



Thomas Becket Catholic School

VI Form

Subject Information Sheets





BTEC Level 3 Applied Science

Exam Board: Pearson Edexcel Duration: Two Years

Course Content

A Level 3 BTEC in Applied Science will provide you with a broad range of skills to prepare you for employment or higher education. You will build on your previous studies of science by widening your knowledge of scientific investigation and practical techniques. You will develop the numeracy skills required in a scientific setting and examine how science is used in the science industry. You will work as an individual and in small groups on research projects.

You will study core parts of Biology, Chemistry and Physics, alongside skills in planning, carrying out and evaluating practical science experiments. In your coursework you will develop your laboratory skills and study biological molecules in detail.

Skills and qualification required

GCSE Science Grades 44

GCSE Maths Grade 4

Those who are interested in studying aspects of all three sciences rather than specialising.

Those who are interested in how science can be used in real life situations.

Those who are looking into a career in a science-based or medical-based profession.

Those who want to become proficient practical scientists capable of planning and carrying out practical work with accuracy and precision.

Those wishing to compliment another science-based subject.

Those wishing to add balance to an otherwise humanities-based curriculum with a science subject.

Assessment

The Extended Certificate course is made up of one written exam unit, one practical unit and two coursework units

The Diploma course is made up of two written exam units, one practical exam unit and four coursework units

A Pathway to...

BTEC Applied Science is a well-regarded course that regularly supports university applications for science-based degrees, particularly degrees associated with the healthcare professions. It will provide you with skills that employers value such as analysis, decision making, practical skills, evaluation skills, and problem solving. Associated career areas can include nursing, midwifery, laboratory science, agriculture, physiotherapy, zoology or biomedical science.

For more information please speak to:

Mrs A Alaka Email: aalaka@tbcs.nor.olicatschools.org



A Level Biology

Exam Board: AQA

Duration: Two Years

Course Content

The A Level Biology course is a 2 year course worth a maximum 56 UCAS points.

The course contains 8 units each of which contain practical skills assessments that must be passed to gain the qualification.

Year 12

Unit 1—Biological Molecules

This section of the unit will look at the biochemistry behind many of the common biological molecules such as carbohydrates, lipids, proteins, water, enzymes and DNA. You will learn about their structures, uses and importance in living organisms.

Unit 2—Cells

In this unit you will learn about the structures of both Prokaryotic and Eukaryotic cells before going on to look at cell replications, transport mechanisms and the immune system response.

Unit 3—Organism Exchange Substances

You will be studying the exchange systems in plants and animals.

Unit 4—Genetics

This is an essential unit for anybody planning on studying for a degree in Biology. You will spend time looking at the structure of DNA and learning the processes of replication, translation and transcription. You will look at meiosis and the effect of genetic mutations on organism.

Year 13

Unit 5—Energy Transfers in Organisms

In this unit you will look at the complex chemical reactions that take place during photosynthesis. You will also revisit and extend your knowledge of the reactions of respiration which includes looking at energy within food chains and nutrient cycles.

Unit 6—Responses to Internal and External Environments

You will study the heart and circulatory systems and spend time developing your knowledge of how things such as water and sugar levels are controlled.

Unit 7—Genetics, Populations, Evolution & Ecosystems

You will look at genetics, specifically inheritance and how this leads to evolution and speciation.

Unit 8—Gene Expression

This unit will allow you to look at the process of how genes are passed on and the mechanism for genetic mutations. This will then allow you to further explore the topics of cancer, recombinant DNA technology and how we carry out genetic fingerprinting and recombinant DNA techniques.

Skills and Qualifications Required

The skills you will need to develop and extend will include practical lab skills, report writing and research techniques. There will be an expectation that after each practical you will write up the investigation in full during your private study time as well as analysing and presenting data and being able to draw conclusions based on your evidence. Due to the technical nature of this subject entry requirements are grades 66 in your GCSE Sciences, one of which must be Biology if you took the triple award and a grade 6 for GCSE Mathematics.

Assessment

The course will be assessed at the end of the 2 years with three 2 hour exams. Paper 1 is made up of 76 marks of short and long answer questions and 15 marks from extended response questions. Paper 2 is made up of 76 marks of short and long answer questions and 15 marks from comprehension questions. Paper 3 is made up of 38 marks of practical questions and 15 marks of critical analysis questions and a 25 mark essay question.

A Pathway To...

A good stepping stone for a variety of careers, for example, hospital pathologist, forensic scientist, food technologist, environmental scientist, nature

For More Information Speak To:

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BTEC Level 3 Business

Exam Board: Pearson Edexcel

Duration: Two Years

Course Content

This course is equivalent to 1 A level and consists of 4 units 3 mandatory and 1 optional:

Unit 1: Exploring Business

- This is a mandatory and internally assessed unit through three coursework assessments
- Includes topics such as business ownership, stakeholders, communications, organisation of business, aims and objectives, external environment and business markets

Unit 2: Developing a marketing campaign

- This is mandatory assessed unit by way of a 3hour controlled assessment.
- Requires you to understand and apply marketing concepts such as the extended marketing mix, influences on marketing activities and market research
- You will need to independently research a specific niche market and develop an appropriate for a business in this market campaign

Unit 3: Personal and Business Finance

- This is a mandatory unit that is externally assessed through a written examination
- Personal finance: functions and role of money, different methods of payment, current accounts, savings and investments and insurance products, features of financial institutions, consumer protection and how a consumer can obtain financial information and guidance
- Business finance - purpose of accounting, types of income and expenditure, sources of finance, cash flow forecasting, breakeven analysis, income statements, balance sheets and ratio analysis

Unit 8: Recruitment and Selection process

- This is the current optional unit
- It is internally assessed by the way of coursework. You will investigate how the recruitment process is carried out in a business and undertake recruitment activities such as an interview

Skills and Qualifications Required

Ability to conduct primary and secondary research, whilst being reflective, selective and critical about the information

Ability to use IT and presentation skills to complete coursework

Ability to plan workload and meet deadlines

BTEC is a nationally recognised qualification, providing you with a range of transferable skills that useful for both university and employment

GCSE Maths Grade 4

Assessment

Course will be assessed throughout the 2 years with a grade for each unit, which eventually will be totalled for a final grade. There is 1 exam that is written, 2 coursework units and a 3 hour controlled assessment. You need to achieve at least a pass each unit.

A Pathway To...

Studying a course in business provides many opportunities for further study in business or other related subjects. Alternatively studying business can be a pathway to an apprenticeship or employment in areas such as finance, marketing or human resource management.

For More Information Speak To:

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A Level Chemistry

Exam Board: OCR A Duration: Two Years

Course Content

The A Level Chemistry course is a 2-year course worth a maximum 56 UCAS points. The OCR course builds on concepts and skills that have been developed at GCSE. It presents chemistry as an exciting, relevant and challenging subject.

The study of Chemistry requires an inquisitive and enquiring mind and the ability to solve problems. You will acquire an awareness of the importance and value of chemistry to society and how it can influence national and international issues. You will also gain practical skills in Chemistry together with skills in numeracy, communication and information technology. You will investigate the structure of the atom, chemical formulae, equations, calculations and types of bonding between elements, molecules and compounds. Trends in the periodic table in terms of patterns and arrangements of the elements will be explored and explained. Organic Chemistry will be studied including a number of homologous series together with the mechanisms and pathways of organic chemistry and relationships to industry will be introduced. Further study will involve investigation of the processes underpinning chemical change, factors affecting the rates of chemical reactions, analysis and applications to industry.

Skills and qualifications required

OCR's A Level in Chemistry A specification aims to encourage learners to:

Develop essential knowledge and understanding of different areas of the subject and how they relate to each other.

Develop and demonstrate a deep appreciation of the skills, knowledge and understanding of scientific methods.

Develop competence and confidence in a variety of practical, mathematical and problem solving skills.

Develop their interest in and enthusiasm for the subject, including developing an interest in further study and careers associated with the subject.

Understand how society makes decisions about scientific issues and how the sciences contribute to the success of the economy and society (as exemplified in 'How Science Works' (HSW)).

Due to the technical nature of this subject entry requirements are grades 66 in your GCSE Sciences, one of which must be Chemistry if you took the triple award and a grade 6 for GCSE Mathematics.

Assessment

There is a total of 6 hours of examinations (2 x 2 hours 15 minutes and 1 x 1 hour 30 minutes) taken at the end of the course. This will cover a wide range of question types including multiple choice, short answer and extended response questions; with opportunity to demonstrate your knowledge of both theory and practical skills through the examinations.

To achieve the Practical Endorsement you will be expected through a range of experiments to display your competency in: following procedures; applying an investigative approach when using instruments and equipment; working safely; making and recording observations; researching, referencing and reporting.

A Pathway to...

A Level Chemistry is an excellent base for a university degree in healthcare such as medicine, pharmacy and dentistry as well as the biological sciences, physics, mathematics, pharmacology and analytical chemistry. Chemistry is also taken by many law applicants as it shows you can cope with difficult concepts. Chemistry can also complement a number of arts subjects.

A range of career opportunities including chemical, manufacturing and pharmaceutical industries and in areas such as forensics, environmental protection and healthcare. The problem solving skills are useful for many other areas, too, such as law and finance.

For More Information Speak To:

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Applied Diploma in Criminology

Exam Board: WJEC

Duration: Two Years

Course Content

Unit 1: Changing awareness of crime

- Analysing different types of crimes and further exploring why these crimes may go unreported.
- Explore media representation of crimes and public perception of criminality.
- Evaluate methods of collecting statistics.
- Compare campaigns for change e.g., changes in policy and attitudes.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of media used in campaigns for change.

Unit 2: Criminological theories

- Compare criminal behaviour and deviance.
- Explain the social construction of criminality.
- Describe biological, individualistic and sociological theories of criminality.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of criminological theories to explain the causes of crime.
- Assess the use of criminological theories in informing policy development.
- Explain how social changes affect policy development.

Unit 3: Crime scene to courtroom

- Explore the roles within the Criminal Justice System
- Explore techniques used by law enforcement to catch offenders e.g., profiling, DNA, surveillance.
- Explore how evidence is collected, contained and used.
- Explore the rights of the individual in criminal proceedings.
- Understand the trial process.
- Understand how evidence is used in the courtroom.
- How can a trial go drastically wrong?

Unit 4: Crime and punishment

- Discuss the organisation of the Criminal Justice System
- Why do people follow the law?
- Discuss the aims of punishment. Why do we punish people?
- Explore different types of punishment e.g., prison, community service, fines etc.
- Explore the contribution law enforcement officers make to society.

Skills and Qualifications Required

GCSE English Grade 4

GCSE Science Grade 44

GCSE Maths 4

Our Applied Diploma in Criminology will help you develop a range of skills that will benefit you including: the use of critical thinking to examine society; how to analyse case studies; making reasoned arguments; developing

Assessment

This course features both internal (coursework) and external (examinations) assessment. Unit 1 and 3 are internally assessed and Unit 2 and 4 are examinations. The two exams last 1.5 hrs and are worth 75 marks each. The exams consist of a mixture of short answer and extended writing questions, based on stimulus material and applied contexts.

A Pathway To...

Studying criminology benefit you in many other subjects. These subjects include Law, Politics, Social Work, Psychology and Sociology. The transferrable skills gained from this subject can aid you not just academically, but also more generally in society with your heightened awareness.

For More Information Speak to:

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A Level English Language

Exam Board: OCR Duration: Two Years

Course Content

The A Level English Language course is a 2 year course worth a maximum 56 UCAS points. The course contains 2 examined components and 1 non-examined coursework unit

Year 12

Language under the microscope

The focus of this section is on the effect of lexical choices and grammatical features in a short written text.

Analysis of: – lexis and semantics: the vocabulary of English, including social and historical variation – grammar, including morphology: the structural patterns and shapes of English at sentence, clause, phrase and word level – pragmatics: the contextual aspects of language use – discourse: extended stretches of communication occurring in different genres, modes and contexts.

Writing about a topical language issue

This section focuses on an issue or concept related to language in use particularly in relation to the issues associated with language and gender, and language and power and gives you the opportunity to explore your own ideas and attitudes in a piece of original writing.

Language in the media:

This section focuses on discourse in a multi-modal media text and requires learners to apply language concepts and theories to their analysis of linguistic and graphological features.

Child language acquisition:

The focus of this section is on children's acquisition of spoken language. The age range to be explored is 0–7 years old.

Language change:

The focus of this section is on the analysis of historical varieties of English. The analysis will be based on drawing

Year 13

Comparing and contrasting texts

The focus of this section is on exploring linguistic connections and comparisons between different modes of communication, e.g. in spoken and written texts or spontaneous and crafted speech. At least one spoken text will always be included in the paper. You should be prepared to explore the effects of mode across the two texts.

Language Investigation & Academic Poster.

Section A: An independent investigation of language, provides learners with the opportunity to pursue an area of study which is of particular personal interest. Section B, The academic poster, allows you to present your research from your independent investigation in a concise and visually accessible way.

Understanding language features in context

The focus of this section is on the effect of writers' linguistic features in a short-written text. You should study a range of texts and genres, and you are expected to be able to explore how and why particular features have been used in the construction of the text. You should be able to identify and analyse a variety of features across a range of language levels, exploring the possible effects of contextual factors on language use.

Exploring language in context

This section offers you a choice of two texts and contexts to explore. You will explore and respond to an unseen text in relation to gender theories and issues, or you will explore and respond to a different unseen text in relation to power theories and issues.

Skills and Qualifications Required

GCSE English Language Grade 6

Skills required for successfully completing the course: Reading for meaning, reading skills, writing skills, analytical and interpretive skills, investigative skills, data handling, collaborative skills and communication skills

Assessment

A level – The course will be assessed at the end of year 13 with two exam papers. There will also be one piece of coursework. Exploring Language (01) - 80 marks – 2h 30m – written paper – 40% Dimensions of Linguistic Variation (02) – 80 marks – 2h 30m – written paper – 40% Independent Language Research (03) – 40 marks – non exam assessment – 20%

A Pathway To...

This course is suitable for careers in English, Linguistics, Journalism, Publishing and Writing. In addition, this course is suitable for almost any degree at University, as it is a facilitating subject.

For More Information Speak To:

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A Level English Literature

Exam Board: AQA Duration: Two Years

Course Content

The A Level English Literature course offers an approach to the study of literature with a focus on genre and theory. The course focuses on different ways of reading and the connections that exist between texts within a literary genre. Students will gain a solid understanding of how texts can be connected and how they can be interpreted in multiple ways so that they can arrive at their own interpretations and become confident autonomous readers.

Year 12

'Literary Genres' – 'Aspects of Tragedy'

Working with *genre* involves looking at ways in which authors shape meanings within their texts. It also involves thinking about a wide range of relevant contexts, those of production, some (where possible) to do with how the text has been received over time, and most of all with how the text can be interpreted by readers now.

At the core of all the set texts is a tragic hero or heroine who is flawed in some way, who suffers and causes suffering to others and in all texts there is an interplay between what might be seen as villains and victims. Some tragic features will be more in evidence in some texts than in others and students will need to understand how particular aspects of the tragic genre are used and how they work in the four chosen texts.

Year 13

'Texts and Genres' – 'Elements of political and social protest writing'

Although it could be claimed that all texts are political, what defines the texts studied have issues of power and powerlessness at their core, with political and social protest issues central to each text's structure. The political and social protest genre covers representations of both public and private settings. All set texts foreground oppression and domination and they all look at the cultures we live in and have lived in over time.

Theory and independence

This component allows students to read widely, to choose their own texts and to understand that contemporary study of literature needs to be informed by the fact that different theoretical and critical methods can be applied to the subject.

Skills and Qualifications Required

A Grade 6 in English Literature at GCSE.

A keen interest in literature and reading.

Constructing concise arguments both verbally and in the written form.

Drawing personal and pertinent observations in response to prose, drama and poetry texts.

Assessment

A Level - At the end of the second year you will sit two externally assessed examination papers; one of 2.5 hours and one that is 3 hours.

You will also complete a NEA component that comprises of two 1250-1500 word essays.

A Pathway To...

English Literature is regarded as a *facilitating subject*. An advanced level qualification in any facilitating subject will keep open to you a number of degree courses. At some universities, a qualification in the subject is a requirement for entry onto certain courses. At other universities, it may not be a requirement for the course, but will still be useful to gain entry.

It can lead to further studies of the subject, but equips you with a number of transferrable skills: being analytical, evaluative, articulate, discursive and more general study skills such as independence, time-management, planning and research that are essential to a number of different areas of study and work.

For More Information Speak To:

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Ms V Donovan Email: vdonovan@tbcs.nor.olicatschools.org

Mrs K Page Email: kpage@tbcs.nor.olicatschools.org



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A Level Geography

Exam Board: AQA

Duration: Two Years

Course Content

The A Level Geography course is a 2 year linear course. You will sit all your exams and submit all your non-exam assessments at the end of the course.

This Geography course gives you a strong foundation for understanding the two main themes of the subject: human geography and physical geography. Between them, they're what makes our planet tick.

Geography helps you develop a number of skills:

Undertaking research and analysis

Teamwork on practical projects

Investigating global issues

Component 1: Physical Geography

Section A: Water and carbon cycles

Section B: Either Hot desert systems and landscapes or Coastal systems and landscapes or Glacial systems and landscapes

Section C: Either Hazards or Ecosystems under stress

Component 2: Human Geography

Section A: Global systems and global governance

Section B: Changing places

Section C: Either Contemporary urban environments or Population and the environment or Resource security

Component 3: Geography Fieldwork Investigation

You complete an individual investigation (3000-4000 words), which must include data collected in the field. The individual investigation must be based on a question or issue defined and developed by you relating to any part of the specification content.

Skills and Qualifications Required

GCSE Geography Grade 6

GCSE English Grade 4

Those who take Geography find it goes well with Mathematics and any other Science or Arts subject. This means Geography can either be your specialist topic, or play a supporting role for other subjects.

Assessment

Paper 1:

Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes

120 marks. 40% of A-level

Paper 2:

Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes

120 marks. 40% of A-level

Paper 3:

3,000–4,000 words

60 marks: 20% of A-level

marked by teachers. moderated by AQA

A Pathway To...

Anywhere on Earth! If you specialise in Geography at higher education (or use your Geography A Level as a stepping stone to study Geology at university) you could find yourself doing things like charting oil wells or exploring rock formations throughout the world and because Geography is about the interaction between people and our planet, this fascinating subject is valid for a number of different career paths, like advertising, environmental management, law or social services.

For More Information Speak To:

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BTEC Level 3 Graphic Design

Exam Board: Pearson Edexcel

Duration: Two Years

Course Content

You will be introduced to a variety of experiences that explore a range of graphic design, processes and 2 techniques. You will be made aware of both traditional and new media. You should explore the use of drawing using CAD and traditional paperwork for different purposes, using a variety of methods and media on a variety of scales. You will generate a professional portfolio containing all your drawn and printed outcomes ready for the next stage in your design pathway. You should explore relevant images, design contexts and resources relating to a range of briefs, from the past and from recent times, including typography, 3D graphics and branding. This should be integral to the investigating and manufacturing processes. Your responses to these examples must be shown through drawing and digital activities that demonstrate their understanding of different styles, genres, and traditions. You must work with commercial knowledge, quality control, creativity, and innovation at the forefront of their ideas. Originality and risk taking is rewarded.

You are required to work on the following briefs and activities:

- Managing a client brief
- Developing & Realising Creative Intentions
- Professional practice in design
- Graphics materials, Techniques and Processes
- Typography and Typographic design
- Graphics for 3D
- Branding in Graphic Design
- Graphic Illustration

Skills and Qualifications Required

A GCSE in Art or Technology grade 4 is helpful but not necessary

Assessment

BTEC Extended Certificate - The course will be assessed at the end of year 2. Equivalent to 1 A-Level.

A Pathway To...

Graphic Design is useful for entry lead to all disciplines in Design. Further progression is often within the areas of Graphic Design & Advertising Design, Fashion Design, Interior Design, Architecture, Stage and Costume design, TV, Jewellery Design, Curator-ship in museums, Furniture Design, Illustration and Photography.

The subject will provide you with a portfolio for entry to a foundation course or degree at University or other professional institutes for higher qualifications.

For More Information Speak To:

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Miss M Shaw Email: Mshaw@tbcs.nor.olicatschools.org

Mrs J Pick Email: jpick@tbcs.nor.olicatschools.org



BTEC Level 3 Health and Social Care

Exam Board: Pearson Edexcel Duration: Two Years

Course Content

The Pearson BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate (360) GLH, in Health and Social Care aims to provide an introduction to the sector. It is the equivalent to ONE A level which comprises 4 units over 2 years. It is for learners who are interested in learning about the health and social care sector as part of a balanced study programme. The mandatory content of the qualification incorporates topics relevant across the health and social care sector: Mandatory content

- Human Lifespan Development (External Written exam / 1.5hrs / 90marks)
- Working in Health and Social Care (External Written exam / 1.5hrs / 80marks)
- Meeting Individual Care and Support Needs. (Internal Assignment/ Pass, Merit, Distinction)

There will also be ONE compulsory optional unit relevant to the different parts of the sector.

Optional units include:

- Sociological Perspectives
- Psychological Perspectives
- Supporting Individuals with Additional Needs
- Physiological Disorders and their Care.

Skills and Qualifications Required

In the BTEC National units there are opportunities during the teaching and learning phase to give learners practise in developing employability skills.

- GCSE English Grade 4
- GCSE Science Grade 4
- GCSE Maths Grade 4
- Cognitive and problem-solving skills: use critical thinking, approach non-routine problems applying expert and creative solutions, use systems and technology
- Intrapersonal skills: communicating, working collaboratively, negotiating and influencing, self-presentation

Assessment

Exams – 2 units which are assessed by an exam

Coursework – 2 units are assessed internally by coursework

A Pathway To...

This qualification is generally taken alongside other qualifications as part of a 2-year programme of learning. This will enable you to progress to a degree programme chosen from a range of programmes in the Health and Social Care sector. The qualification is intended to carry UCAS points and is recognised by higher education institutions as contributing to meeting admission requirements to many relevant courses. It can be taken alongside, for example:

- A Levels in Biology and Psychology, or a BTEC in Applied Science which could lead to a BSc (Hons) in Nursing. Health and Social care is a valued qualification for Nursing.
- A Levels in English and History, which could lead to a BA (Hons) in Primary Education

For More Information Speak To:

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A Level History

Exam Board: AQA Duration: Two Years

Course content

Year 12

Unit 1H: Tsarist and Communist Russia, 1855–1964

- How was Russia governed and how did political authority change and develop?
- Why did opposition develop and how effective was it?
- How and with what results did the economy develop and change?
- What was the extent of social and cultural change?
- How important were ideas and ideology?
- How important was the role of individuals and groups and how were they affected by developments

Unit 2S: The Making of Modern Britain, 1951–2007

- Never had it so good? Life under Churchill, Eden and MacMillan in the 1950s. Post-war boom, consumerism and foreign affairs (Cold War, Suez, Korea)
- White Heat. The 1960s and the Wilson government. The permissive society, devaluation of the pound, relations with America and Trade Unions
- State of Emergency/Seasons in the Sun. The end of the post-war Consensus in the 1970s. Heath, Wilson and Callaghan, and issues in Europe, Northern Ireland and at home

Year 13

Unit 1H: Tsarist and Communist Russia, 1855–1964

The emergence of Communist dictatorship, 1917–1941 (A-level only)

The Stalinist dictatorship and reaction, 1941–1964 (A-level only)

Unit 2S: The Making of Modern Britain, 1951–2007

-Who Dares Wins. The 1980s and Thatcher. Miner's Strike, Neo-Liberalism and the Falklands War

-Cool Britannia. The 1990s and Major and Blair. Black Wednesday, New Labour, Maastricht and Princess Diana

-Millennium. The 2000s, Blair's Government. The 'war on terror', multiculturalism and 7/7.

Unit 3: Non-Examined Assessment (Coursework) Tudor Rebellions

Tudor Britain Independent Research Project- with a focus on Tudor Rebellions

Skills and Qualifications Required

Studying History provides you with skills which are not confined to the study of the past. Skills of analysis are invaluable in many jobs, and the ability to analyse and then prioritise information is vital to decision making. Those wishing to study History at A Level will be required to have achieved a grade 6 or above at GCSE History. They will also need to have strong literacy skills, and so a grade 5 or above in English is required

Assessment

A Level - The course will be assessed at the end of the year with three 150-minute exam papers & non-examined coursework.

A Pathway To...

This not only provides a skill set for you but it also keeps career options open. Areas you could go into include: Law, Politics, Public sector, Business, Marketing, Journalism, Economics, Teaching, Academia.

For More Information Speak To:

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A Level Mathematics

Exam Board: EDEXCEL Duration: Two Years

Course Content

This is a 2 year Mathematics programme. A Level qualification will have linear assessment and all examinations will be taken at the end of the course. You will cover Pure and Applied Mathematics

- Pure Mathematics (algebra, geometry, sequence and calculus)
- Applied Mathematics in Mechanics and Statistics
 - Mechanics (motion, forces, moments and vectors)
 - Statistics (probability, random variables and hypothesis tests)

This course will provide you with a solid foundation required for progress to further study.

It will promote confidence, enabling you to have a better understanding of mathematical processes.

You will extend your range of mathematical skills and techniques.

You will take increasing responsibility for your own learning and evaluation of your own mathematical development.

Skills and Qualifications Required

You will be expected to have achieved a grade 7 or above at GCSE in order to be considered on the course.

Assessment

A level

Paper 1: Pure Mathematics

33%, 2 hours, 100 marks

Paper 2: Pure Mathematics

33%, 2 hours, 100 marks

Paper 3: Statistics and Mechanics

33%, 2 hours, 100 marks

A Pathway To...

Mathematics prepares you for the demands of Higher Education and work where mathematical and statistical skills are applied. For example, in Aviation, Actuary, Engineering, Natural and Life Sciences, Medicine and Health, Teaching, IT and Computers to name a few. A qualification in Mathematics is well respected by employers and Admissions Tutors for all degree subjects. On average, people with a qualification in Mathematics can be expected to earn at least 10% more in their chosen career.

For More Information Speak To:

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A Level Media

Exam Board: AQA

Duration: Two Years

Course Content

Media is a contemporary and interactive subject which encourages students to develop their creative, analytical, research, and communication skills, through exploring a range of media forms and perspectives.

Year 12

In the first year of your course you will investigate the founding aspects which make up the media framework.

Media Language

You will explore how the different modes and language associated with different media forms communicate multiple meanings. You will also learn how the combination of elements of media language influence meaning and how audiences respond to and interpret media language

Media Representations

You will discover the way events, issues, individuals (including self-representation) and social groups (including social identity) are represented through processes of selection and combination. You will investigate way media representations construct versions of reality. You will develop your skills of analysis to include representational ideas from different theorists.

Media Industries

You will learn about the processes of production, distribution and circulation by organisations, groups and individuals in a global context.

Media Audiences

You will explore how media producers target, attract, reach, address and potentially construct audiences; how audiences use media in different ways, reflecting demographic factors as well as aspects of identity and cultural capital and the way in which different audience interpretations reflect social, historical and cultural circumstances.

Year 13

In the second year of your course, you will start to look at how you can develop your own media products and complete your non exam assessment.

Society in the Media

You are encouraged to demonstrate, develop and formulate your understanding of the media and its influential role in today's society as well as debate major contemporary media issues.

Case Studies

You will be applying prior knowledge to Case Study Products within different forms of media such as music videos, gaming, magazines and advertisement.

Media Development

You will also be using creative platforms to generate your own media product, which will be targeted and distributed to a specific audience.

Skills and Qualifications Required

GCSE English Grade 4

Assessment

A level – The course will be assessed at the end of year 13 with two exam papers. There will also be one piece of coursework.

Media 1 (01) - 84 marks – 2 hours – written paper – 35%

Media 2 (02) – 84 marks – 2 hours – written paper – 35%

Non Exam Assessment (03) – 60 marks – non exam assessment – 30%

A Pathway To...

Media studies naturally leads to careers in journalism, marketing, advertising or public relations. But an awareness of how the world of media works can also support other careers, such as social work, law, medicine and education. By knowing how the media operates you'll be able to decode messages more skilfully, and engage with topics that interest you.

For More Information Speak To:

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A Level Philosophy, Ethics & New Testament Studies

Exam Board: Edexcel

Duration: Two Years

Course Content

- Component 1 Philosophy of Religion
- Component 2 Religion and Ethics
- Component 3 New Testament Studies

Year 12

C1 Philosophy of Religion

Philosophical issues and questions
The nature and influence of religious experience
Problems of evil and suffering

C2 Religion and Ethics

Significant concepts in issues and debates in religion and ethics
A study of three ethical theories
Application of ethical theories to issues of importance

C3 New Testament Studies

Social, historical and religious context of the New Testament
Texts and interpretation of the Person of Jesus
Interpreting the text and issues of relationship, purpose and authorship

Year 13

C1 Philosophy of Religion

Religious language
Works of scholars
Influences and developments in religious belief

C2 Religion and Ethics

Ethical language
Deontology, Virtue Ethics and the works of scholars
Medical ethics: beginning and end of life issues

C3 New Testament Studies

Ways of interpreting the scripture
Texts and interpretation: the Kingdom of God, conflict, the death and resurrection of Jesus
Scientific and historical- critical challenges, ethical living and the works of scholars

Skills and Qualifications Required

You need to achieve a 6 grade or higher at RS GCSE to take this course. The skills required to pass the course include being able to reflect on and deploy specified knowledge and identifying and analysing questions, while evaluating religious concepts and the views of scholars. You will need to be able to use appropriate language and terminology and communicate reasoned arguments supported by evidence both verbally and in writing.

Assessment

A Level - The course will be assessed at the end of the year with three 2 hour exam papers.

A Pathway To...

The skills that you gain from studying Religious Studies GCE are vital for continuing academic study at university as well as many professions, including Law, Journalism, the Emergency Services, Teaching, Charity Work, Social Work, Youth Work the Civil Service. Religious Studies A-level is becoming increasingly popular and is valued by the top universities in the country as a good, 'facilitating' subject.

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A Level Physics

Exam Board: OCR A Duration: Two Years

Course Content:

The A Level Physics course is a 2-year course worth a maximum of 56 UCAS points. Physics is a practical subject. The Physics course provides you with the opportunity to develop experimental methods and techniques for analysing empirical data. The course contains 5 topics, each of which contains practical skills assessments that must be passed to gain the qualification.

Foundations of physics - Understanding of physical quantities, S.I. units, scalars and vectors helps physicists to effectively communicate their ideas within the scientific community.

Forces and motion - In this module, you will learn how to model the motion of objects using mathematics, understand the effect forces have on objects, learn about the important connection between force and energy, appreciate how forces cause deformation and understand the importance of Newton's laws of motion.

Electrons, waves and photons - In this module, you will learn about electrons, electric currents, electrical circuits, wave properties, electromagnetic waves and, of course, quantum physics.

Newtonian world and astrophysics - With Newtonian mechanics we can model the microscopic motion of atoms to help us understand macroscopic quantities such as pressure and temperature. In Astrophysics we predict the motion of planets and distant galaxies and explore the intricacies of stars and the expansion of the Universe.

Particles and medical physics You will learn the basic properties of capacitors and gain a knowledge and understanding of Coulomb's law, electric fields, magnetic fields, Lenz's law and Faraday's law. In Nuclear Physics you study the atom, nucleus, fundamental particles, radioactivity, fission, and fusion. Medical imaging explains X-rays, CAT scans, PET scans and ultrasound scans

Skills and Qualifications Required

The skills you will need to develop and extend will include practical lab skills, report writing and research techniques. There will be an expectation that after each practical you will write up the investigation in full during your private study time as well as analysing and presenting data and being able to draw conclusions based on your evidence. Due to the technical nature of this subject entry requirements are grades 66 in your GCSE Sciences, one of which must be Physics if you took the triple award and a 7 for GCSE Mathematics

Assessment

Modelling physics (01) 100 marks 2hrs 15mins written paper 37% of A level

Exploring physics (02) 100 marks 2hrs 15mins written paper 37% of A level

Unified physics (03) 70 marks 1 hr 30mins written paper 26% of A level

Practical endorsement in physics (04) non exam reported separately

A Pathway To...

Physics can lead on to study of a vast range of further courses and careers such as Astrophysics, Mechanics, Engineering, Electronics and Optics. It supports applications to do other Natural Sciences (e.g., Chemistry and Biology) as well as Medicine, other medical degrees, and mathematics.

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A Level Psychology

Exam Board: AQA

Duration: Two Years

Course Content

Psychology is the scientific study of human and animal behaviour. It has feet in both the social and natural sciences. As a social science, psychology is concerned with the concepts and theories of self-perception and the way in which we interact collectively. At the other end of the spectrum, cognitive psychology is more firmly located within the biological and medical sciences—concerned with how sensory and nervous systems work, memory, the acquisition of language and evolution.

Year 12 Units

Social Influence

Looking into types of conformity, obedience to authority, minority and majority influence

Memory

Multi store model of memory, types of LTM, factors affecting eye witness testimony

Attachment

Explanations of attachment

Psychopathology

Definitions of abnormality, including deviation from social norms

Approaches in Psychology

Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of psychological concepts and theories

Research Methods

Students should demonstrate knowledge and understanding of a variety of research methods.

Year 13 Units

Biopsychology

Divisions of the nervous system, structure and function of sensory neurons

Relationships

The evolutionary explanations for partner preferences

Schizophrenia

Classification of schizophrenia, biological and psychological explanations and therapies

Forensic Psychology

Offender profiling

Biological and Psychological explanations to offender profiling.

Dealing with offending behaviour

Skills and Qualifications Required

All students must have a level 4 or above in Maths, English and Science

Assessment

A Level - The course will be assessed at the end of the year with three 2 hour exam papers.

A Pathway To...

Sports Psychologist study the psychological factors that affect participant's performance during sport, advising athletes how to enhance performance

Recruitment Consultants help to meet the recruitment needs of companies by advertising vacancies, researching suitability of applicants

Public Relations Officer manage client reputations through a variety of media communications, including press releases and social media events

Educational Psychologists assess the needs of children who are experiences behavioral and learning difficulties at school

For More Information Speak To:

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A Level Sociology

Exam Board: AQA

Duration: Two Years

Course Content

Unit 1: Education with Research Methods in Context

- The role and functions of the education system, including its relationship to the economy and to class structure
- Differential educational achievement of social groups by social class, gender and ethnicity in contemporary society
- Relationships and processes within schools, with particular reference to teacher/pupil relationships, pupil identities and subcultures, the hidden curriculum, and the organisation of teaching and learning

Unit 2: Families and Households

- The relationship of the family to the social structure and social change, with particular reference to the economy and to state policies
- Changing patterns of marriage, cohabitation, separation, divorce, childbearing and the life course, including the sociology of personal life and much more gender roles, domestic labour and power relationships within the family in contemporary society the nature of childhood, and changes in the status of children in the family and society demographic trends in the United Kingdom since 1900: birth rates, death rates, family size, life expectancy, ageing population, and migration and globalisation

Unit 3: Research Methods

- Quantitative and qualitative methods of research; research design
- Sources of data, including questionnaires, interviews, participant and non-participant observation, experiments, documents and official statistics
- The distinction between primary and secondary data, and between quantitative and qualitative data
- The relationship between positivism, interpretivism and sociological methods; the nature of 'social facts'

Unit 4: Crime and Deviance

- Crime, deviance, social order and social control
- The social distribution of crime and deviance by ethnicity, gender and social class, including recent patterns and trends in crime
- Globalisation and crime in contemporary society; the media and crime; green crime; human rights and state crimes

Unit 5: Beliefs in Society

- Ideology, science and religion, including both Christian and non-Christian religious traditions
- The relationship between social change and social stability, and religious beliefs, practices and organisations
- Religious organisations, including cults, sects, denominations, churches and New Age movements and their relationship to religious and spiritual beliefs and practice

Skills and Qualifications Required

GCSE English Grade 4

Our A Level Sociology will help you develop a range of skills that will benefit you including the use of evidence to support your arguments; how to investigate facts and use deduction; critical thinking; making reasoned arguments; developing opinions and new ideas on societal issues and the ability to analyse and better understand societal issues.

Assessment

At A Level there are three exams, each account for one third of your A Level grade. The three exams last 2 hours and are worth 80 marks each. The exams consist of a mixture of short answer and extended writing questions.

A Pathway To...

"Studying Sociology gave me a good foundation from which to improve and undertake further learning in my training to be a Probation Officer. Understanding how individuals have become involved in crime, as well as how systems and society as a whole respond to individuals who fail to abide by the law, has helped me to tailor my methods of working with offenders in order to successfully rehabilitate and reintegrate them into society."

For More Information Speak to:

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A Level Spanish

Exam Board: AQA

Duration: Two Years

Course Content

The topic areas covered include...

The Environment– Pollution, Energy and Protecting the Planet.

The Multicultural Society – Immigration, Integration and Racism.

Contemporary Social Issues – Wealth and Poverty, Law and Order and Impact of Scientific and Technology Progress.

Cultural Topics– Students choose to investigate and find out about a range of topics from a region of Spain or Latin America, a dramatist, a writer, a director, artist or musician.

Assessment

Paper 1 – Listening, Reading and Writing (2hrs and 30 mins) – 50%

• Aspects of Hispanic society • Artistic culture in the Hispanic world • Multiculturalism in Hispanic Society • Aspects of political life in Hispanic society • Grammar

Paper 2 - Writing (2hrs)- 20%

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

Paper 3 - Speaking (2hrs)- 30%

• Individual research project • One of four themes ie Aspects of Hispanic Society or Artistic Culture in the Hispanic World or Multiculturalism in Hispanic society or Aspects of political life in Hispanic society

Skills and Qualifications Required

GCSE Spanish Grade 6

A Level Spanish helps you develop confidence, effective communication skills in Spanish and a thorough understanding of the culture of countries and communities where Spanish is spoken. It develops an interest in, and enthusiasm for language learning and encourages you to consider your study of the language in a broader context.

A Pathway To...

An A Level in any Modern Foreign Language is highly thought of by universities and employers alike. It opens the doors to a very wide range of careers and you should not just think of translating or teaching, but careers such as Journalism, Law, Distribution, Sales to name a few.

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Level 3 Cambridge Technical in Sport and Physical Activity

Exam Board: OCR Duration: Two Years

Course Content

The OCR Cambridge Technical in Sport and Physical Activity is suitable for those who have an interest in sport and may wish to pursue a career in the sports industry. It is the equivalent to 1 A Level. You will be assessed internally and externally through coursework, exams and exam style tasks each graded at Pass/Merit/Distinction.

There are 3 mandatory units which are

Unit 1- Body systems and the effects of Physical Activity

Unit 2- Sports Coaching and Activity Leadership

Unit 3- Sport Organisation and Development

Plus 1 Optional unit based upon the strengths of the students.

Unit 8 Organisation of Sports Event / Unit 18 Practical Activity in Sport and Physical Activities / Unit 19 Sport and Exercise Psychology

Skills and Qualifications Required

GCSE PE – Grade 5 or above. The theory element of the GCSE PE must also be a 4 or higher.

OCR Cambridge National in Sport Studies / Science – Merit or higher

BTEC in Sport – Merit or higher.

GCSE Science Grade 44

Good practical sporting background competing at school level or higher.

A genuine interest in all aspects of sport.

The majority of the course will be theoretical so do not choose this course because you want to do practical sporting performance each lesson.

Independent learning – much of the course is coursework based and there is an expectation that you will complete work at home and in study periods as well as during timetabled lessons.

Further research and reading – in order to achieve on this course, you will be required to develop your knowledge in areas surrounding the units you are taught

Assessment

Exams – 2 units which are assessed by an exam

Coursework – Units are assessed internally by coursework

A Pathway To...

- University Entry - Higher Education. The majority of universities in the UK recognise BTEC's alongside the traditional A-Level courses.
- Employment in the Sports Industry.
- A basis to progress to other industry-recognised qualifications.

This is what is currently offered dependent on numbers and strengths of students applying.

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BTEC Level 3 Uniform Protective Services

Exam Board: Pearson Edexcel Duration: Two Years

Course Content

The Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Uniformed Protective Services course is a two year course that is equivalent to 1 A Level. The course is worth 360 credits which are both coursework and exam-based units. The course is made up of 4 units, two of which are mandatory units and one is external. Coursework content (67%). External assessment (33%). This Qualification is designed to support learners who are interested in learning about the uniformed protective services sector. It gives you a broad basis of study, designed to support progression to higher education.

Mandatory:

- Behaviour and Discipline in the Uniformed Protective Services
- Teamwork, Leadership and Communication in the Uniformed Protective Services

Examples of optional units:

- Skills for Outdoor Activities and the Uniformed Protective Services
- Expedition Skills
- Introduction to Criminology
- Police Powers and the Law
- Professional Development in the Uniformed Protective Services

Skills and Qualifications Required

- GCSE English Grade 4
- A genuine interest in all aspects of the Protective Services.
- The majority of the course will be theoretical so you must be prepared to complete the coursework and exam.
- Independent learning – Much of the course is coursework based and there is an expectation that you will complete work at home and in study periods as well as during timetabled lessons.
- Further research and reading – In order to achieve on this course you will be required to develop your

Assessment

Coursework – Three of the units are assessed internally by coursework which add up to 240 credits

Exam- This is assessed externally by the exam board and totals 120 credits

A Pathway To...

- University Entry - Higher Education. The majority of universities in the UK recognise BTEC's alongside the traditional A Level courses.
- Employment in the Public Services Industry.
- A basis to progress to other industry-recognised qualifications.

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