

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.

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

Biology (OCR A)

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)

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)

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.

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

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)

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 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.

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

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.

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.

Geology (OCR)

Geology is the study of the Earth and all of its processes. It will allow you to understand the structure of the planet, the hazards caused by our dynamic planet, the rocks and minerals that compose it, the history of life and how to harness the natural resources it provides. Geology is a field science and there is a strong focus on the application of field skills throughout the course. As a result there is a minimum requirement of four days fieldwork to be carried out to help develop the skills and techniques common in a geological setting.

The course is designed to assume no prior background geology knowledge and develops concepts and ideas from GCSE Science, making it appealing to those with an interest in the Sciences or Physical Geography. Geology has many transferrable skills and has good links with A Level Biology, Chemistry, Physics and aspects of Geography. Historically many students that have taken Geology at A Level have gone on to either study it further as part of a Geology or Geoscience degree, or chosen to study degrees in the Sciences or Engineering.

This is a unique opportunity to study a truly fascinating subject as there are very few centres that can offer to run the course.

A Level

The course is composed of 7 modules:

Module 1 - Development of practical skills in Geology

Module 2 - Foundations in Geology

Module 3 - Global tectonics

Module 4 - Interpreting the past

Module 5 - Petrology and economic geology

Module 6 - Geohazards

Module 7 - Basin analysis

Assessment:

All papers cover content from modules 1-7:

- Paper 1: Fundamentals of geology, 2 hours 15 minutes, 41% of A Level
- Paper 2: Scientific literacy in geology, 2 hours 15 minutes, 37% of A Level
- Paper 3: Practical skills in geology, 1 hour 30 minutes, 22% 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 5/5 in Double Science or a grade 5 in either Chemistry or Physics as a separate science. As 10% of the course marks will require the knowledge of a minimum of a Level 2 mathematical skills we also require a Mathematics GCSE grade 5.

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 (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)

Mathematics is a science based on the logic of quantity, order, arrangement, 3D space, structure and change. Mathematics is all around us and has been studied for thousands of years. With the technology of the modern age we are more reliant on it than ever before. Human knowledge of mathematics enables our stock exchanges and economies to run smoothly, facilitates us to communicate with each other from almost anywhere in the world and permits us to travel large distances safely in a relatively small amount of time.

Mathematics is a “facilitating subject”, which gives students that study it a large choice of university courses, apprenticeships and careers. Someone who wants to study medicine will benefit by understanding how bacteria population will grow, and then decay when treated, and will also be able to understand the statistical analysis demonstrating the effectiveness of a new drug. A future pilot will develop an understanding of how their plane remains stable in the air despite changes in air pressure and wind speed, and can remain on course around a spherical planet over a 6000km journey.

Mathematics complements the arts and humanities, enabling students to acquire a broad range of skills during their time in the sixth form, developing their ability to think strategically and creatively, and also their aptitude for reasoning thoroughly and concisely. Mathematics supports the study of other subjects. For example students studying Mathematics alongside Geography or Psychology will be much more proficient in the statistical areas of these subjects.

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:

- Pure Maths content from Paper 1 and

- 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:

- Pure Maths content from Paper 1 and

- 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)

Further Mathematics builds on many ideas studied in the A level Mathematics course, whilst also introducing some completely separate concepts; consequently this course must be studied alongside the A level Mathematics. Further mathematics introduces students to powerful and interesting concepts such as matrices and complex numbers. It is currently the only way for students to study discrete (“decision”) maths, which gives an insight into the logic used in computers to order and process information.

Further Mathematics is an excellent course choice for someone who wishes to study a course at university with a high mathematical content, for example Mathematics, the Sciences, or any form of Engineering. The course can be studied as either a third or fourth A level, however if you plan to study it as one of three A levels, it is important that you are well informed on the entry requirements of the university courses that you are considering.

A Level

Paper 1 assesses:

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

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

Paper 2 assesses the same content as Paper 1.

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

Paper 3 assesses:

- Discrete: Graphs, networks, network flows, linear programming, critical path analysis, game theory (zero-sum games) and binary operations.

- Mechanics: Dimensional analysis, momentum and collisions, work, energy and power, circular motion, centre of mass and moments.

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.

Performing Arts (Pearson)

Studying Performing Arts will not only increase your understanding of some of the most demanding and exciting art forms, it will improve your interpersonal skills and help self-confidence. Many employers recognise the value of this qualification because those who succeed on this course possess assets that enable them to succeed in the workplace including initiative, creativity and group work skills.

We have a fully-equipped studio and Main Hall with sound and lighting, so we look at the technical aspects of Performing Arts as well as the wider Performing Arts Industry. Regular performing arts visits are arranged and performing arts companies will visit the school when possible. Engagement with school productions, showcases and concerts provide additional opportunities.

BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Performing Arts BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Performing Arts

These vocational qualifications are made up of externally and internally assessed units:

- The externally assessed units (Units 1, 3 and 5) are examined by Pearson.
- The internally assessed units are assessed by teaching staff and moderated by Pearson.

The 4 unit Extended Certificate is worth one A Level.

The 8 unit Diploma is worth two A Levels.

These courses complement the work undertaken in English Literature, Psychology, Photography, Art and Sociology. Students can expect a good progression to higher education or Performing Arts Schools for both courses when taken alongside other A levels. Both courses are beneficial for employment in the performing arts industry.

Example Units for Year 12 study on the Extended Certificate

Students must complete the following units:

Unit 1: Investigating Practitioner's Work: External

Unit 2: Developing Skills and Techniques for Live Performance: Internal

Example Units for Year 13 study on the Extended Certificate

Students must complete the following units:

Unit 3: Group Performance Workshop: External

Unit 19: Acting Styles: Internal

Example Units for Year 12 and Year 13 study on the Diploma

Students must complete the units noted above plus:

Unit 4 Performing Arts in the Community: Internal

Unit 5 Individual Performance Commission: External

Unit 6 Final Live Performance to an Audience: Internal

Unit 23 Singing Techniques for Performers: Internal

MINIMUM ENTRY REQUIREMENTS: 5 GCSEs at grade 4 or above, including grade 4 in English and/or Drama, Music or Dance. An interest in the performing and creative arts would be beneficial.

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, 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)

“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.

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

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.

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

Unit 1 - Introductory topics in Psychology

- Social Influence, Memory, Attachment
- 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
- 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

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)

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 to include Utilitarianism, Situation Ethics and Natural Moral Law; Application of ethical theories to issues of importance, including sexual ethics and war and peace; 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)

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)

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. Studying GCSE PE or another Sport based Level 2 qualification would be advantageous.