

## **Art and Design (Edexcel)**

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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.

**Minimum Entry Requirements:** 5 GCSEs at grade 4 or above, including GCSE grade 4 in Art, Graphics, Textiles or Design Technology

## **Biology (OCR A)**

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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

**Minimum Entry Requirements:** 5 GCSEs at grade 5 or above, including grade 6/6 in Double Science or grade 6 in Biology as a separate science. Due to the increased mathematical emphasis of the new courses we also require Mathematics GCSE grade 6.

## **Business (AQA)**

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Business is a broad and varied subject, which will give you an understanding of how businesses operate, why some businesses succeed and others fail and the reasons behind the decisions businesses make. One of the things which makes Business such an interesting subject is that the whole of society is impacted by the decisions that businesses make so the course covers highly topical areas such as marketing, pricing decisions, business ethics, globalisation, international trade, digital technology and the economic environment not to mention political developments such as Brexit or the sugar tax. In this way studying Business gives you a greater understanding of our society.

You will also develop transferable skills such as numeracy, interpreting and analysing data and applying knowledge and understanding to different contexts to make judgements.

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

### **What will I study?**

Year 1 is an introduction to business and an examination of the key functional areas: marketing, operations, finance and human resource management. Year 2 is an investigation of the strategic (longer-term) decisions that all businesses have to make.

### **Topics include:**

- What is business? nature and purpose of businesses, forms of ownership, the external environment
- Management, leadership and decision making
- Marketing – understanding markets; segmentation, targeting and positioning and the marketing mix
- Operations – efficiency, productivity, quality, managing inventory and supply chains
- Finance – budgeting, cash-flow, break-even analysis and sources of finance
- Human Resources – organisational design, HR flow, motivation, employer-employee relations.
- Analysing the strategic position of a business - assessing business performance using financial and non-financial measures; an in-depth look at the external environment
- Choosing strategic direction – how do business choose which markets to compete in and what products to offer?
- Strategic methods - growth, innovation, use of digital technology and internationalisation
- Managing strategic change - organisational culture, the implementation of strategy and why some 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 cover both Year 1 and Year 2 content and all three papers carry equal weighting.

**Minimum Entry Requirements:** 5 GCSEs at grade 4 or above, including grade 4 in GCSE Mathematics and English.

## Chemistry (OCR A)

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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.

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.

### A Level

The course is composed of 6 modules:

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:** 5 GCSEs at grade 5 or above, including grade 6/6 in Double Science or grade 6 in Chemistry as a separate science. Due to the increased mathematical emphasis of the new courses we also require Mathematics GCSE grade 6.

## Core Maths (AQA)

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Core Maths is about students undertaking meaningful mathematical problems to increase their confidence in using mathematics to be better equipped for the mathematical demands of other courses, higher education and employment.

### Benefits of Core Maths

Core Maths has been designed to maintain and develop real-life mathematical skills. The core maths content is not purely theoretical or abstract; it can be applied on a day-to-day basis, whether in work, study or life. It is the equivalent of an AS course; it has the same UCAS points value and can be taken in conjunction with three other A Levels.

### How is Core Maths taught?

Core Maths builds on GCSE mathematics with a particular focus on problem-solving skills. Students will consider and tackle mathematics in meaningful contexts, including financial applications and statistical ideas that can support work in other subjects they will be studying.

Students learn through using and applying mathematics to solve problems including those in:

- personal contexts: scenarios related to the individual, family or peer group
- occupational contexts: scenarios related to the world of work
- societal contexts: scenarios related to local, national or global communities
- scientific contexts: scenarios related to the natural world, science and technology

This equips students with practical and useful mathematics skills relevant to:

- business needs e.g. analysing and evaluating data, budget management, problem-solving approaches and financial calculations
- everyday life requirements e.g. preparing tax returns, applying for loans, general budgeting and managing household finances

### What does Core Maths cover?

The qualification covers:

- statistics and algebra
- probability and estimation
- data analysis and modelling
- sequences and growth
- financial planning and management
- problem-solving approaches and techniques e.g. linear programming
- using technology and spreadsheets

**Minimum Entry Requirements** 5 GCSEs at grade 4 or above, including a grade 4 at GCSE mathematics.

## Design and Technology (WJEC - EDUQAS)

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The WJEC GCE in Design and Technology offers a unique opportunity in the curriculum for learners to identify and solve real problems by designing and making products or systems.

Design and technology is an inspiring, rigorous and practical subject. This subject encourages learners to use creativity and imagination when applying interactive design processes to develop and modify designs, and to design and make prototypes that solve real world problems, considering their own and others' needs, wants, aspirations and values.

Students will be able to identify market needs and opportunities for new products, initiate and develop design solutions, and make and test prototypes. Students will acquire subject knowledge in design and technology, including how a product can be developed through the stages of prototyping, realisation and commercial manufacture. The course also involves consideration of small and large commercial / manufacturing contexts and gain an insight into design and technology activity in the creative industries.

Learners study the following areas of content:

- Core technical principles
- In-depth technical principles. Students follow one endorsed route through this specification, either:
  - engineering design;
  - fashion and textiles
  - product design.
- Core design and making principles

### Assessment:

- Unit 1: Written paper 1 Written examination: 2 hours 20% of qualification 80 marks
- Unit 2: Design and make task Non-exam assessment: approximately 40 hours 20% of qualification 80 marks
- Unit 3: Written paper 2 Written examination: 2 hours 30 minutes 30% of qualification
- Unit 4: Design and make project Non-exam assessment: approximately 60 hours 30% of qualification

**MINIMUM ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:** 5 GCSEs at grade 4 or above, including 4 in GCSE Design and Technology or equivalent BTEC Level 2 Qualification

## **Drama**

### **A Level (AQA, Drama and Theatre Specification)**

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Studying drama not only increases your understanding of one of the most demanding and exciting art forms, it also improves your interpersonal skills and helps develop self-confidence. Many employers recognise the value of this qualification because those who succeed on the course possess many of the assets which will enable them to succeed in the workplace, including initiative, creativity and group work skills.

We have a fully-equipped studio with sound and lighting, so we look at performance, design and technical aspects of Drama making this course an interesting option for those considering careers in design, media and art as well as performance. Students may wish to enter technical design, directing or acting for the practical part of the examination. Regular theatre visits are arranged and theatre companies will visit the school.

The AQA A Level specification has a 60% practical assessment (devised performance, extract performance, working notebook and reflective report) and 40% written examination. A Level students study five performance texts and devised drama as outlined below.

#### **Component 1: Interpreting Drama**

This unit is focused on the interpretation of TWO plays from a performance perspective as well as the analysis of live theatre. You will undertake practical study of a play from a significant period of theatrical history in order to develop a theatrical overview that will allow you to respond as an actor, director and designer. You will also study a play from 20th or 21st Century Drama to respond as a director, actor and designer to communicate your interpretation of a given extract.

**Assessment:** Written paper, 3 hours, 40% of A Level

#### **Component 2: Creating Original Drama**

This unit builds on the skills acquired in Year 12 by giving you the opportunity to create an original devised drama for an audience. Your work will be influenced by the work and methodologies of one prescribed theatrical practitioner. You will then demonstrate your acting, directing or design skills as you devise, rehearse and perform your work in your selected style.

**Assessment:** Internally assessed and externally moderated, devising working notebook & performance, 30% of A Level

#### **Component 3: Making Theatre**

This unit gives you an opportunity to demonstrate your acting, directing or design skills as you practically explore and theatrically interpret THREE extracts from THREE different published plays. The third extract should be heavily influenced in terms of theatrical aims, rehearsal methods and performance/production style by the work of a theatre practitioner who has made a significant contribution to theatre practice and will be performed as a final assessed piece. You may be assessed as an actor, director or designer for this unit.

**Assessment:** Externally assessed by visiting examiner, Practical exploration, reflective report & theatrical interpretation, 30% of A Level

**Minimum Entry Requirements:** 5 GCSEs at grade 4 or above, including a grade 4 in English and/or Drama at GCSE.

## English Literature (Edexcel)

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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

The A Level builds on the work completed in Year 12 and includes:

#### Component 1: Drama

One Shakespeare play - we are studying "Othello".

One other play – we are studying "Dr Faustus" by Christopher Marlowe

Students will compose a selection of essays related to their plays

**Assessment:** Written exam, 2 hours 15 mins. 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 Picture of Dorian Gray" by Oscar Wilde and "The Little Stranger" by Sarah Waters

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

#### Component 3: Poetry

Students will prepare for an unseen poem and study a range of poetry including our named poet, Philip Larkin and an Anthology of post 2000 poetry from different poets

**Assessment:** Written exam, 2 hours 15 mins- 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:** 5 GCSEs at grade 4 or above, including grade 4 in GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature.

## Extended Project Qualification (AQA)

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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 freestanding 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 after the AS exams in 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.

There are no formal entry requirements for this course. Students cannot apply for this qualification until the Spring term of Year 12, when they will be invited to submit a proposal form for consideration.

## Food Science and Nutrition: Level 3 Diploma (WJEC)

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An understanding of food science and nutrition is relevant to many industries and job roles. Care providers and nutritionists in hospitals use this knowledge, as do sports coaches and fitness instructors. Hotels and restaurants, food manufacturers and government agencies also use this understanding to develop menus, food products and policies that support healthy eating initiatives. Many employment opportunities within the field of food science and nutrition are available to graduates.

Level 3 Food Science and Nutrition qualifications allow pupils to gain a wealth of knowledge about the food and nutrition industry. Pupils will have the opportunity to learn about the relationship between the human body and food as well as practical skills for cooking and preparing food. Pupils will be able to consider employment in a range of different industries including the food and drink sectors of hospitality, catering, food production and food retail.

The Food Science and Nutrition Diploma is the equivalent of two A Levels, and this course complements the work undertaken in many of the A Level subjects offered.

The WJEC Level 3 Food Science and Nutrition course can be successfully matched with a range of A-level subjects (or equivalent), supporting progress on to higher education degree courses, such as:

- BSc Food and Nutrition
- BSc Human Nutrition
- BSc (Hons) Public Health Nutrition
- BSc (Hons) Food Science and Technology

This new specification is excellent preparation for pupils wishing to pursue careers in nutrition, food science, sports science, food technology and consumer protection.

### Assessment:

The following units are internally assessed:

- Unit 1: Meeting Nutritional Needs of Specific Groups. This unit is also externally assessed.
- Unit 3: Experimenting to Solve Food Production Problems
- Unit 4: Current issues in Food Science and Nutrition

The following units are externally assessed:

- Unit 1: Meeting Nutritional Needs of Specific Groups. Details of the external assessment are as follows:
  - 90 minute examination; plus 15 minutes reading time
- Unit 2 Ensuring Food is Safe to Eat is externally assessed. Details of the external assessment are as follows:
  - An assignment will be produced each academic year
  - It is an eight hour timed, supervised assessment

The final Diploma grading is reported on a four-point scale:

- Distinction\* (140 UCAS)
- Distinction (120 UCAS)
- Merit (80 UCAS)
- Pass (40 UCAS)

**MINIMUM ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:** 5 GCSEs at grade 4 or above, including 4 in GCSE Food and Nutrition or equivalent BTEC Level 2 Qualification

## French (Edexcel)

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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:** 5 GCSEs at grade 4 or above, including grade 5 in GCSE French.

## Geography (OCR)

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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.

### A Level

#### Component 1: Physical Systems

This incorporates *Landscapes 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 2: 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 3: 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, A Level students will gain a deep understanding of the *Hazardous Earth* and *Exploring Oceans*.

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

#### Component 4: Investigative Geography

Independent investigation related to the specification.

**Assessment:** Coursework, 20% of A Level qualification

**MINIMUM ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:** 5 GCSEs at grade 4 or above, including grade 4 in GCSE Geography.

## Government and Politics (Edexcel)

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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

**THIS IS A TWO-YEAR LINEAR A LEVEL COURSE:** The syllabus will be assessed by a terminal exam, consisting of 3 component papers.

### 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, 33 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, 33 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, 33 1/3% of A Level qualification

**MINIMUM ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:** 5 GCSEs at grade 4 or above, including grade 4 in GCSE History or Grade 4 in English Language if History is not taken at GCSE.

## History (OCR)

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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 (OCR H505)

#### **Component 1 (Y105): 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 (Y221): Democracy & 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 (Y318): Russia and its Rulers 1855-1964**

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

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

#### **Component 4: Independent Topic Essay on the causes of WWI Controversy (source analysis)**

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

**MINIMUM ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:** 5 GCSEs at grade 4 or above, including grade 4 in GCSE History.

## Mathematics (AQA)

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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. It is expected that students studying Mathematics and Further Mathematics will purchase a Casio ClassWiz calculator before starting the course and will also purchase the required textbooks.

### 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:** 5 GCSEs at grade 5 or above, including grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics

## Further Mathematics (AQA)

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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:** 5 GCSEs at grade 5 or above, including Grade 7 in GCSE Mathematics

## Media Studies (OCR)

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This contemporary, accessible and creative course will allow learners to study the media in an academic context and apply the knowledge and understanding gained to the process of creating their own media productions. OCR's A Level in Media Studies is designed to widen the intellectual horizons of the learner through the analysis of both global and historical media. The Media Studies course will foster the development of critical and reflective thinking to encourage engagement in the debates surrounding contemporary media. It is the intention of the A Level Media Studies course to inspire learners and develop an aspiration within them to continue learning beyond the confines of the classroom as well as developing personal and interpersonal skills that will serve them well both in Higher Education and in the workplace.

### Course Content

#### **Paper 1 – 35% of A Level**

*Section A: News and Online Media* This section focus on contemporary news in the UK, requiring learners to explore how and why newspapers and their online counterparts are evolving as media products.

*Section B: Media Language and Representation* Learners will explore media language and representation, through the following media forms: magazines, advertising and marketing and music videos

#### **Paper 2 – 35% of A Level**

*Section A: Media Industries and Audiences* Learners will explore media industries and audiences, through media products including radio, video games and film

*Section B: Long Form Television Drama* Learners will engage in one in-depth study of television as an evolving, global media form.

#### **Non - Examined Assessment – 30% A Level**

Learners will create a cross-media product in response to an Exam Board directed brief.

### Assessment Objectives

Successful students will be able to:

- Demonstrate skills of enquiry, critical thinking, decision-making and analysis
- Demonstrate a critical approach to media issues
- Demonstrate appreciation and critical understanding of the media and their role both historically and currently in society, culture, politics and the economy
- Develop an understanding of the dynamic and changing relationships between media forms, products, media industries and audiences
- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the global nature of the media

### **A Level Results**

2017 A Level results: 89% A\*-C (National Average 79.7% A\*-C)

**MINIMUM ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:** 5 GCSEs at grade 4 or above, including English and Maths

## Photography (Edexcel)

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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, cinemographs 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.

**MINIMUM ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:** 5 GCSEs at grade 4 or above, including GCSE grade 4 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.

## Physics (OCR)

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“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

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:** 5 GCSEs at grade 5 or above, including grade 6/6 in Double Science or grade 6 in Physics as a separate science. Due to the increased mathematical emphasis of the new courses we also require Mathematics GCSE grade 6.

## Psychology (AQA)

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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

#### Unit 1 - Introductory topics in Psychology

- Social Influence, Memory, Attachment: As Unit 1 AS, with more depth
- 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

#### Unit 2 - Psychology in context

- Approaches to Psychology: As Unit 2 AS, with more depth
- 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.
- Research methods: As Unit 2 AS, with more depth

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

#### Unit 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, ethical implications.
- Three of the following topics (chosen by teachers) Relationships, Gender, Cognition, Schizophrenia, Eating behaviour, Stress, Aggression, Forensic Psychology, Addiction.

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

**MINIMUM ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:** 5 GCSEs at grade 4 or above, including grade 4/4 in Double Science or at least 2 x grade 4 in Triple Science.

## Religious Studies (Pearson Edexcel)

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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 Issues.

#### **Paper 4: 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.

Paper 1: Philosophy of Religion

Paper 2: Religion and Ethics

Paper 4: Study of Religion: Christianity

#### **Assessment:**

This is a linear course. All three papers are externally assessed written examinations. Each paper lasts 2 hours and contributes 33.3% of the A Level.

**MINIMUM ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:** 5 GCSEs at grade 4 or above, including a grade 4 in Religious Studies or grade 4 in English Language if Religious Studies not taken at GCSE.

## Sociology (AQA)

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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 skills and knowledge developed in the first year of the course will be utilised and embedded within the second year of the A Level course.

**Introduction to Sociology:** students examine key concepts and theories associated with the study of Sociology.

- Topic 1: 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.
- Topic 2: Research Methods and The Family. 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.
- Topic 3: 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.
- Topic 4: Crime and Deviance: This topic includes the study of the social distribution of crime; crime and social order; globalisation and crime and crime control.
- Topic 5: Sociological Theory

### **Assessment:**

Students who complete the full A Level will have three written exams at the end of the two years:

- Paper 1: Education and Theory 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:** 5 GCSEs at grade 4 or above, including grade 4 in GCSE English Language or GCSE English Literature.

## **Sport and Exercise Science: BTEC Diploma and Extended Diploma (Pearson)**

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The BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Sport and Exercise Science is a vocational qualification that is made up of externally and internally assessed units.

- Externally assessed units are Units 1, 2, 3 and 13. These are written and marked by Pearson.
- Internally assessed units are written and marked by teaching staff.

The 8 unit Diploma is worth two A Levels.

The 13 Unit Extended Diploma is worth three A levels.

Both of these courses complement the work undertaken in Biology, Psychology, Maths and Sociology.

Students can expect a good progression to higher education for both courses when taken alongside other A levels (Diploma) or as a standalone subject (Extended Diploma).

Both courses can also be used for employment in the sporting industry.

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 and different types of training and exercise.

### **Example Units for Year 12 study on the Diploma**

Students must complete all units, as follows:

Unit 2: Functional Anatomy: External

Unit 3: Sport and exercise Psychology: External

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

Unit 9: Research Project: Internal

### **Example Units for Year 13 study on the Diploma**

Unit 1: Sport and exercise Physiology: External

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

Unit 6: Coaching for performance and fitness: Internal

Unit 8: Specialised fitness training: Internal

### **Extended Diploma Units will be completed alongside all the other units above and split between Year 12 and 13**

Unit 13: Nutrition for Sport and Exercise Performance: External

Unit 10: Physical Activity for Individual and Group-based Exercise: Internal

Unit 12: Sociocultural Issues in Sport and Exercise: Internal

Unit 14: Technology in Sport and Exercise Science: Internal

Unit 15: Sports Injury and Assessment: Internal

**MINIMUM ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:** Level 4 in Double Science or Biology, Level 4 in English and Maths  
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.