMENT

Paper 1:
Listening, reading and translation
Written examination – 2 hours, 40% of the qualification

Paper 2:
Written response to works and translation
Written examination – 2 hours 40 minutes, 30% of the qualification

Paper 3:
Speaking Between 21 and 23 minutes, 30% of the qualification



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WHERE WILL IT LEAD?

In the modern, global economy knowledge of a second language is often integral to one's everyday work and applicants for many posts in Europe are at a distinct advantage if they are able to operate in at least two languages. If you decide to specialise in French, it could lead to a career in translation, linguistics or teaching. It is equally useful if you are thinking about a career in business, marketing, law or journalism. Indeed, there are companies in Europe who will no longer employ people who only speak one language.





FURTHER MATHEMATICS

SUBJECT LEADER:

MR A GUY

EXAMINATION

BOARD:

OCR

SPECIFICATION

CODE:

FURTHER
MATHEMATICS B
(MEI) H645

HOW YOU WILL LEARN

You will be taught via a mixture of online and printed resources and use of up-to-date calculator and computer technology. We will cover the necessary mathematical facts, concepts and techniques, and their applications in the real world.

WHY CHOOSE TO STUDY A LEVEL FURTHER MATHS?

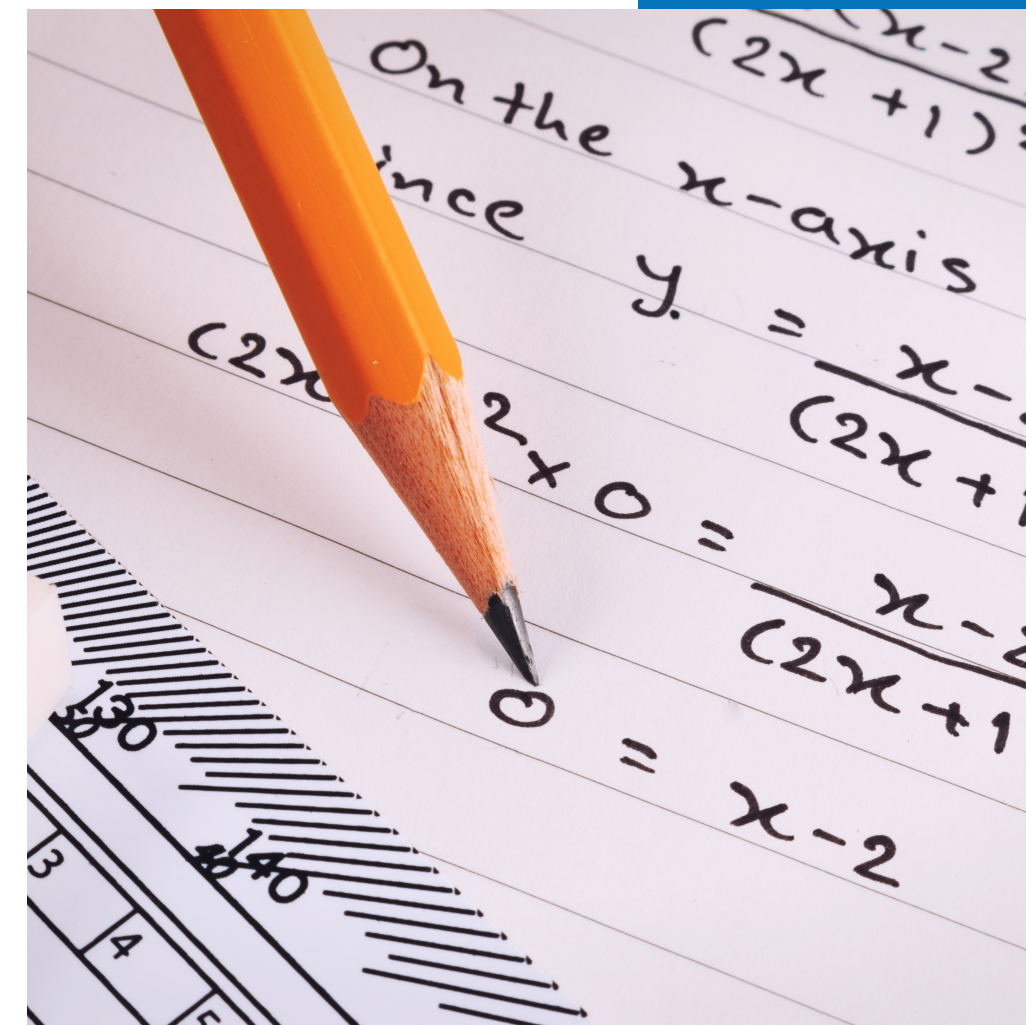
Further Mathematics covers much of the Mathematics needed for the first year of Science and Engineering University courses, as well as providing a sound basis for those wishing to study Mathematics itself. Further Mathematics is highly recommended for any students who wish to study Maths, Physics or Chemistry at Oxford or Cambridge and is a good preparation for MAT and STEP papers.

WHAT YOU WILL STUDY

The Further Mathematics course consists of both compulsory and optional content. Compulsory content extends studies from A level Maths in areas such as algebra and functions, calculus, vectors and trigonometry, as well as covering additional pure mathematical content, including areas such as complex numbers, matrices, polar coordinates and hyperbolic functions. Students will also study two of three additional options from either mechanics, statistics or discrete mathematics.

WHERE WILL IT LEAD?

Study of Further Mathematics leads directly to higher education courses which have a high mathematical content, such as Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry and Engineering. Graduates in those fields have excellent career prospects in industry and the finance sector.



Requirements

Candidates must have a grade 7 or higher at GCSE, although a grade 8 or 9 is desirable.

Students are expected to be fully conversant with the following GCSE topics:

- Algebraic manipulation, including algebraic fractions and simultaneous equations
- Factorisation of quadratic and higher order expressions
- Solving quadratic equations, including use of Completing the Square and the Difference of Two Squares
- Manipulation of Surds, including the expansion of pairs of brackets and the rationalisation of fractions
- Manipulation of indices

Students must also study A level Mathematics.





GERMAN

SUBJECT LEADER:
MRS K BALL
EXAMINATION BOARD:
EDEXCEL
SPECIFICATION CODE:
9GN0

[Click to watch video](#)



WHAT YOU WILL STUDY?

Over the two years you will study the following four themes:

- 1.Changes in German society
- 2.Political and artistic culture in German-speaking countries
- 3.Immigration and German multicultural society
- 4.The reunification of Germany

You will continue to study the four skills (listening, speaking, reading and writing) as well as building on grammatical knowledge and translation skills.

You will also study two works, one literary work and a feature film.

ASSESSMENT

Paper 1:
Listening, reading and translation
Written examination – 2 hours 40% of the qualification

Paper 2:
Written response to works and translation
Written examination – 2 hours 40 minutes 30% of the qualification

Paper 3:
Speaking
Between 21 and 23 minutes 30% of the qualification

WHERE WILL IT LEAD?

Extending your study will allow you to become more fluent in German, which will not only enable you to communicate with new people when travelling, but will also develop key skills such as communication, problem-solving and team work.

If you wish to continue your study of German to degree level, it will provide you with the opportunity to spend a year abroad in a German-speaking country and could lead to a career in translation, linguistics or international business.

German also combines well with other subjects and is often offered by universities alongside a diverse range of other subjects from Biology to History of Art to Law,

HOW YOU WILL LEARN

The topics at A level are varied and interesting, with greater emphasis on current affairs and the German-speaking world. You will be expected to do a lot of independent work, i.e. extra listening and reading practice, and vocabulary building.

Requirements

Preferably grade 7 in German GCSE, but students with grade 6 will be considered individually.



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WHY CHOOSE TO STUDY A LEVEL GERMAN?

A modern language is now considered to be an essential part of an all-round education.

Students studying German to A level are viewed favourably by universities and employers, including the Russell group.



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Requirements

Since this is a new subject for all students, there are no formal requirements and no prior knowledge will be assumed. However, students require a good standard of written English, an interest in current affairs would be advantageous and a willingness to join in discussion. Successful candidates are those who are able to use their study time effectively to develop their knowledge and understanding of current political debate. As such there is an expectation that students read newspapers, journals and watch television news as well as use social media to supplement the course materials.

WHY CHOOSE TO STUDY A LEVEL GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS?

"The course will develop a knowledge and understanding of the role politics plays in relation to current national and global issues as well as providing the opportunity to study key thinkers and political ideas/philosophies."

The subject combines well with most disciplines but especially History, English, Economics, Business, Geography, Media and Psychology as well as a good contrasting option for scientists and medics looking to widen their experience and gain an understanding of the impact of political decisions on their chosen field.

As an academic social science there are many key skills which can be developed through the study of Politics; reading and synthesis of ideas, critical thinking, the presentation of written discussion, use of documents and statistics etc. You will be encouraged to participate in debates and in the past students have attended international conferences and worked with MPs at Westminster. However, we hope that beyond these core skills, the course will encourage students to develop a love of politics and to participate in the political process. You will gain an insight into the factors which influence decisions that affect all our lives from a local level in Plymouth to an international perspective, for example the war on terror, the rise of Donald Trump, the European dimension and post-truth politics. You will examine how we elect our representatives and how they reach decisions.

You will investigate the role of the media and interest groups as well as looking at the way that rights are protected by the judicial system. You will also have the opportunity to compare the British system with American and European politics giving you a comprehensive view of contemporary world affairs in a period of increasingly global citizenship.

HOW WILL YOU LEARN?

- Use of media based case studies of decision making in the UK and USA.
- The emphasis will be on group discussion of contemporary political issues with students expected to research, present ideas and lead discussion.
- There will be a regular programme of short essays
- There will be the opportunity to meet and question local political figures and academics.

WHERE WILL IT LEAD?

The course develops student power of expression and critical thinking as well as developing an awareness of contemporary issues.

It opens the door on a wide range of social sciences and is a relevant qualification for those aiming to follow a career in the Media, Journalism or Public Service. In addition, there is a focus on the way laws are passed and enforced by the courts and as such the course provides an ideal foundation for those considering law as a career.

The international perspective is also an ideal introduction to international business and diplomacy.

We have a strong tradition of Russell Group / Oxbridge success and many ex-students work in the Civil Service, NGOs and have stood for election to parliament.



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GOVERNMENT & POLITICS

SUBJECT LEADER:
MR G MACLEOD
EXAMINATION BOARD:
EDEXCEL
SPECIFICATION CODE:
9PLO

WHAT YOU WILL STUDY?

1. Democracy, Participation and Elections
2. How Parliament and Government works
3. Contemporary Politics of the UK
4. Contemporary Government of the UK
5. US Government and Politics
6. Political Philosophy looking at the key ideas of thinkers from the Conservative, Liberal, Socialist, Anarchist and Feminist traditions.

For a breakdown of the content of each module, please see Mr Macleod.



GEOGRAPHY

SUBJECT LEADER:
MRS R GREEN
EXAMINATION BOARD:
EDEXCEL
SPECIFICATION CODE:
9GEO



WHY CHOOSE TO STUDY A LEVEL

This new Geography specification has been designed to excite your mind, challenge perceptions and stimulate investigative and analytical skills. The content of the course follows on from our GCSE work and develops some new areas of geographical study. The course requires high levels of effort and motivation throughout. The work looks at issues of topical relevance based on the interaction and impact of people on their environment from a local to global scale. Geography can be studied at A level with most subjects and is a good link subject between the arts and the sciences.

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY?

A Level Geography consists of four elements:

Paper 1 9GE0/01 has a written examination of 2 hours and 15 minutes and is 30% of the qualification:

- Tectonic Processes and Hazards
- Landscape Systems, Processes and Change – including Coastal Landscapes and Change
- The Water Cycle and Water Insecurity
- The Carbon Cycle and Energy Security

Paper 2 9GE0/02 has a written examination of 2 hours and 15 minutes and is 30% of the qualification:

- Globalisation
- Shaping Places – Diverse Places
- Superpowers
- Global Development and Connections – Migration, Identity and Sovereignty.

Paper 3 9GE0/03 has a written examination of 2 hours and 15 minutes and is 20% of the qualification. The specification contains three synoptic themes within the compulsory content areas:

- Players
- Attitudes and actions
- Futures and uncertainties

The synoptic investigation will be based on a geographical issue within a place-based context that links to the three synoptic themes and is rooted in two or more of the compulsory content areas

Independent Investigation 9GE0/04. This is a non-examined assessment and is 20% of the qualification

- The student defines a question or issue for investigation, relating to the compulsory or optional content. The topic may relate to any aspect of geography contained within the specification.
- The student’s investigation will incorporate fieldwork data and own research and/or secondary data.

The investigation report is internally assessed and externally moderated. The student will produce a written report of 3000–4000 words.

WHERE WILL IT LEAD?

Geography has one of the highest rates of graduate employability, as well as being highly valued by employers worldwide. Geography is a subject that links arts and science subjects. Students who have completed A level Geography have gone on to careers in Advertising, Architecture, the Armed Services, Aviation, Cartography, Conservation, Energy, Industry, Finance, Government, Journalism, Law, Marketing, Planning, Sales, Teaching and Transport.

Michael Palin, actor and explorer says...

“Geography is a vital subject in the modern world, broadening minds and encouraging an understanding of different countries and cultures. Geography is no longer something which you learn from a book and a map. It’s very well a collaborative thing.”



Requirements

Minimum of grade 6 in Geography at GCSE. There is a fieldwork element to this course. A parental contribution will be asked for to allow the Geography Department to plan an engaging residential fieldwork experience.



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HOW WILL YOU LEARN?

The planning and delivery of A level Geography is shared by members of the department. In addition to formal teaching, students will be prepared in the techniques and methodology required for geographical skills, fieldwork and their investigation. Lessons will have a mix of teaching styles including independent and collaborative work with access to ICT. Geography students gain core skills including the use of a variety of maps, diagrams and images. Specific cartographic skills, graphical skills, statistical and ICT skills are also developed. Literacy is a key area which is developed through the use of factual texts including journals and textbooks. Mathematical skills, including statistical analysis are used through the course and are integral to all units of work.



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HISTORY

SUBJECT LEADER:
MRS P MINTOFT
EXAMINATION BOARD:
AQA
SPECIFICATION CODE:
7042

HOW YOU WILL LEARN

The teaching will be shared by History staff. Lessons range between lecture and seminars where events and interpretations of them are examined in detail. Questions and discussion are encouraged and are dependent on you making a contribution and reading widely. Support material is available through senecalearning as well as a variety of textbooks and revision guides.

WHY CHOOSE TO STUDY A LEVEL HISTORY?

It will allow you to look at some of the most interesting periods of British and World History as well as develop your skills of analysis and evaluation to a high level. We have chosen to split the course between Tudor and modern history to provide variety. There is also the opportunity to focus on an area of history you are passionate about in the coursework. History is for you if you have an enquiring mind and an interest in developing arguments. You may be interested in history for history's sake or want to pursue the subject further, or may wish to compliment other social science A levels or demonstrate a wider interest alongside the sciences.

WHAT YOU WILL STUDY

Unit 1C The Tudors 1485-1603:

This topic remains a popular one with the public, schools and universities. It allows students to study in breadth issues of change, continuity, cause and consequence in this period. The course starts with the success of Henry Tudor at the Battle of Bosworth and addresses key themes of government, finance, religion and security of the crown **throughout the early and later Tudors.**

Unit 2R The Cold War 1945-1991:

This unit provides for the study in depth of the evolving course of international relations during an era of tension between communist and capitalist powers which threatened nuclear Armageddon. It explores concepts such as communism and anti-communism, aggression and détente and also encourages students to reflect on the power of modern military technology, what hastens confrontation and what forces promote peace in the modern world.

Coursework

Suggested options include:

- African American Civil Rights 1860's-1960's
- The European witch craze of the 16th century
- The Crusades of the 11th and 12th centuries

Students must study an 80-100 year period and the purpose of this work is to consider how the writing of and study of history has changed, as well as to develop the skills of an historian which can help with research and academic writing in a variety of fields. Students can select their own topics however they must meet certain criteria.



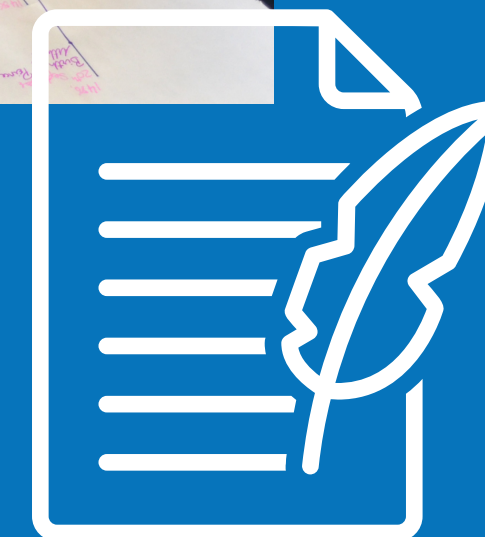
WHERE WILL IT LEAD?

The majority of our students go on to read History, Law, Medicine, Politics, Economics and Business at university. History is recognised as a flexible option and whilst of value on its own can be combined with a wide range of degree courses, from languages to maths, economics etc. It develops a wide range of transferable skills which are necessary in a fluid job market and has been recognised to be of tremendous value because of this rather than a fixed career path.



Requirements

A grade 6 or above at GCSE History, Classical Civilisation or Ancient History. However if you have not studied History at GCSE then we will consider students who have a grade 6 in an alternative Humanities subject and English.





LATIN

SUBJECT LEADER:
DR K STEARS
EXAMINATION
BOARD:
OCR
SPECIFICATION
CODE:
H443

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WHY CHOOSE TO STUDY A LEVEL BUSINESS?

- A level Latin will help you stand out from the crowd as it is notoriously complex and respected by universities
- It offers the opportunity to read a wide range of Latin literature in the original language, a fascination into the roots of the European literary tradition and a chance to consider the relations between written texts and the societies that produce them
- It involves deeper study of the culture of the Romans, which is at once strikingly alien to our own and also profoundly linked to it
- It is a challenging and stimulating subject which will develop a range of analytical and interpretative skills, making it well respected in the wider academic community
- It combines profitably with Arts subjects such as English Literature, History and Modern Languages and can also add breadth to a selection of Mathematics and Science A levels
- It is very useful for those wishing to study Medicine as a core skill for anatomical terms



WHAT WILL YOU STUDY?

Latin Language:

You will build on your translation skills from GCSE and develop your knowledge of accidence and syntax. You will begin prose composition, translating from English into Latin and will also practise Latin comprehension exercises. There are two papers totalling 3 hours which account for 50% of marks.

Latin Verse: You will read a selection from the complex poet Horace, including excerpts from Odes III and the Satires, developing your skills in literary analysis. You will develop and hone your unseen translation skills in verse literature and literary appreciation.

There is a 2 hour exam worth 25% of the total grade.

Latin Prose:

You will read a selection from the master of Latin Republican prose, Cicero. The set-text is his great speech against Mark Antony, the second Philippic. You will contextualise this work against the drop of Late Republican history and will analyse his stylistic and linguistic techniques. You will continue to study the art of writing Latin prose. There is a 2 hour exam worth 25% of the total grade.

WHERE WILL IT LEAD?

- The skills acquired in the study of Latin at Advanced level make it a welcome qualification for a wide variety of degree course
- Specifically, in addition to traditional Latin and Classics courses, there is a variety of courses available, ranging from Archaeology and Ancient History to Egyptology. Latin is also useful as a basis for Medicine, Law and History
- Like most Arts degrees Classical Civilisation can lead on to a very wide range of careers: journalism, management, law etc.

Requirements

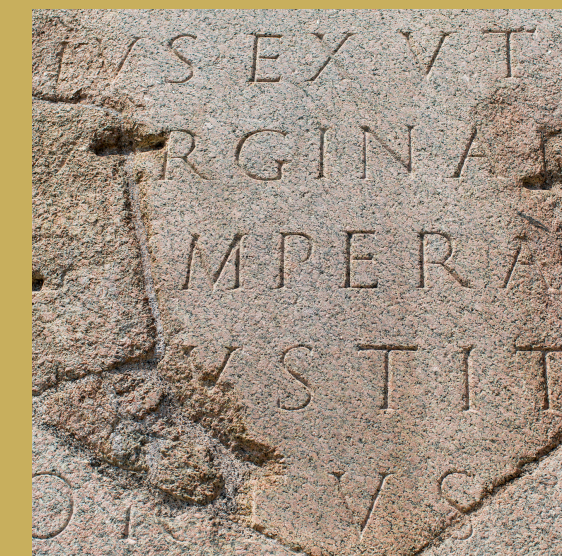
Candidates should have at least a grade 6 or equivalent in GCSE or Level 2 Latin.



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HOW WILL YOU LEARN?

- Weekly lessons on: verse text, prose text, unseen practice and general language work
- Preparation of a section of text for translation and/or discussion in each literature lesson
- Writing up your notes afterwards.
- Language exercises or translations for homework
- Independent work on learning vocabulary and grammar, for regular tests





MATHEMATICS

SUBJECT LEADER:
MR A GUY
EXAMINATION BOARD:
OCR
SPECIFICATION CODE:
MATHEMATICS B
(MEI) H640

WHERE WILL IT LEAD?

Study of mathematics leads directly to Higher Education courses and from there employment in a wide range of fields; Universities, the Services, the Finance sector, Engineering, Technology, Computing, Systems Analysis, Operational Research and many more.



WHAT YOU WILL STUDY

The maths A level contains content from three broad areas of mathematics:

- Pure Mathematics
- Applied Mathematics
- Statistics

The pure mathematics content will build upon and add much greater depth of understanding to many areas studied at GCSE, including mathematical argument and proof, algebra and functions, sequences and series, trigonometry and vectors. Additionally you are first introduced to the concepts of differentiation and integration, which together form a large part of the course.

The work in statistical methods begins by building on existing knowledge in areas such as sampling, data presentation and interpretation and probability, but then moves on to explore new ideas including looking at statistical distributions and hypothesis testing.

The work in mechanics will be almost all new content compared with GCSE, and covers such content as kinematics (the study of moving objects), forces and Newton's Laws and the study of moments (turning forces).

REQUIREMENTS

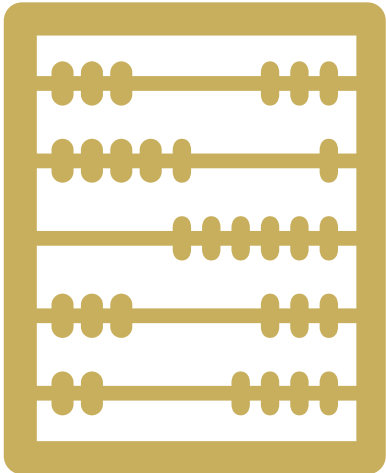
- Preferably a grade 7 in Maths GCSE, but students with grade 6 will be considered individually and may be required to attend extra tuition
- Additionally, students are expected to be competent in the following GCSE skills:
- Algebraic manipulation, including algebraic fractions and simultaneous equations
- Factorisation of quadratic expressions
- Solving quadratic equations, including use of Completing the Square and the Difference of Two Squares
- Manipulation of Surds, including the expansion of pairs of brackets and the rationalisation of fractions with surds in the denominator
- Manipulations of indices, including a good understanding of negative and fractional indices



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WHY CHOOSE TO STUDY A LEVEL MATHEMATICS?

Mathematics at A level is an interesting and challenging course, which is essential as a qualifying subject for a wide range of careers and courses in Higher Education (the Sciences, Engineering, Accountancy) and extremely helpful for others (Business Studies and Economics).





MEDIA STUDIES

SUBJECT LEADER:
MRS J WILKINSON
EXAMINATION BOARD:
WJEC EDUQAS
SPECIFICATION CODE:
A680QS



WHY CHOOSE TO STUDY A LEVEL MEDIA STUDIES?

People today learn more from the media than any other single source of information. So, if we want to understand what is going on in our society in the 21st Century, we have to understand media. Media is one of the fastest growing Higher Education courses, and it is fast becoming a must for any student wishing to understand the society we live in. It sits well with careers in Advertising, Business Marketing, Public Relations, Film, Journalism and Teaching. Communication and any career where a wide understanding of the media is of use. It is designed to create good communication skills and enable students to both think independently and critically about the media's impact. It develops both your analytical and production skills. It is 70% exam and 30% non-exam assessment.



WHAT WILL YOU STUDY?

Component 1: Media Products, Industries and Audiences
35% of A level,
2 1/4 hour Exam
Media forms: Music videos, video games, advertising, film marketing, newspapers and radio news/current affairs.
Section A – Analysing Media Language and Representation.
Section B – Understanding Media Industries and Audiences.

Component 2: Media Forms and Products in Depth
35% of A level
2 1/2 hour Exam
Television in the Global Age. Magazines: Mainstream and alternative media and media in the online age
Sections A, B and C test media language, representation, Industry and Audience.

Component 3: Non-Exam Assessment
30% of A level
An individual production for an intended audience. Production of two media forms in response to a brief. Choices include Television, Advertising and Marketing in Music and Film and Magazines.

HOW WILL YOU LEARN?

You will develop practical skills and creativity. Students will study a range of rich and stimulating media products, offering opportunities for detailed analysis of how the media communicates meanings.

Through this course, students gain a developed understanding of key theoretical approaches, theories, issues and debates enabling them to question and critically explore aspects of the media that may seem familiar and straightforward from their existing experience.

Students will also engage with less familiar products from different historical periods and global settings, those produced outside the commercial mainstream, providing rich and stimulating opportunities for interpretation and analysis. Written essays, debate, putting theory into practice and applying appropriate research is essential.

Responding to a brief, planning, your knowledge of audience, genre, representation as well as the application of your creative and technical skills will be examined in the form of the non-exam assessment (coursework).

Requirements

Students will need to have performed to a good standard in English and Media Studies GCSE if taken.

WHERE WILL IT LEAD?

Entrance to Media Higher Education courses, as well as courses involving communication and practical skills, such as Business, Journalism, Marketing and PR. It can lead to entry on practical production courses such as audio visual and TV/Film related engineering. As a communication based subject it has transferable skills that can lead to any career path. Students who have studied this subject have had great success in the Media Industries.

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MUSIC

**SUBJECT TO
AVAILABILITY
THROUGH OUR
PARTNER
ORGANISATIONS**



THERE ARE TWO TYPES OF LEVEL 3 MUSIC COURSE THAT WE HOPE WILL BE AVAILABLE THROUGH OUR PARTNER ORGANISATIONS:

A Level Music

- Performance – 30% coursework (total performance time of 8 minutes. Performance can be solo or ensemble)
- Composition – 30% coursework (2 compositions, 1 free choice brief – minimum 4 minutes, 1 brief assessing technique – minimum 1 minute, together total minimum of 6 minutes)
- External examination on listening and appraising – 40% (6 Areas of Study with 3 set works in each: Vocal Music, Instrumental Music, Music for Film, Popular Music and Jazz, Fusions, New Directions)

A level music students will engage critically and creatively with a wide range of music and musical contexts, develop an understanding of the place of music in different cultures, and reflect on how music is used in the expression of personal and collective identities.

Students are expected to play a musical instrument to at least grade 5 standard prior to opting for this course.

RSL Level 3 Extended Diploma for Music Practitioners

The internationally recognised RSL Level 3 Extended Diploma for Music Practitioners, aimed at singer-songwriters, vocalists, guitarists, drummers, keyboard and bass players, allows you to focus on music performance, technology and the music industry, giving you a wealth of knowledge, professional standards and flexible skills.

- Write and record your own songs
- Learn about different musical genres and perform them
- Perform live in a band each week; learn new songs and perfect your rehearsal techniques
- Discover how the music industry works
- Develop your understanding of music theory



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HOW WILL YOU LEARN?

- Through the analysis of personal performance
- How to apply theoretical knowledge to achieve effective performance
- A teacher led lecture style approach with the opportunity for tutorial, seminar style support
- Five hours per week
- Students will be required to produce their own sporting portfolio including video evidence

[Click to watch video](#)



WHAT YOU WILL STUDY

Paper 1: Factors affecting participation in physical activity and sport

What's assessed:

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

How it's assessed:

- Written exam 2 hours, 105 marks, 35% of A level

Questions:

- Section A: Multiple choice, short answer and extended writing (35 marks)
- Section B: Multiple choice, short answer and extended writing (35 marks)
- Section C: Multiple choice, short answer and extended writing (35 marks)

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

What's assessed:

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

How it's assessed:

- Written exam: 2 hours, 105 marks, 35% of A level

Questions :

- Section A: Multiple choice, short answer and extended writing (35 marks)
- Section B: Multiple choice, short answer and extended writing (35 marks)
- Section C: Multiple choice, short answer and extended writing (35 marks)

Requirements

- A minimum of grade 5 in Science and a grade 5 in GCSE PE, if studied
- For students who have not studied GCSE PE, the proven ability to participate in a sport to a very good standard (i.e. school or club level)

Non-exam assessment: Practical performance in physical activity and sport

- What's assessed:
- Students assessed as a performer or coach in the full sided version of one activity
- Plus written/verbal analysis of performance.

How it's assessed:

- Internal assessment
- External moderation
- 90 marks, 30% of A level

WHERE WILL IT LEAD

Opportunities in coaching and teaching sport. Many students also embark on physiotherapy careers or sports medicine.



PHYSICAL EDUCATION

SUBJECT LEADER:

MR R ORKNEY

EXAMINATION

BOARD:

AQA

SPECIFICATION

CODE:

7582

WHY CHOOSE TO STUDY A LEVEL PHYSICAL EDUCATION?

- If students have a passion for sport and Physical Education
- If students have an interest in the theoretical issues underpinning physical performance
- If students are interested in pursuing a degree in Sports Science, Physical Education or a career in a related industry



PHYSICS

SUBJECT LEADER:
DR R COLVILE
EXAMINATION BOARD:
OCR
SPECIFICATION CODE:
H556

[Click to watch video](#)

WHY CHOOSE TO STUDY A LEVEL PHYSICS?

Physics is the study of matter, energy and the relationships between them at scales ranging from subatomic particles to the whole universe. This is a challenging, yet very rewarding subject which enables students to develop knowledge, understanding and application as applied to the real world.

WHAT YOU WILL STUDY

- Module 1 Development of Practical Skills
- Module 2 Foundations of Physics
- Module 3 Forces and Motion
- Module 4 Electrons, Waves and Photons
- Module 5 Newtonian World and Astrophysics
- Module 6 Particles and Medical Physics



WHERE WILL IT LEAD?

Physics opens many doors in Higher Education and the work place. It is a course that will enable you to continue to study Physics or related subjects such as engineering, or work in a science-based industry. As a subject, which tests understanding, application and problem solving, it is valued in many other fields.

Requirements

- Preferably a grade 7, but at least a grade 6 in both GCSE Physics and Maths, OR grades 6-6 in double award Combined Science and 6 in Maths
- It is strongly recommended that A level Mathematics be taken with Physics

HOW YOU WILL LEARN

There are five hours of Physics lessons each week, with on average two hours of practical work addressed per fortnight. Most of the theory time will be used by the teacher in explaining the theories and principles and developing understanding. Access to the OCR-endorsed on-line text book and associated resources is made available.





PSYCHOLOGY

SUBJECT LEADER:
MR S TOMBS
EXAMINATION BOARD:
AQA
SPECIFICATION CODE:
7182



WHY CHOOSE TO STUDY A LEVEL PSYCHOLOGY?

Psychology is a research based subject which seeks to use a variety of approaches to explain what we as humans do, what we think and how we feel. In A level Psychology, we look at theories about, amongst other things, how we remember and forget, why we conform and obey, how we form attachments as infants which influence the rest of our lives, how brain cells communicate with each other, why people develop psychological disorders and how therapies work which treat them, why we prefer some foods over others, how infants understand the world and why people become addicted to smoking and gambling. A distinctive feature of A level Psychology is that you carry out your own research. There are ten practical tasks across the two years of the course which require you to test participants, ask them questions or observe behaviour on video. You collect and analyse data, drawing your own conclusions. One of these practical tasks has been developed in collaboration with Plymouth University School of Psychology. If you are curious about yourself and other people and like to think scientifically, Psychology could be the subject for you.



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HOW WILL YOU LEARN?

In lessons, you will be introduced to explanations of thoughts, feelings and behaviours. You will examine the evidence which supports or challenges these explanations. You will apply these explanations to situations and problems. You will discuss strengths and limitations of these explanations. You will work on planning and writing short and long answer questions. In practical lessons, you will design your own tests and questionnaires. You will analyse this data and present the results. In your work outside lessons, you will consolidate what you have learnt and complete written assignments. You will also prepare for regular tests and assessments by re-reading and summarising, by doing quizzes and practising definitions and by doing practice questions. Sometimes you will collect data from participants for your research practicals.

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY?

Unit 1

- Social Influence
- Memory
- Attachments
- Psychopathology

Unit 2

- Approaches in Psychology
- Biopsychology
- Research Methods

Unit 3

- Issues and debates in Psychology
- Cognition and development
- Eating behaviour
- Addiction

Requirements

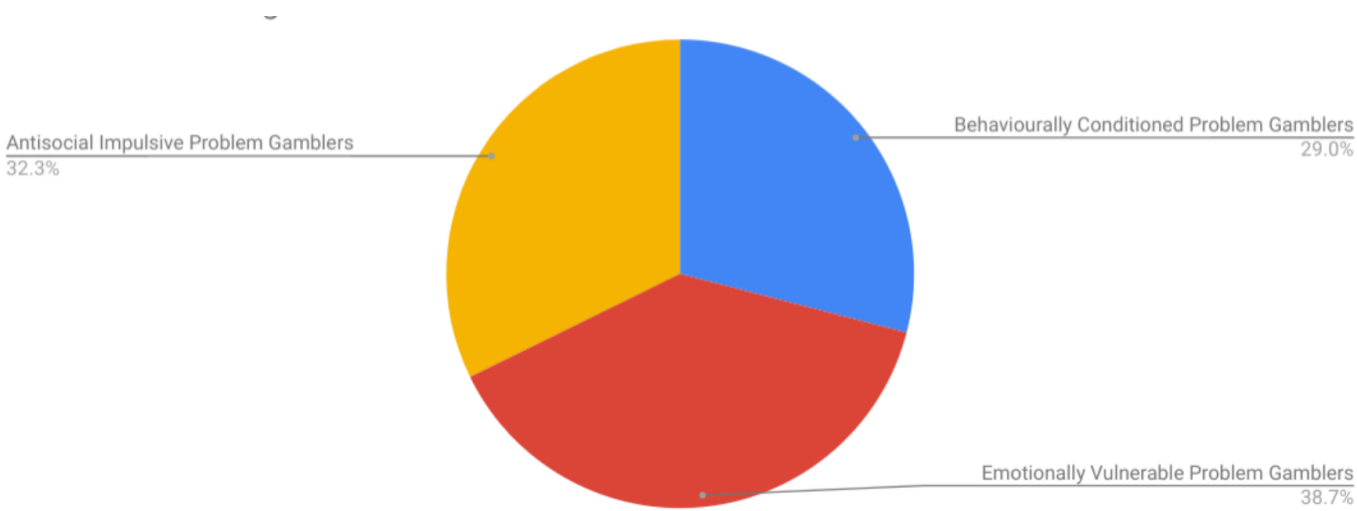
GCSE Grade 5 or above in Maths. Please note that 10% of the marks in Psychology will require the use of mathematical skills. This will be at the standard of higher tier GCSE mathematics.

WHERE WILL IT LEAD?

For some people, A level Psychology leads to a Psychology degree. For some of them, a Psychology degree leads to specialisation in an area of Psychology: further research or work as an accredited psychologist in a range of different fields. For others, Psychology provides a set of academic skills which can be transferred to a range of academic and vocational courses.

In particular, Psychology students learn how to analyse text and data and write essays. They also develop the ability to manage research projects and interact with participants.

The knowledge which students pick up through the course can be applied to many contexts, for example in education, health care and medicine, law and criminal justice and managing organisations.



Pie Chart Illustrating The Proportion Of Words And Phrases Matching Categories Of Problem Gambling



RELIGIOUS STUDIES (PHILOSOPHY & ETHICS)

SUBJECT LEADERS:

MRS K WARDLE AND
MISS M WALKER

EXAMINATION BOARD:

WJEC EDUQAS
SPECIFICATION

CODE:

A120PD



WHAT SKILLS DOES STUDYING PHILOSOPHY AND ETHICS DEVELOP?

- Generate ideas on a variety of problems
- Formulate and solve problems
- Uncover assumptions and suggest alternatives
- Ability to distinguish subtle differences without overlooking similarities
- Analyse, develop and formulate logical arguments
- Capability to make knowledgeable decisions, examining thoroughly the consequences of various actions
- Aptitude to examine various angles of topics
- Ability to write and speak clearly and effectively Interpret and assess various thoughts and theories.

WHAT YOU WILL STUDY

The Study of Religion – Buddhism

Religious figures and Sacred texts, Religious Concepts; Religious life; Religious practices. Development of religious thought and contemporary issues; Religious identity.

Philosophy of Religion

Cosmological Argument for the existence of God; Teleological Argument for the existence of God; The Non-Existence of God: the Problem of Evil; Religious Experience.

Arguments for the existence of God; Challenges to religious belief; Religious Language.

Ethics and Religion

Ethical Language and Thought; Aquinas' Natural Law; Fletcher's Situation Ethics; Utilitarianism. All applied to euthanasia and abortion.

Deontological ethics; Teleological ethics; Freewill and Determinism. All applied to embryo research, experimentation, transplantation and genetic engineering.



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WHERE WILL IT LEAD?

Philosophy and Ethics at A level is as useful to those students considering further education as it is to pupils entering employment. The qualification is highly regarded by universities and employers because of its underlying skills base.

The skills of empathy, evaluation, forming a coherent argument, critical analysis and debate are applicable across a wide range of professions. It is an excellent preparation for a career in law, medicine, business, international diplomacy, social work, banking, armed forces, public relations, publishing, journalism, retail, librarian, counselling, marketing, consulting, civil service, teaching and accountancy (to name just a few!).

Russell Group states that: "Religious Studies... provides suitable preparation for entry to university in general."

HOW WILL YOU LEARN?

- Lessons will involve a range of different approaches to appeal to all learning styles
- Alongside the traditional teaching through the use of PowerPoint delivery and note taking, there will be textbook reading and research
- In addition there will be an emphasis on flipped learning encouraging students to take responsibility for their own learning to fully benefit from lessons and develop skills which will prepare them for university
- Seminar style lessons, debates and group discussions are built into schemes of learning where appropriate to allow controversial issues to be fully explored
- The use of technology is fully embraced with regular access granted to our department Chromebooks to promote sharing of and production of interactive resources

Requirements

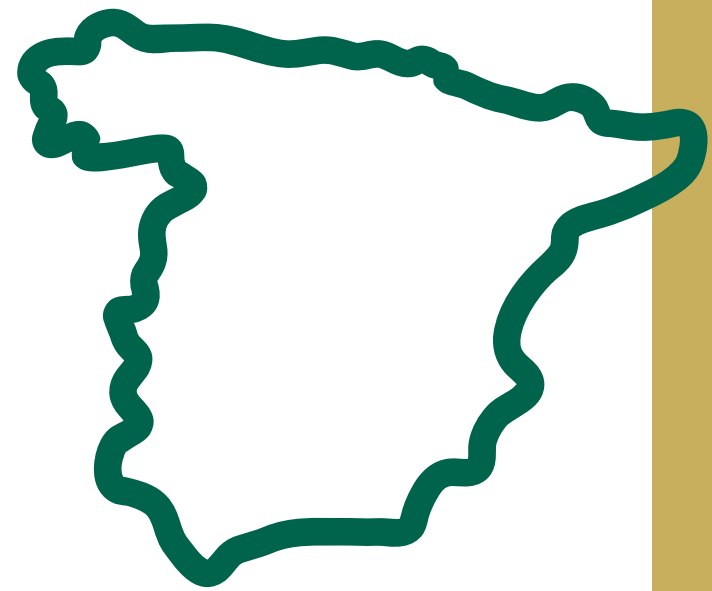
- At least a grade 6 in Religious Studies or a grade 6 in English
- An interest in philosophical and ethical debates



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HOW WILL YOU LEARN?

- The topics at A level are varied and interesting, with greater emphasis on current affairs and the Spanish-speaking world
- You will be expected to do a lot of independent work, i.e. extra listening and reading practice, and vocabulary building



WHAT YOU WILL STUDY?

Over the two years you will study the following four themes:
Changes in Spanish society.
Political and artistic culture in Spanish-speaking countries.
Immigration and Spanish multicultural society.
The Franco dictatorship and the transition to democracy.

You will continue to study the four skills (listening, speaking, reading and writing) as well as building on grammatical knowledge and translation skills. You will also study two works, one literary work and a feature film.

ASSESSMENT

Paper 1:
Listening, reading and translation
Written examination – 2 hours
40% of the qualification

Paper 2:
Written response to works and translation
Written examination – 2 hours 40 minutes
30% of the qualification

Paper 3:
Speaking
Between 21 and 23 minutes
30% of the qualification

Requirements

Preferably grade 7 in Spanish GCSE, but students with grade 6 will be considered individually.

WHERE WILL IT LEAD

Extending your study will allow you to become more fluent in Spanish, which will not only enable you to communicate with new people when travelling, but will also develop key skills such as communication, problem-solving and team work. If you wish to continue your study of Spanish to degree level, it will provide you with the opportunity to spend a year abroad in a Spanish-speaking country and could lead to a career in translation, linguistics or international business. Spanish also combines well with other subjects and is often offered by universities alongside a diverse range of other subjects from Biology to History of Art to Law.



SPANISH

SUBJECT LEADERS:
MRS H BROOKING
AND MRS V
FERGUSON
**EXAMINATION
BOARD:**
EDEXCEL
**SPECIFICATION
CODE:**
9SP0

WHY CHOOSE TO STUDY A LEVEL SPANISH?

A modern language is now considered to be an essential part of an all-round education.

Students studying Spanish to A level are viewed favourably by universities and employers, including the Russell group.

DHSB SIXTH FORM - FREQUENTLY ASK QUESTIONS

How many lessons are taught each week?

Each subject has five hours of lessons with their teachers each week.

How large are class sizes and are they streamed or mixed ability?

Typically 10-25 with an average of about 17. All sixth form classes are mixed ability.

Will the subject be taught by a single member of staff?

Typically, many subjects split the teaching between two teachers, but some have a single teacher for all the lessons and occasionally the teaching can be split across 3 teachers. Usually the student will keep the same teachers for two years, but this is not always possible.

Do all staff take on the role of KS5 tutors or does this rotate between a few staff?

We have an experienced team of Sixth Form Tutors who keep up to date with changes, established routines and expectations for securing future employment and study.

Do you know who will be KS5 tutors next academic year and how many tutor groups there will be?

There are likely to be 12 tutor groups of 25-30 students mixed as year 12 and 13 students with 3 houses in each tutor group. Staff are likely to remain as in the [Sixth Form handbook](#) but there may be some changes.

Do all Sixth Formers become prefects?

All are encouraged to become prefects but it is up to the student to decide if they wish to take on this role. Training is provided and some students go on to apply for Captaincy roles and then receive further weekly leadership training.

Is the Extended Project available?

The Extended Project qualification is optional and suits students with a specialised interest and the self-motivation to pursue an independent study over many months. It runs from November of year 12 to February of year 13. This qualification is offered as an extra curricular enrichment but is largely self directed and supported by resources shared on a google classroom with minimal teacher input. Information is in the [Enrichment handbook](#).

Are the Enrichment Studies a compulsory selection for all students or is there some individual choice?

Some enrichment activities, such as the Friday morning tutor activities and enrichment programme, are compulsory but the vast majority of enrichment and super curricular learning opportunities are optional for individuals to select from. A separate handbook of enrichment opportunities is [available here](#)

Why do Medics, Oxbridge students, Dentists and Vets get extra support for their university applications?

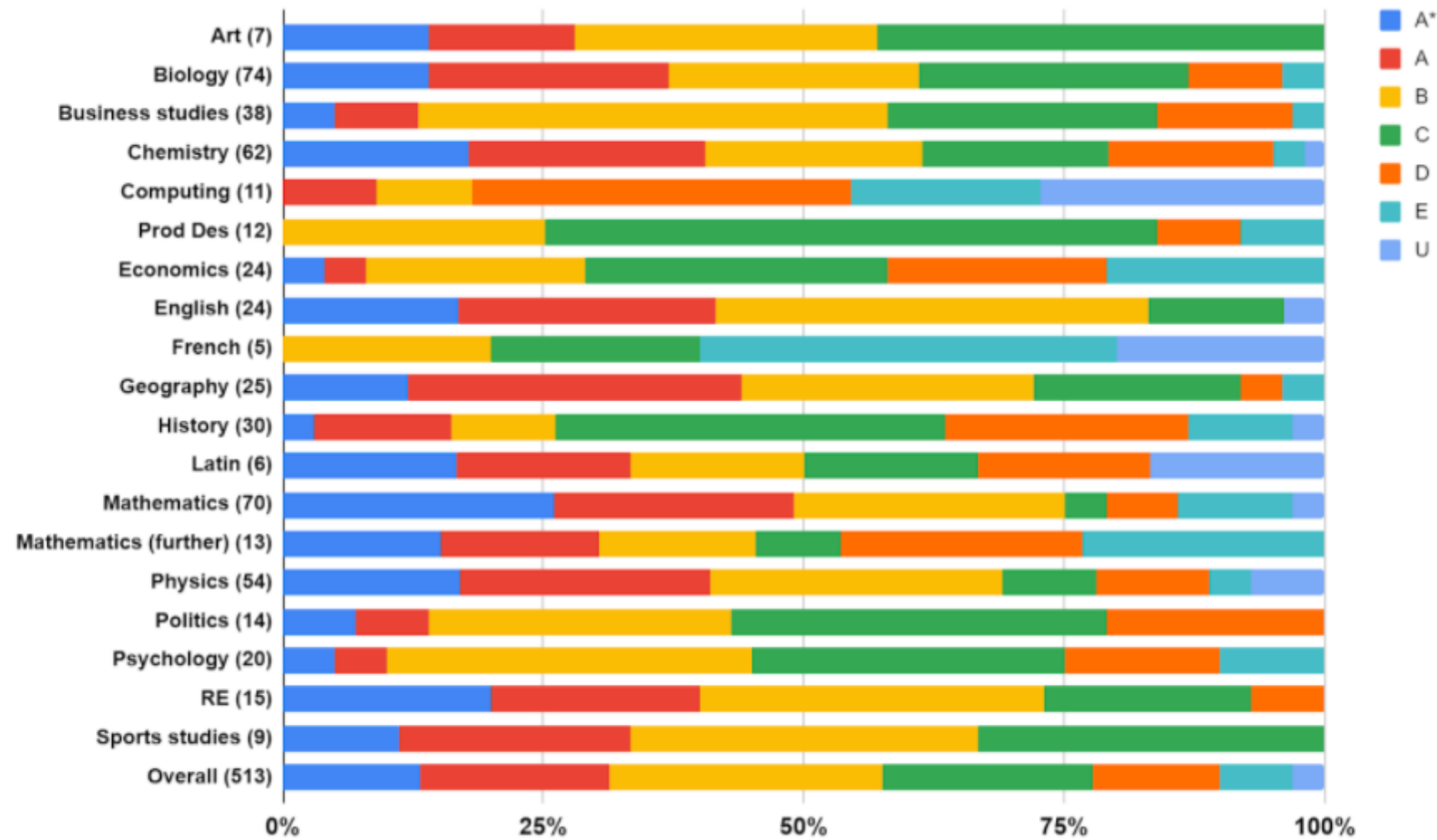
These individuals are likely to be interviewed and have an application process dependent upon them demonstrating intellectual elasticity and deep subject knowledge alongside more extensive long term work experience for the medics, dentists and vets. All in this group must be encouraged to prepare early for aptitude tests.



DHSB SIXTH FORM - RESULTS

A Level Results 2019

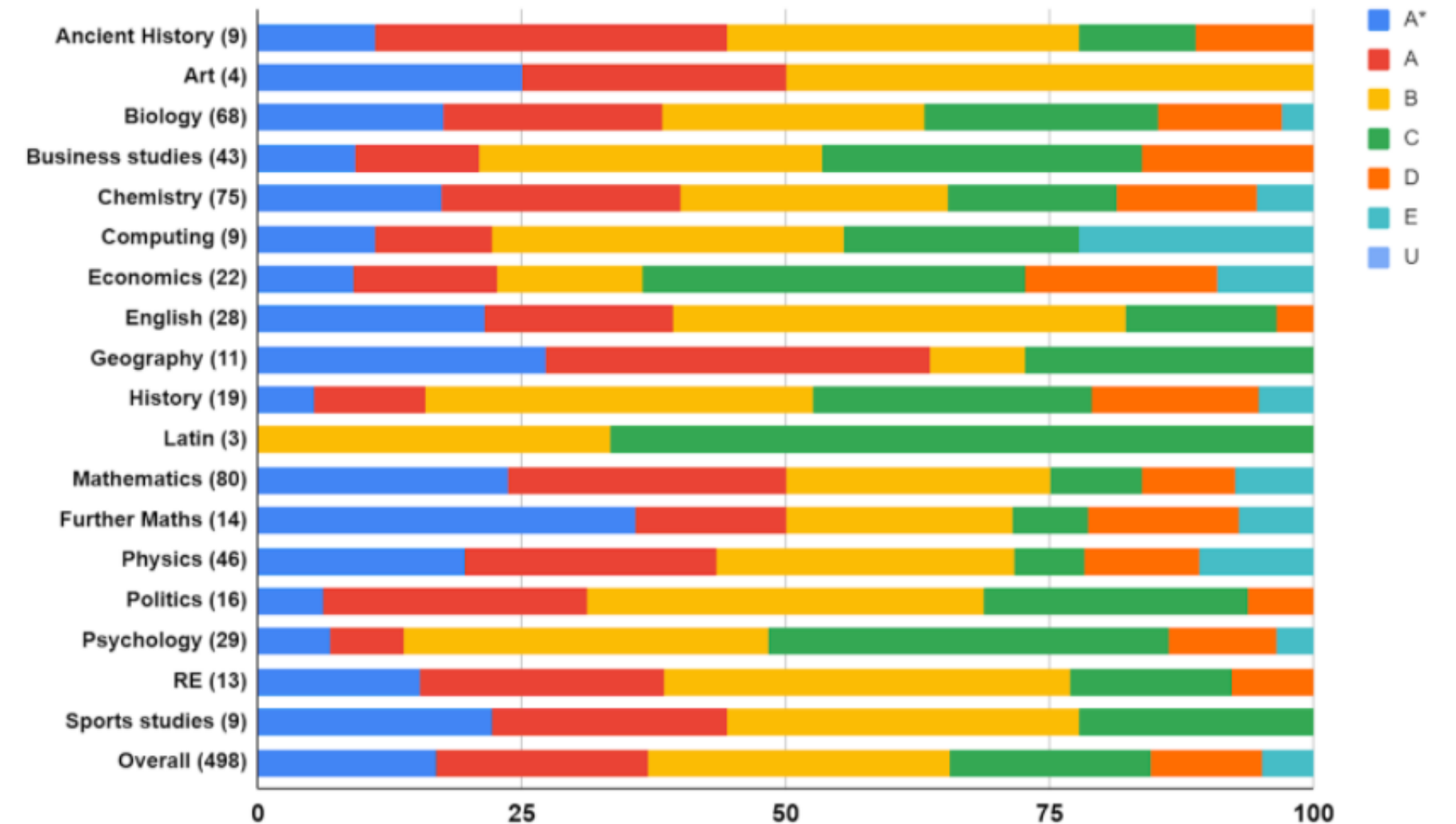
Based on external examinations



A level 2019 - Proportion at each grade
- number of candidates in brackets

A Level Results 2020

Based on centre assessed grades



A level 2020 - Proportion at each grade
- number of candidates in brackets