



# A Level Art, Craft and Design

**Exam Board: AQA      Duration: Two Years**

## Course content

Art and Design is a comprehensive course crucial to developing a student's creativity, critical thinking, and visual communication skills. The course encourages independent thought and personal expression, making it essential for those aspiring to careers in creative fields

You will be introduced to a variety of two-dimensional and three-dimensional media, processes, and techniques, encompassing both traditional and new media. You will explore drawing for different purposes using various methods and scales, supported by sketchbooks or journals. Additionally, you will investigate relevant images, artefacts, and resources from diverse art, craft, and design traditions, both historical and contemporary, including European and non-European examples.

There are four assessment objectives to be demonstrated in the context of the content and skills presented.

The process of creating artwork is as important as the process.

You will explore critical and contextual work through a range of two-dimensional and/or three-dimensional processes and media.

## Areas of study

### Component 1: Personal Investigation (60%)

- A practical investigation supported by written material (1,000–3,000 words).
- Students choose their own theme, idea or issue to explore.
- Must include:
  - Research and development of ideas.
  - Connections to artists, designers, or craftspeople (past or contemporary).
  - A final outcome or series of outcomes showing clear creative progression.
- The written element explains creative decisions, demonstrates understanding of influences, and uses appropriate specialist vocabulary.
- Both practical and written work are assessed together against all four assessment objectives.

### Component 2: Externally Set Assignment (40%)

- Exam paper released **1 February** with **eight starting points** – students choose one.
- **Preparatory period:** time to research, plan and develop ideas.
- **Supervised time: 15 hours** to produce a final outcome (first 3 hours consecutive).
- Preparatory and exam work are assessed together against all four objectives.

## Skills and Qualifications Required

GCSE English Grade 5

GCSE Art Grade 6 or if not studied Art at GCSE a comprehensive portfolio must be provided

## A Pathway To...

Art naturally leads to careers such as artist, creative director, photographer, marketing and many more. However, this can also support careers in education, theatre, architecture and many more. Having an understanding of how to be creative as well as developing a project independently and having strong time management skills will be desirable in any career.

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# A Level Biology

**Exam Board: AQA      Duration: Two Years**

## Course content

### Year 12

#### Unit 1—Biological Molecules

You 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

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

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

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

You will look at the process of how genes are passed on and the mechanism for genetic mutations> You will explore topics such as cancer, recombinant DNA technology, 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

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# A Level Chemistry

**Exam Board: OCR A      Duration: Two Years**

## Course content

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 mechanics 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.

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)).

## Skills and Qualifications Required

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.

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# A Level English Literature

**Exam Board: AQA A      Duration: Two Years**

## Course content

The A Level English Literature course offers an approach to the study of literature with a focus on texts through a period of time and themes as seen over time. The course focuses on different ways of reading and the connections that exist between texts within a theme or time period. 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 - 'Love through the ages'

The aim of this topic area is to encourage students to explore aspects of a central literary theme as seen over time, using unseen material and set texts.

Areas that can be explored include: romantic love of many kinds; love and sex; love and loss; social conventions and taboos; love through the ages according to history and time; love through the ages according to individual lives (young love, maturing love); jealousy and guilt; truth and deception; proximity and distance; marriage; approval and disapproval.

### Year 13 - 'Texts in shared contexts - Modern times: literature from 1945 to the present day'

The aim of this topic area is to encourage students to explore aspects of literature connected through a period of time.

Areas that can be explored include: wars and the legacy of wars; personal and social identity; changing morality and social structures; gender, class, race and ethnicity; political upheaval and change; resistance and rebellion; imperialism, post-imperialism and nationalism; engagement with the social, political, personal and literary issues which have helped to shape the latter half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and the early decades of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

### Independent critical study: texts across time

This component allows students to read widely, and to choose their own texts. In Texts across time, students write a comparative critical study of two texts on a theme of their choice.

## 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

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 one 2,500 word essay.

## 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.

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# A Level Further Mathematics

**Exam Board: EDEXCEL    Duration: Two Years**

## Course content

A-Level Further Mathematics is a course that builds on the A-Level Mathematics course and is designed for students who are passionate about mathematics and want to study it further. The course is more in-depth and broader than A-Level Mathematics and covers a range of topics mathematical development.

## Paper 1 & Paper 2: Core Pure Mathematics (Compulsory)

These two papers together cover the *Core Pure* content of the Further Mathematics specification.

Below is a summary of the key topics and ideas students are expected to learn.

- Proof
- Complex numbers
- Matrices
- Further algebra & functions
- Further calculus
- Further vectors
- Polar coordinates
- Hyperbolic functions
- Differential equations

The core papers are *synoptic*, meaning questions may combine or draw upon multiple areas of the core content.

## Paper 3: Further Pure 1

This paper extends on the pure mathematics content covered in the core, pushing into deeper and more advanced pure topics.

Some of the additional topics / techniques include:

- Further integration techniques
- Applications of these integration techniques in more complex contexts.
- Inequalities and inequations, including algebraic inequalities, modulus inequalities, and more complex inequality solving.

## Paper 4: Further Mechanics 1

This optional mechanics paper develops mechanics topics further than a standard mathematics A-level would.

Key content includes:

- Kinematics / dynamics of particles
- Use of differential equations in mechanics for motion models.
- Problem solving involving forces, energy methods, and motion in more complex contexts.

## Skills and Qualifications Required

You are expected to achieve a grade 8 or higher in GCSE Mathematics **and** a grade 7 or above in Further Mathematics. If you have not taken Further Mathematics, a grade 9 in GCSE Mathematics is required.

## Assessment

All papers are a 1 hour and 30 minutes written examination.

## A Pathway To...

Through the study of A-Level Further Mathematics there are many career pathways which are available to students including going onto University to study for a degree in Mathematics, Dentistry, Medicine, Sciences, Engineering, Architecture, Accountancy, Project Management, Optometry and Sports Science

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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:** Coastal systems and landscape

**Section C:** Ecosystems under stress

## Component 2: Human Geography

**Section A:** Global systems and global governance

**Section B:** Changing places

**Section C:** Population and the environment

## 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 the you relating to any part of the specification content. This currently includes a two-night residential fieldwork in Southwold, Suffolk and a day visit to Carding Mill in Shropshire.

## Skills and Qualifications Required

GCSE Geography Grade 5

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.

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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

The Stalinist dictatorship and reaction, 1941–1964

#### 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) Ancient Rome

What was the greatest threat to the Julio-Claudian emperors?

## 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

The course will be assessed at the end of the year with three 150-minute exam papers and 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.

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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

**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.

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# A Level Media Studies

**Exam Board: AQA      Duration: Two Years**

## Course content

### 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

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.

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# A Level Music

**Exam Board: OCR    Duration: Two Years**

## Course content

A Level in Music provides a creative and integrated approach to the three main elements of music: performing, composing and appraising. Students explore a wide variety of genres, styles and eras to help them develop their knowledge and skills of performance and composition.

Students study at least four out of six areas of study: areas 1 and 2, and at least two more from 3—6:

- Area of study 1: Instrumental music of Haydn, Mozart and Beethoven
- Area of study 2: Popular song: blues, jazz, swing and big band
- Area of study 3: Developments in instrumental jazz, 1910 to the present day
- Area of study 4: Religious music of the baroque period
- Area of study 5: Programme music, 1820—1910
- Area of study 6: Innovations in music, 1900 to the present day.

## Component 01/02: Performing

Students perform at least two contrasting pieces. They make use of musical elements, techniques and resources to interpret and communicate musical ideas with technical and expressive control and an understanding of style and context. The pieces may relate to one or more of the areas of study.

## Component 03/04: Composing

Students make use of musical elements, techniques and resources to create and develop musical ideas with technical control and expressive understanding. They produce at least two compositions:

- A composition in response to a set brief from OCR
- A composition in response to a brief set by the student

## Component 05: Listening and appraising

Through the investigation and in-depth study of the large variety of music contained in the areas of study, students develop their knowledge and understanding of the interrelated elements, language and contexts of music.

## Skills and Qualifications Required

A Grade 6 or above in Music at GCSE.

To be at least Grade 4 standard on chosen instrument/voice.

Be an active member of a Music Ensemble (inside or outside of school).

Have a passion for developing a wide range of musical tastes.

## A Pathway To...

A-Level Music, as well as musical ability, is highly regarded by universities. It can lead to a wide range of university studies and career opportunities; music performance, composition, music production, and musicology, as well as broader areas such as music therapy, arts management, and sound engineering. Beyond music-specific courses, it also provides a strong foundation for studies in education, media, and even law or business, where skills in communication, analysis, and creativity are highly valued.

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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 Politics

**Exam Board: EDEXCEL      Duration: Two Years**

## Course content

Politics is a dynamic and ever-changing changing subject which encourages students to critique the world around them with carefully informed political insights. Throughout the course, students will develop critical thinking, analysis, and essay writing skills which will be invaluable to them in their future studies and later their careers.

### Year 12

#### Component 1 - UK Politics and Core Political Ideas

You will explore how people and politics interact, focusing on the UK's democratic system. You'll examine:

- direct and indirect democracy,
- the role of political parties,
- the importance of election manifestos, and
- how individuals engage with the state and society.

You will study the core principles of conservatism, liberalism, and socialism. You will examine how these ideas relate to human nature, the state, society, and the economy, including internal divisions and key thinkers.

#### Component 2 – UK Government and Non-Core Political Ideas

The UK Government section covers four main content areas:

1. The Constitution,
2. Parliament,
3. The Prime Minister and executive, and
4. The relationships between the branches of government.

Additionally, you will explore one of five optional non-core political ideas and how they apply in practice to human nature, the state, society and the economy, the divisions within each idea and their key thinkers.

### Year 13

#### Component 3 – Comparative Politics (Global Politics)

Global politics helps you understand major global challenges—like terrorism, poverty, and climate change—that require international cooperation. You will explore political activity on local to global levels, using real-world examples and case studies. You will study liberalism and realism, engage in debate, and examine six key areas:

1. The state and globalisation
2. Political and economic global governance
3. Human rights and environmental global governance
4. Power and developments
5. Regionalism and the EU
6. Comparative theories.

## Skills and Qualifications Required

GCSE English Grade 5

## Assessment

Component 1 – 84 marks – 2 hours – written paper – 33.3%

Component 2 – 84 marks – 2 hours – written paper – 33.3%

Component 3 – 84 marks – 2 hours – written paper – 33.3%

## A Pathway To...

Politics can of course lead to careers in politics, government and public services. But the transferrable skills like critical thinking, communication, argumentation, and analysis can also be useful in other careers, such as law, media and journalism, non-governmental work and academia. By having an awareness of how government and politics work you'll be able to understand policy that can have impacts in a variety of sectors and make you an asset to any career you may choose.

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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 & interpretation of the Person of Jesus
- Interpreting the text & issues of relationship, purpose & authorship

### Year 13

#### C1 Philosophy of Religion

- Philosophical 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

A minimum of grade 6 in GCSE Religious Studies is required. Students should be able to reflect on and apply knowledge, analyse questions, evaluate religious concepts and scholars' views, and communicate reasoned arguments using appropriate terminology.

## Assessment

The course is assessed 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 'facilitating' subject.

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**Mrs J Sleight** Email: [jsleight@tbcn.nor.olicatschools.org](mailto:jsleight@tbcn.nor.olicatschools.org)



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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 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 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 & crime in contemporary society; the media & crime; green crime; human rights & state crimes

### Unit 5: The Media

- The new media and their significance for an understanding of the role of the media in contemporary society
- The processes of selection and presentation of the content of the news
- Media representations of age, social class, ethnicity, gender, sexuality and disability

## Skills and Qualifications Required

GCSE English Grade 5 and/or a GCSE Sociology Grade 6.

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

## Assessment

Three 2 hour exams worth 80 marks each, consisting 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 to rehabilitate and reintegrate them into society."

**For More Information Speak To:** **Mr J Brothers Email:** [jbrothers@tbc.nor.olicatschools.org](mailto:jbrothers@tbc.nor.olicatschools.org)  
**Miss A Steven Email:** [asteven@tbc.nor.olicatschools.org](mailto:asteven@tbc.nor.olicatschools.org)





# A Level Spanish

**Exam Board: EDEXCEL Duration: Two Years**

## Course content

Theme 1: La evolución de la sociedad española - set in the context of Spain only. This theme covers social issues and trends.

Theme 2: La cultura política y artística en el mundo hispanohablante - s set in the context of Spanish-speaking countries and communities. This theme covers artistic culture (through music and festivals and traditions) and political and artistic culture (through media).

Theme 3: La inmigración y la sociedad multicultural española - Theme 3 is set in the context of Spain only. This theme covers social issues and trends.

Theme 4: La dictadura franquista y la transición a la democracia - Theme 4 is set in the context of Spain only. This theme covers political culture.

## Assessments:

### Paper 1 – Listening, Reading and Writing (2hrs) – 40% - 80 marks

This paper draws on vocabulary and structures across all four themes. Themes are based on the society and culture of the language being studied and are listed on pages 8–9 of the specification.

### Paper 2 – Written response to works and translation (2hrs and 40 mins)- 30% - 120 marks

This paper draws on the study of two discrete Spanish works: either two literary texts, or one literary text and one film. The works must be taken from the list provided in Appendix 2: Prescribed literary texts and films. The literary texts listed include a range of novels, novellas, short stories and plays. All of the films are feature length.

### Paper 3 - Speaking (between 21 and 23 minutes)- 30% - 72 marks

Task 1 (discussion on a Theme) discussion on one theme from the specification based on a stimulus containing two different statements.

Task 2, Part 1 (independent research presentation) presentation on a summary of at least two of the written sources used for the research and a personal response to what has been read.

Task 2, Part 2 (discussion on independent research) answer questions on the presentation followed by a wider discussion on the research

## Skills and Qualifications Required

GCSE Spanish Grade 7

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.

**For More Information Speak To: Mr A Dumitru Email: [adumitru@tbcn.nor.olicatschools.org](mailto:adumitru@tbcn.nor.olicatschools.org)**



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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 4

GCSE Maths 4

The course will help develop a range of skills including using critical thinking to examine society; analysing case studies; making reasoned arguments; developing opinions on societal issues & the ability to 'think outside the box'.

## 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 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 will support further studies in Law, Politics, Social Work, Psychology and Sociology. The transferrable skills gained can aid you not just academically, but provide a heightened awareness of society.

For More Information Speak To: **Mr J Brothers** Email: [jbrothers@tbcs.nor.olicatschools.org](mailto:jbrothers@tbcs.nor.olicatschools.org)

**Miss A Steven** Email: [asteven@tbcs.nor.olicatschools.org](mailto:asteven@tbcs.nor.olicatschools.org)





# Level 3 Applied Science AAQ

Exam Board: Pearson E Duration: Two Years

## Course content

An AAQ 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.

Students must complete 4 mandatory units and 1 optional unit.

**Mandatory units** – students complete all units.

- 1 Principles and Applications of Biology External
- 2 Principles and Applications of Chemistry 60 External
- 3 Principles and Applications of Physics External
- 4 Practical Scientific Procedures and Techniques Internal

**Optional units** – students complete one unit.

- 5 Science Investigation Skills Internal
- 6 Contemporary issues in Science Internal

## Skills and Qualifications Required

GCSE Science Grades 4+

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

**Exams** – 3 units which are assessed by an exam

**Coursework** – 1 unit which is assessed internally by coursework and 1 unit which is assessed by a practical

## 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 Speak To: Mr O’Modede Email: [oomedede@tbcs.nor.olicatschools.org](mailto:oomedede@tbcs.nor.olicatschools.org)**



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# BTEC Level 3 Business

**Exam Board: Pearson EDEXCEL Duration: Two Years**

## Course content

This course 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

GCSE Maths Grade 4

The ability to:

- conduct primary and secondary research, whilst being reflective, selective and critical about the information.
- use IT and presentation skills to complete coursework
- plan workload and meet deadlines

## Assessment

The course will be assessed throughout the 2 years with a grade for each unit, which will be totalled for a final grade. There is 1 exam that is written, 2 coursework units and a 3 hour controlled assessment.

## 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.

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# BTEC Level 3 3D Design

**Exam Board: Pearson EDEXCEL Duration: Two Years**

## Course content

This course on 3D design provides a comprehensive exploration of various materials, techniques, and processes essential for creating three-dimensional works. You will be introduced to a wide range of materials such as card, polymers, timbers, metal, and 3D design software, allowing you to understand their properties and applications. The course then delves into numerous techniques and processes, including modelling, thermoforming, sublimation printing, mould making, 3D printing, and welding, equipping you with practical skills. You will generate and develop ideas in response to a brief, using both 2D and 3D techniques like mind mapping, sketching, and model making. The course culminates in the creation and presentation of a final 3D piece, followed by a reflective evaluation of the materials, techniques, and processes used, encouraging continuous improvement and innovation in their design practice. You will generate a professional portfolio containing all your drawn and printed outcomes ready for the next stage in your design pathway.

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

- Managing a client brief
- Professional practice in design
- Developing & Realising Creative Intentions
- Explore 3D design materials, techniques and processes
- Apply 3D design materials, techniques and processes to a brief
- Review and reflect on 3D design materials, techniques and processes
- Experiment with the stages and activities within the creative process to develop own working practice

## Skills and Qualifications Required

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

## Assessment

This course features two internally-assessed units and two externally assessed units.

The styles of external assessment used are:

- performance – learners prepare for assessment over an extended window and demonstrate skills that generate some non-written evidence
- set tasks – learners take the assessment during a defined window and demonstrate understanding through completion of a vocational task

## A Pathway To...

Art & Design is useful for entry lead to all disciplines in Design. Further progression is often within the areas of Graphic Design, Advertising Design, Product design, Fashion Design, Interior Design, Architecture, Stage and Costume design, User experience design, Industrial design, TV, Jewellery Design, Curatorship 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.

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# BTEC Level 3 Uniformed 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

### Selected Optional Units:

- Introduction to Criminology
- 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 knowledge in areas surrounding the units you are taught

## Assessment

Internally-assessed units – Three of the units are assessed internally by coursework which add up to 240 credits  
Externally-assessed unit – This is assessed externally by the exam board and totals 120 credits. This unit is Behaviour and Discipline in the Uniformed Protective Services

## 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 Protective Services Industry, such as the Police, the Army and healthcare.

A basis to progress to other industry-recognised qualifications.

**For More Information Speak To: Mrs G Walsh Email: [gwalsh@tbc.s.nor.olicatschools.org](mailto:gwalsh@tbc.s.nor.olicatschools.org)**



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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 students with an interest in sport who may wish to pursue a career in the sports industry. It is equivalent to one A Level. You will be assessed through a combination of coursework, examinations, and exam-style tasks, with each unit graded at Pass, Merit, or Distinction.

### There are three mandatory units:

- **Unit 1** – Body Systems and the Effects of Physical Activity
- **Unit 2** – Sports Coaching and Activity Leadership
- **Unit 3** – Sport Organisation and Development

In addition, you will complete **two optional units** based on the strengths and interests of the students. Possible options include:

- **Unit 8** – Organisation of a Sports Event
- **Unit 18** – Practical Skills in Sport and Physical Activities
- **Unit 19** – Sport and Exercise Psychology
- **Unit 20** – Sport and Exercise Sociology

## Skills and Qualifications Required

- GCSE PE – Grade 4 or above (theory element must also be a 4 or higher)
- OCR Cambridge National in Sport Studies or Sport Science – Merit or higher
- BTEC in Sport – Merit or higher
- GCSE Science – Grade 4 or above
- A good practical sporting background, ideally competing at school level or higher
- A genuine interest in all aspects of sport

### Please note:

- The majority of the course is theoretical. Do not choose this subject solely because you want to take part in practical performance lessons.
- Independent learning is essential — much of the course is coursework-based, and you will be expected to complete work at home and during study periods.
- You should be prepared to carry out further research and reading to develop your understanding of the topics covered.

## Assessment

- **Examinations** – 2 units are externally assessed by exams
- **Coursework** – Remaining units are internally assessed

## A Pathway To...

- University entry – Higher Education (the majority of UK universities recognise Cambridge Technicals and BTECs alongside traditional A Levels)
- Employment within the sports industry
- Progression to other industry-recognised qualifications

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# Level 3 Health and Social Care AAQ

**Exam Board: Cambridge OCR Duration: Two Years**

## Course content

The OCR AAQ Level 3 Cambridge Advanced National (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 6 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:

- Principles of Health and Social Care (External Written exam / 1.5hrs)
- Anatomy & Physiology for Health and Social Care (External Written exam / 1.5hrs)
- Person centred approach to care (Controlled Assessment/ Pass, Merit, Distinction)
- Supporting People with Mental Health Conditions (Controlled Assessment/ Pass, Merit, Distinction)

There will also be TWO compulsory optional units relevant to the different parts of the sector.

### Optional units include:

- Supporting People with Long Term Physiological Conditions (Controlled Assessment/ Pass, Merit, Distinction)
- Supporting People in relation to Sexual Health, Pregnancy and Postnatal Health

## 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** – 4 units are assessed internally by coursework/controlled assessments

## 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

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