



Introduction to A Levels at Sexey's Sixth Form: 2018/19

The following pages provide detail on the courses on offer at Sexey's School for A Level students to study from September 2018.

When joining Sexey's Sixth Form in September 2018, students in Year 12 choose three subjects to study, all of which will be assessed at the end of Year 13 as a full A Level. This is known as a 'linear' course, and unlike previous years, does not include the teaching of AS Levels, which were standalone qualifications assessed at the end of Year 12.

The subject curriculum sheets are here to give you an overview of the topics you will be studying in each course. They may be subject to some changes from the examination boards. Should you have more questions on anything included on these pages, please don't hesitate to ask us.

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Art and Design (Edexcel)

Artists and designers have a huge impact on the way people think, feel and live. Whilst studying this course you will have the opportunity to work and develop skills in a multi-disciplinary way, exploring the connections between areas of art, craft and design and gaining knowledge of the scope and variety of disciplines and approaches. With the emphasis on exploration and experimentation, students will use a wide variety of materials and processes including drawing, painting, print making, mixed-media, sculpture, photography and textiles, building on existing strengths and artistic ability. Creativity is key in all that we do and critical reference to artists and designers underpins and enriches all of the students' work.

Previous students who studied Art & Design went on to Foundation Art Courses and to degrees in Graphic Design, Film Making, Printing, Fashion, Textiles, 3D and 2D Art & Design.

A Level

Component 1 - Personal Investigation and Skills Development

During the first three terms of this two-year linear course, you will workshop and develop your skills in observational drawing using a variety of media (e.g. graphite, biro, ink, painting, textiles and a range of printing and photography styles). If you have a preference for 3D, there is also the opportunity to explore this medium. You will critically analyse your work and others'.

Assessment:

In-house assessment only. This allows an opportunity to explore and develop skills for the rest of the A Level course.

Component 2 - Major Project

From February of Year 12, you will begin your first major project extending from your skills development workshops, on a theme set by the school/student. This project will take a year to complete.

Assessment:

Internally assessed and externally moderated in Jan/Feb of Year 13. 60% of total A Level qualification.

Component 3: Shorter Project and Critical Essay

From February of Year 13, you will undertake a shorter project, but this theme will be set by the examination board. You will also undertake a critical essay analysing your chosen topic for project 1 ('Major Project').

Assessment:

The written essay and exam project combined account for 40% of the total A Level qualification. They are assessed by the teacher and externally moderated in Year 13.

There will be an exhibition of all final pieces held within school at the end of Year 13.

Minimum Entry Requirements: Level 6 in Art, Graphics, Textiles or Design Technology at GCSE

Biology (OCR)

The study of life focuses on how life began, what living things are made up of, how they work and how they interact with the environment. The human species is of particular interest to us, in terms of studying human processes and the harmful and beneficial effects that we have on the Earth. Most people have some interest in Biology, whether it be related to “What is the meaning of life?”, health and fitness, diseases, concern for the environment, views on Genetic Engineering; most of these issues are covered in the A Level Biology course.

Biology has links with many other subjects. In particular there are overlaps with Chemistry, Physical Education and Geography. As a result, our students have gone on to degrees in Biomedical Sciences, Environmental Science, Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy, among others.

A Level

Content:

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 – Communication, homeostasis and energy

Module 6 – Genetics, evolution and ecosystems

Assessment:

The A Level is composed of three exams and a practical endorsement.

1: Biological processes: Written exam covering modules 1, 2, 3 & 5, 2 hours 15 mins, 37% of A Level

2: Biological diversity: Written exam covering modules 1, 2, 4 & 6, 2 hours 15 mins, 37% of A Level

3: Unified Biology: Written exam covering all modules 1-6, 1 hour 30 mins, 26% of A Level

A range of teaching styles are used at A Level, including practicals, internet searches, independent study and PowerPoint presentations.

Minimum Entry Requirements: Level 6/6 in Double Science or Level 6 in Biology as a separate science. Due to the increased mathematical emphasis of the new courses we also require Mathematics GCSE Level 6. To ensure that students are able to communicate their answers correctly and have a good all round skill set we ask that students wishing to follow this course have a mean GCSE Level of 6 or above.

Business (AQA)

The business environment is constantly changing and this makes Business incredibly exciting and one of the most up to date and real life subjects you can study. You will learn in an independent yet supportive environment, studying local, national and international businesses and applying theory to practice.

Students who study Business regularly go on to study a wide range of subjects at university or begin apprenticeships in areas such as business or accountancy.

Year 1

An introduction to key business areas: marketing, operations, finance and human resource management. This includes a special focus on decision making - particularly how decisions made in one area can affect the rest of the business.

Topics include:

- What is business? Nature and purpose, forms of ownership, introduction to the external environment
- Management, leadership and decision making
- Improving marketing performance – understanding markets and customers
- Improving operational performance – efficiency, productivity; quality, managing inventory and supply chains
- Improving financial performance – budgeting, cash flow, break-even analysis and sources of finance
- Improving human resources performance – organisational design, managing the HR flow, motivation and employee-employer relations

Year 2

An investigation of the strategic (longer term) decisions that all businesses have to make.

Topics include:

- Analysing the strategic position of a business - the political, legal, economic, social, technological and competitive environment in which businesses operate.
- Choosing strategic direction - markets and products
- Strategic methods - growth, innovation, greater use of digital technology and internationalisation
- Managing strategic change - managing change, organisational culture, the implementation of strategy and why strategies fail

Assessment:

Three written examinations each of 2 hours' duration. Paper 1 consists of multiple choice, short answer and essay questions. Paper 2 consists of three multi-part data response questions. Paper 3 consists of a case study followed by approximately six questions of varying length. All three papers are sat at the end of year 2 and cover content from both year 1 and 2. All three papers carry equal weighting.

Minimum Entry Requirements: Level 6 in GCSE Mathematics and English.

Chemistry (OCR)

Viagra, Teflon, Kevlar, anticancer drugs, plastics, mobile phones, chewing gum... the list is endless, but these and many more have been developed using chemistry.

Everything around us is made up of chemicals, including ourselves. Chemistry is about making and designing new molecules, analysing substances and working out how and why chemical reactions happen. The search for new substances is never ending and by studying Chemistry you can be part of this. It is considered the central science and hence is a key requirement for medically related courses. Chemistry underpins the study of other scientific disciplines, but also complements business, technology and language courses.

Here at Sexey's we follow the OCR A specification which is developed in conjunction with The Royal Society of Chemistry, GlaxoSmithKline and leading teachers and centres.

A Level

This is composed of three written exams and a practical endorsement, taken in June of Year 13.

Module 1 - Development of practical skills in Chemistry

Module 2 - Foundations in Chemistry

Module 3 - Periodic table and energy

Module 4 - Core organic Chemistry Module 5 - Physical Chemistry and transition elements

Module 6 - Organic Chemistry and analysis

Assessment:

Paper 1: assesses content from modules 1, 2, 3 and 5, 2 hours 15 minutes, 37% of A Level

Paper 2: assesses content from modules 1, 2, 4 and 6, 2 hours 15 minutes, 37% of A Level

Paper 3: assesses content from all modules (1 to 6), 1 hour 30 minutes, 26% of A Level

Practical endorsement: non exam assessment that is reported separately to the A Level grade.

Minimum Entry Requirements: 6/6 in Double Science or Level 6 in Chemistry as a separate science, Mathematics GCSE Level 6, a mean GCSE Level of 6 or above.

English Literature (Edexcel)

Reading helps us to learn, understand and appreciate other people, places and lives. Every historical period, geographical setting and human experience is recorded somewhere in words if not in print. Appreciating the experiences of others can tell us a lot about ourselves.

Recent English Literature students have gone on to study for degrees in English, media, education, law and politics.

A Level

Component 1: Drama

Students will study “Dr Faustus” by Christopher Marlowe, a late 16th Century tragedy, and one Shakespeare play - we are studying Othello. Students will compose a selection of essays related to their studies.

Assessment: Written exam, 2 hours, 30% of A Level

Component 2: Prose

Two prose texts from the chosen theme of ‘The Supernatural’, at least one must be pre-1900. We are studying *The Little Stranger* and *The Picture of Dorian Gray*.

Assessment: Written exam, 1 hour, 20% of A Level

Component 3: Poetry

Students will study a wide range of modern poetry (The Forward Book of Poetry 2000-2010) including our named poet, Philip Larkin, and prepare for an unseen poem in the exam.

Assessment: Written exam, 2 hours, 30% of A Level

Component 4: Coursework

Assessment: An essay comprising 2500-3000 words on two texts of the student’s own choice, 20% of A Level

Minimum Entry Requirements: Level 6 in GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature.

Extended Project Qualification (AQA)

The Extended Project Qualification is a single piece of work, chosen by the student, that requires evidence of planning, preparation, research and independent working. It is an ideal opportunity to develop knowledge and expertise in an area of interest or for a future career. The extended project is a free standing qualification. It is graded A*- E and worth half an A Level. It is highly valued by universities and higher education institutions.

Students have the choice of format for their project. It can be a 5000 word written project or a 1000 word written project accompanied by an artefact, design, creation or performance. In addition, students produce a logbook that reflects on all stages of the project, from initial ideas to completion.

Examples of written projects:

- Should the Monarchy be abolished in favour of a Republican state?
- Are Durrenmatt's views of the responsibility of the scientist as expressed in "Die Physiker" tenable in the 21st Century?
- How did the development of the British Motor Company Mini influence subsequent automotive design and engineering developments?
- Is the 'Virgin Queen' an accurate representation of Elizabeth I?
- How are the metaphysical poets' relationships with God represented?
- To what extent is 'virtual mirror box therapy' effective in treating stroke patients?

Examples of practical projects:

- An exploration into the similarities and differences between various Sacred Christmas songs (recording and performance)
- Comparison of two methods to extract sulphide components from garlic to determine which has the greater antimicrobial activity (science experiment)
- What challenges do both horse and rider face when performing the 'perfect dressage test'? (Creation and performance of a dressage test)
- An investigation into Art Deco design and how it has influenced contemporary aesthetics and developments in design of a railway station (artefact- architectural design in paint with model)
- How far has the legacy of post-World War II fashion been interpreted in the work of contemporary designers (designing and making a dress)

The project starts at the end of the summer term of Year 12 and should be completed and submitted by February of Year 13 (deadlines will be published). Students work with a supervisor who supports them through the research process, although the emphasis of this project is on independent research.

The skills, knowledge and understanding developed through the investigation are highly valued by universities and students might use this project in their UCAS personal statement, at interview stage for higher education and to support their personal aspirations and career development.

French (Edexcel)

Having a language at A Level opens a wealth of opportunities in employment. International and multi-national companies are always seeking linguists to be able to work with businesses abroad. Other professions open to you would include teaching and interpreting.

Teaching in the Sixth Form consists of regular practice of speaking, listening, reading and writing skills, as well as courses in grammar, translation, literature and subjects of topical interest. The four general topic areas covered during the course are: Evolving society in France; Political/intellectual/artistic culture in Francophone countries; Immigration and the French multicultural society; The Occupation and Resistance.

A Level

Paper 1: Listening, Reading and Translation

- Section A: Listening (30 marks)
- Section B: Reading (30 marks)
- Section C: Translation into English (20 marks)

Assessment: Written exam, 2 hours, 40% of A Level

Paper 2: Written Response to Works and Translation

- Section A: Translation from English into French (20 marks)
- Section B: Written response to literary texts (50 marks)
- Section C: Written response to films (50 marks)

Assessment: Written exam, 2 hour 40 mins, 30% of A Level

Paper 3: Speaking

Students complete two tasks:

- Task 1: Discussion on a Theme (30 marks)
- Task 2: Independent research presentation and discussion on that research (42 marks)

Assessment: Spoken exam (internally conducted and externally assessed), 21-23 mins (including 5 mins prep), 30% of A Level

Minimum Entry Requirements: Level 6 or equivalent in French at GCSE.

Geography (OCR)

Geography teaches about the Earth's places, people, environments and societies. At its core lies the understanding of the relationships and impacts between people and the environment. The A Level Geography course at Sexey's aims to encourage learners to develop a range of essential skills for Higher Education and the world of work through content which is relevant to any citizen of the planet in the 21st century. Through exciting topics, learners will understand the nature of physical and human geography whilst unpicking the debates surrounding contemporary challenges facing the world today.

Previous students that have studied Geography at A Level have gone on to study a range of degree courses including Geography, Marine Biology, Environmental Science and Engineering.

Year 1

Component 1: Landscape and Place

This covers two main topics: Landscape Systems (Coasts) and Changing Spaces; Making Places to give learners an appreciation of core physical and human geography ideas. This unit also includes the development of fieldwork skills.

Component 2: Geographical Debates

This takes some of the most dynamic issues the planet faces and encourages learners to engage with, reflect on and think critically about them. Specifically, students will gain a deep understanding of the Hazardous Earth.

Year 2

Component 3: Physical Systems

This incorporates *Landscape Systems (Coasts)* and *Earth's Life Support Systems* (investigating the need for solutions to protect the Earth's water and carbon cycle systems).

Assessment: Written paper, 1 hour 30 mins, 22% of A Level qualification

Component 4: Human Interactions

This covers *Global Connections* (including Global Migration and Human Rights) and *Changing Spaces; Making Places*.

Assessment: Written paper, 1 hour 30 mins, 22% of A Level qualification

Component 5: Geographical Debates

This incorporates *Hazardous Earth* and *Exploring Oceans*.

Assessment: Written paper, 2 hours 30 mins, 36% of A Level qualification

Component 6: Investigative Geography

Independent investigation related to the specification.

Assessment: Coursework, 20% of A Level qualification

Minimum Entry Requirements: Level 6 or equivalent in Geography at GCSE.

Government and Politics (Edexcel)

Politics exists because people disagree. They disagree about how they should live (moral questions), about who should get what (resource questions) and about who should make decisions (power questions). People with different ideas, values, opinions and interests attempt to find a way of living together within the same society. As such, politics is the most basic and necessary of social activities - the creation of an orderly existence. Politics will suit students who:

- Have an interest in the world around them and who want to know more about the society they live in, how it works and how it could work
- Enjoy debate, discussion and argument and who are comfortable with the fact that in politics there are no simple 'rights' or wrongs'
- Take an interest in news and current affairs and like to think for themselves, developing their own views rather than just accepting the views of others

A Level

Component 1: UK Politics, comprising:

- Political Participation in the UK: focusing on the mechanisms that link people to government. Its core themes are political participation, democracy, political parties, and the electoral system.
- Core Political Ideas: students will study the core political ideas of conservatism, liberalism and socialism.

Assessment: Written examination, 2 hours, 1/3 of A Level qualification

Component 2: UK Government, comprising:

- UK Government: focusing on the main institutions of the central UK government. Its core themes are the distribution of policy-making power and the effectiveness of the key bodies in carrying out their roles or functions. Topics include the British Constitution, Parliament, prime minister and executive and the relationship between the branches.
- Non-Core Political Ideas: students will study either anarchism, ecologism, feminism, multi-culturalism or nationalism.

Assessment: Written examination, 2 hours, 1/3 of A Level qualification

Component 3: Comparative Politics

Government and politics of the USA - focuses on the:

- US Constitution and federalism
- US Congress
- US presidency
- US Supreme Court and civil rights
- Democracy and participation
- Comparative theories with the UK

Assessment: Written examination, 2 hours, 1/3 of A Level qualification

Minimum Entry Requirements: Level 6 or equivalent in History, Level 6 in English Language if History not taken at GCSE.

History (OCR)

Studying History is stimulating, challenging and invaluable and at Sexey's we are passionate about our subject. From the bloodshed of the Wars of the Roses to Stalin's purges, History teaches you to be critical of the information you are fed and helps you to develop a better understanding of the world around you. Importantly, it is also an extremely well regarded subject by top universities and employers.

In recent years, students who studied History went on to undergraduate courses in: History, Law, Journalism, Drama, International Relations, War Studies, and Politics, Philosophy & Economics (PPE).

A Level

Component 1: England 1445-1509

(Specific enquiry topic: Wars of the Roses)

One essay from a choice of two on the reigns of Edward IV, Richard III and Henry VII, 1461-1509 and the critical assessment of contemporary source material on the Wars of the Roses.

Assessment: Written exam, 1 hour 30 mins, 25% of A Level

Component 2: Democracy and Dictatorships in Germany 1919–1963

One two-part question including a 'period study' style essay question and a shorter answer on the relative significance of two events.

Assessment: Written exam, 1 hour, 15% of A Level

Component 3: Russia and its Rulers 1855-1964

A thematic study that involves writing two essays on events over a 100 year period and one evaluation of historians' interpretations of named events.

Assessment: Written exam, 2 hours 30 mins, 40% of A Level

Component 4: Topic Essay on the Causes of WWI Controversy (Evidence based essay)

Assessment: A single 3,000 – 4,000 word coursework essay (internally assessed), 20% of A Level

Minimum Entry Requirements: Level 6 or equivalent in History at GCSE.

Mathematics (AQA)

Any student wishing to read for a degree in any Maths-related subject at university should take Mathematics in the Sixth Form. Maths should not however be seen as purely a tool for other subjects; many students enjoy studying it for its own sake and it can complement Arts and Humanities as well as being taken alongside the Sciences. Recent studies have also shown that graduate employees with A Level Mathematics earn more on average than those without it.

Students should consider Further Mathematics in addition to Mathematics if they are considering going to university to read any subject with a significant Mathematical content e.g. Mathematics, Physics, Engineering and Computing.

A Level

Paper 1 assesses:

- Pure Maths: proof, algebra and functions, coordinate geometry, sequences and series, trigonometry, exponentials and logarithms, differentiation, integration and numerical methods.

Assessment: Written exam, 2 hours, 1/3 of A Level

Paper 2 assesses:

- Any Pure Maths content from Paper 1.

- Mechanics: vectors, quantities and units, kinematics, forces, Newton's Laws and moments.

Assessment: Written exam in two sections, 2 hours, 1/3 of A Level

Paper 3 assesses:

- Any Pure Maths content from Paper 1.

- Statistics: statistical sampling, data presentation and interpretation, probability, statistical distributions and statistical hypothesis testing.

Assessment: Written exam, 2 hours, 1/3 of A Level

Minimum Entry Requirements: Level 6 in GCSE Mathematics

Further Mathematics (AQA)

Students should consider Further Mathematics in addition to Mathematics if they are considering going to university to read any subject with a significant Mathematical content e.g. Mathematics, Physics, Engineering and Computing.

A Level

Paper 1 and Paper 2 assess:

- Pure Maths: complex numbers, matrices, further algebra and functions, further calculus, further vectors, polar coordinates proof, hyperbolic functions, differential equations, trigonometry, numerical methods and coordinate geometry.

Assessment:

Paper 1: Written exam, 2 hours, 1/3 of A Level

Paper 2: Written exam, 2 hours, 1/3 of A Level

Paper 3 assesses:

- Any of the following routes: Discrete and Mechanics or Discrete and Statistics or Mechanics and Statistics
- Mechanics: dimensional analysis, momentum and collisions, work, energy and power and circular motion.
- Statistics: discrete random variables, Poisson distribution, type 1 and type 2 errors and power of a test, continuous random variables, exponential distribution and inference.
- Discrete: graphs, networks, network flow, linear programming, critical path analysis, game theory for zero sum games, binary operations and group theory.

Assessment: Written exam, 2 hours, 1/3 of A Level

Minimum Entry Requirements: Level 7 in GCSE Mathematics

Photography (Edexcel)

The course aims to develop an understanding of a range of photographic approaches and techniques related to the developing, printing and manipulation of photographic images. This will involve both darkroom work and computer-based work (Photoshop) combined with investigations into the work of established photographers. The emphasis is on research and experimentation and you will have the chance to go beyond the traditional flat print using a variety of techniques. Photography is important because all sectors of the job market require creative thinkers who can innovate, see and make connections, solve problems and make informed decisions and judgements. This course will help to develop many transferrable skills you can use in the future. Students who studied Photography went on to study Broadcast Media, Journalism, Graphic design, Film making, Animation and Art & Design.

A Level

Component 1 - Personal Investigation and Skills Development

During the first term, you will develop your camera-based skills, learning how to shoot outside in various settings and genres. You will spend a term learning Photoshop techniques, including basic image enhancement and manipulation. You may work on the moving image, creating gifs, cinemagraphs and video. You will integrate critical analysis and contextual research of photographers past and present with your practical outcomes.

Assessment:

In-house assessment only. This allows an opportunity to explore and develop skills for the rest of the A Level course.

Component 2 - Major Project

From February of Year 12, you will begin your first major project extending from your skills development workshops, on a theme set by the school/student. This project will take a year to complete.

Assessment:

Internally assessed and externally moderated in Jan/Feb of Year 13. 60% of total A Level qualification.

Component 3: Shorter Project and Critical Essay

From February of Year 13, you will undertake a shorter project, but this theme will be set by the examination board. You will also undertake a critical essay analysing your chosen topic for project 1 ('Major Project').

Assessment:

The written essay and exam project combined account for 40% of the total A Level qualification. They are assessed by the teacher and externally moderated in Year 13.

There will be an exhibition of all final pieces held within school at the end of Year 13.

Minimum Entry Requirements: GCSE Level 6 or equivalent in Art and Design, Photography or Media or be able to demonstrate a serious commitment to the Visual Arts through a portfolio submission. You will also need your own Digital Camera, preferably a DSLR but any good quality compact that can over-ride the 'auto' setting will be sufficient.

Physics (OCR)

“A philosopher once said, ‘It is necessary for the very existence of science that the same conditions always produce the same results.’ Well, they don’t!” (1965) Richard P. Feynman

Physics really is the most exciting and interesting of all the sciences. If you want to know the answer to questions starting “How?” Or “Why?”, Physics can probably help you find the answers. An enquiring mind and an interest in the world around you are key attributes for prospective Physicists. At Sexey’s School we encourage students to broaden their minds and stretch their thinking to the limits. Whilst we, of course, are working hard towards good exam grades, we encourage students to read widely and enjoy the subject.

A Level

Content:

Module 1: Development of Practical Skills in Physics

Module 2: Fundamental Data Analysis

Module 3: Physics in Action

Module 4: Understanding Processes

Module 5: Rise and Fall of the Clockwork Universe

- Creating Models
- Our Place in the Universe
- Out Into Space
- Matter: Very Simple, & Hot or Cold

Module 6: Field and Particle Physics

- Electromagnetism
- Probing Deep into Matter
- Charge and Field
- Ionising Radiation and Risk

Assessment:

Paper 1: Written exam: Fundamentals of Physics, 2 hours 15 mins, 37% of A Level, covering modules 1, 2, 3 & 5

Paper 2: Written exam: Scientific Literacy in Physics, 2 hours 15 mins, 37% of A Level, covering modules 1, 2, 4 & 6

Paper 3: Written exam: Practical Skills in Physics, 1 hour 30 mins, 26% of A Level, covering all modules.

Practical endorsement: non exam assessment that is reported separately to the A Level grade.

Minimum Entry Requirements: Minimum of 6/6 in Double Science or Level 6 in Physics as a separate science, Level 6 Mathematics, mean GCSE Level of 6 or above. It is also advisable that students wishing to study this subject at A Level also study A Level Maths.

Psychology (AQA)

Psychology is the study of the mind and behaviour. The discipline of Psychology embraces all aspects of the human experience - from the functions of the brain to the environments in which humans and other animals develop; from child development to aging. Psychology is a science based on a large body of social science and behavioural science research. Psychologists study two critical relationships: one between brain function and behaviour, and one between the environment and behaviour. As scientists, psychologists follow scientific methods, using careful observation, experimentation and analysis to learn more about the world in which we live and its inhabitants.

A Level

Paper 1 - Introductory topics in Psychology

- Social Influence: types of conformity, conformity to social rules, explanations for obedience, explanations of resistance to social influence, minority influence, the role of social influence processes in social change.
- Memory - Models of memory, types of long term memory, explanations for forgetting, eye witness testimony.
- Attachment – Caregiver/infant interactions in humans, animal studies of attachment, explanations of attachment, types of attachment, maternal deprivation, the influence of early attachment on childhood and adult relationships.
- Psychopathology: Definitions of abnormality, characteristics of phobias, depression and OCD, behavioural approach to explaining and treating phobias, cognitive approach to explain and treating depression, biological approach to explaining and treating OCD.

Assessment: Written exam, 2 hours, 1/3rd of A Level

Paper 2 - Psychology in context

- Approaches to Psychology: Origins of psychology, the behaviourist approach, the cognitive approach, the biological approach, the psychodynamic approach and the humanistic approach
- Research methods: knowledge of a range of research methods, the scientific process, data handling and analysis and inferential testing.
- Biopsychology: The nervous systems, structure and function of sensory, relay and motor neurons, the function of the endocrine system, the fight or flight response, localisation and function of key brain areas, ways of studying the brain, biological rhythms and their impact on the sleep cycle.

Assessment: Written exam, 2 hours, 1/3rd of A Level

Paper 3 - Issues and options in Psychology

- Issues and debates in psychology: Gender and cultural bias, Free Will and determinism, the nature/nurture debate, holism and reductionism, Idiographic and nomothetic approaches and ethical implications.
- Three of the following topics (chosen by teachers)
 - Relationships or Gender or Cognition
 - Schizophrenia or Eating behaviour or Stress
 - Aggression or Forensic Psychology or Addiction.

Assessment: Written exam, 2 hours, 1/3rd of A Level

Minimum Entry Requirements: Level 6 in Science and Level 6 in Maths at GCSE.

Religious Studies (Edexcel)

Religious Studies addresses challenging and topical issues central to philosophy, religion and ethics. You will have the opportunity to explore ethical theories, contemporary moral problems, arguments for and against the existence of God, a study of the Problem of Evil and whether religious language can have any meaning. You will also consider ethical theories such as Utilitarianism, Situation Ethics, Kantian Ethics and how these can be applied in the real world. In addition, you will have the opportunity to investigate and critique the works of a range of modern and classical philosophers and theologians.

You will gain independent thinking skills, the ability to debate, construct arguments, evaluate evidence, and understand the views of others. It is a subject of great diversity and you will be expected to keep an open mind to consider both the adherent's and sceptic's point of view. Useful skills are developed such as questioning sources and considering bias and active participation in debates is encouraged. Religious Studies is well regarded by universities and employers as it provides students with the skills to question, evaluate, analyse and interpret the world around them. Possible career choices include the civil service, law, politics, charities, NGO's, journalism, business, teaching and social services.

A Level

Paper 1: Philosophy of Religion-Philosophical issues and questions; the nature and influence of religious experience; problems of evil and suffering; philosophical language; works of scholars; influences of developments in religious belief.

Paper 2: Religion and Ethics -Significant concepts in issues or debates in religion and ethics; A study of three ethical theories; application of ethical theories to issues of importance; ethical language; deontology, virtue ethics and the works of scholars; medical ethics: beginning and end of life

Paper 3: Study of Religion: Christianity - Religious beliefs, values and teachings; sources of wisdom and authority; practices that shape and express religious identity; social and historical developments; works of scholars; religion and society; primary texts.

Assessment:

All three papers are externally assessed written examinations. Each paper lasts 2 hours and contributes one third of the A Level.

Recommended text book for purchase:

Edexcel Religious Studies for A level Year 1 - Diane Kolka and Emma Watson (authors) Publication date to be confirmed. A Year 2 book will also need to be purchased.

Minimum Entry Requirements: Level 6 in Religious Studies or equivalent in another Humanities subject.

Sociology (AQA)

This will be a new subject for most students. Sociology studies the way people behave and the way social groupings can affect their behaviour. Sociology will allow you to step back from your own interpretation of the world and develop an insight and understanding of the society in which we live and the interactions between individuals and society. Students are encouraged to develop their own sociological awareness through an active engagement with the contemporary world. At the end of this course, students will ask questions like “Why did this happen”? “How did this happen”? and “For who’s benefit did this happen”?

Students completing the course have entered university to study a wide range of subjects ranging from law, media and business studies to nursing, education and medicine.

The Year 12 course represents a strong introduction to the A Level course. The skills and knowledge developed in Year 12 will be utilised and embedded within the second year of the A Level course.

Year 1

Students examine key concepts and theories associated with the study of Sociology.

Education with Methods in Context. Includes: the role and functions of the education system; differential educational achievement of social groups; relationships and processes within school; educational policies.

Research Methods. Includes: practical, ethical and theoretical issues influencing choice of topic and research methods.

The Family. Includes contemporary family structures; gender roles and power relationships; relationship of the family to social structures and state policies; the nature of childhood; demographic trends.

Year 2

Beliefs in Society: This topic studies religious organisations, the relationship between different social groups and religious organisations and the significance of religiosity in a contemporary world.

Crime and Deviance: This topic includes the study of the social distribution of crime; crime and social order; globalisation and crime and crime control.

Sociological Theory

Assessment:

- Paper 1: Education and Methods, 2 hours, 80 marks, 1/3rd of A Level
- Paper 2: Topics in Sociology (The Family and Religion), 2 hours, 80 marks, 1/3rd of A Level
- Paper 3: Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods, 2 hours, 80 marks, 1/3rd of A Level

MINIMUM ENTRY REQUIREMENTS: Level 6 in English Language or Literature at GCSE.

Sport and Exercise Science: BTEC (Pearson)

The BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Sport and Exercise Science is perfect for students who have an interest in sport, how the body works when performing and coaching. It is a vocational qualification which means that it is geared towards learning skills for employment and university. It is assessed through a variety of different ways which may appeal to those of you who do not like 100% exam-based assessment models.

The 8 unit Diploma is worth two A Levels, and this course complements the work undertaken in Biology, Psychology, Maths and Sociology.

N.B. A 4 unit Extended Certificate, worth one A Level, is due to arrive in 2018 but at the time of printing, there is no detailed information on the units that comprise it.

Students can expect a good progression to higher education for both courses when taken alongside other A levels. The Diploma can also be used for employment.

Unlike A Level Physical Education most of the units you will cover are not an assessment of your physical ability, but some units do require you to take part in activities such as fitness testing, coaching, different types of training and exercise.

Students must complete all units, as follows:

Unit 1: Sport and exercise Physiology: External

Unit 2: Functional Anatomy: External

Unit 3: Sport and exercise Psychology: External

Unit 4: Field and lab-based fitness testing: Internal

Unit 5: Applied research methods in sport and exercise science: Internal

Unit 6: Coaching for performance and fitness: Internal

Optional units: Students must complete two of the following units:

Unit 7: Biomechanics in sport and exercise science: Internal

Unit 8: Specialised fitness training: Internal

Unit 9: Research project: Internal

Unit 10: Physical activity for individual and group-based exercise: Internal

Unit 11: Sports Massage: Internal

Unit 12: Sociocultural issues in sport and exercise: Internal

Assessment:

External units (written and marked by Pearson)

Unit 1 & 2: Written exam, 1 hour 30 mins, 80 marks

Unit 3: Written task:

- Part A: students will be provided with a case study one week before a supervised assessment

- Part B: the supervised assessment period is two hours in a two day period timetabled by the exam board, 60 marks

Units that are set as 'internal assessments' are coursework based and written and marked by teaching staff. Each unit is made up of assignments and each assignment has specific criteria to work towards. You will be taught the Pass criteria for each assignment but the criteria for Merit and Distinction work is on you for independent learning. You will be given a check list and a list of useful books and websites to help with your research. This style of teaching bridges the gap between school and university and provides opportunities for learners to focus on the development of personal, learning and thinking skills, time management and wider skills in a sport context. Independent workers who use lunch time surgeries to check work and get informal feedback hit target grade criteria first time.

MINIMUM ENTRY REQUIREMENTS: Level 4 in Double Science or Biology. Level 4 or above in English and PE at GCSE are also desirable. Enthusiasm and interests in sport and fitness are essential. However, the ability to perform a sport or sports to a high level is not a prerequisite.