

GUILDFORD
HIGH SCHOOL

SENIOR SCHOOL

2024 - 2026

SIXTH FORM COURSES



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KEY SIXTH FORM INFORMATION

WELCOME TO THE SIXTH FORM

The Sixth Form is an exciting time, full of opportunity, new experiences and enjoyment. With a vast array of extracurricular activities available, you will find take on more of a leadership role, develop your independence and act as a role model to the younger students. Support, guidance and encouragement are available as you navigate your way through A Level courses and Higher Education choices.

This booklet is designed to provide you with information about the subjects that are on offer in the Sixth Form. Whilst we are an academically outstanding Sixth Form, we believe there is so much more to life in Morton House and so we hope that this booklet also gives you a small insight into what else is on offer.



TAKING A LEAD

From the Trinity Term of Lower Sixth there are numerous positions of responsibility open to the year group. These are incredibly diverse – students in positions of responsibility may find themselves organising large-scale school events such as the popular Assassins competition, chairing committees such as School Council or the Green Team Committee, running charity events like the Macmillan Coffee Morning, easing younger pupils into the start of their time at GHS as Year 7 Prefects, or taking a lead in one of the school sports as a Sports Captain. Sixth formers may also help staff run academic clubs for younger pupils (e.g. Year 7 Book Club).





Sixth Form Curriculum



ALL PUPILS WILL TAKE THREE A LEVELS, FROM THE FOLLOWING (ALL 8 PERIODS PER WEEK (PPW):

- Art and Design
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Classical Civilisation
- Computer Science
- Design and Technology: Fashion and Textiles
- Design and Technology: Product Design
- Drama and Theatre Studies
- Economics
- English Language and Literature
- English Literature
- French
- Geography
- German
- Greek
- History
- Latin
- Mathematics
- Music
- Philosophy, Religion and Ethics
- Physical Education
- Physics
- Politics
- Psychology
- Spanish

(A very small number of pupils may wish to take four full A Levels from this list)

ADDITIONAL COMPULSORY TIMETABLE PERIODS ARE:

- ASPIRE (1 ppw)
- Sixth Form Games (2 ppw)
- General Studies joint with RGS (2 ppw)

A timetable of between roughly 26 and 32 academic ppw (from a maximum of 35) in the Lower Sixth tends to be suitable for most of our pupils.

LEADING TO A FULL FOURTH A LEVEL OVER TWO YEARS (4PPW IN LOWER SIXTH, 7PPW IN UPPER SIXTH)

- Further Mathematics

ENRICHMENT SUBJECTS EXAMINED AT THE END OF THE LOWER SIXTH – ONE YEAR OPTIONS:

- The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) (3 ppw)
- AS Thinking Skills (3 ppw)
- GCSE Astronomy (4 ppw)
- Grade 8 Music Theory (2 ppw)
- ESB Level 3 Award in Debating (2 ppw)
- AS Level subjects (8ppw):
 - Biology
 - Chemistry
 - Computer Science
 - Drama and Theatre Studies
 - French
 - German
 - Greek
 - Latin
 - Physics
 - Spanish

ENRICHMENT SUBJECTS EXAMINED AT THE END OF THE UPPER SIXTH – TWO YEAR OPTIONS:

- GCSE Portuguese (3 ppw)

UCAS TARIFF POINTS TABLE

A LEVEL	AS LEVEL (NOT INCLUDING THINKING SKILLS)	EPQ	GRADE 8 MUSIC THEORY	ESB LEVEL 3 AWARD IN DEBATING
A* 56	A 20	A* 28	Distinction 10	Distinction 12
A 48	B 16	A 24	Merit 9	Merit 8
B 40	C 12	B 20	Pass 8	Pass 4
C 32	D 10	C 16		
D 24	E 6	D 12		
E 16		E 8		

The main purpose of the UCAS Tariff is for universities to report data to government bodies. Moreover, some universities refer to UCAS points in their entry requirements.

HOW DO I DECIDE?

If you have a particular university course in mind, look on the university website to see whether there are specific subject requirements in order to study that course. If a course requires you to study a subject that you do not really want to study, perhaps that is not the right course for you.

Consider which subjects you enjoy most: you will spend two years studying the subject in depth and you are likely to achieve most success if you enjoy it. The lessons you attend on the Sixth Form Taster Day may help you decide what you might enjoy.

Play to your strengths: A Level work is considerably more challenging than GCSE and your university entry will depend upon high grades, so ensure that you are giving yourself the best chance of success.

Inform yourself as much as possible about the content of the course and how it is assessed. Speak to teachers of the subject and to students in older years who study the subject. This is particularly appropriate for subjects that are taught only in the Sixth Form.

Speak to a member of the Careers and Higher Education team based in the Careers Room, comprising Dr Boyd, Dr Laurie and Mr Hadfield, or a member of the Sixth Form team, which comprises Miss Sloan, Mr Martin and Miss Greenway, or Deputy Heads Mr Peel and Mr Saunders, or Director of Studies Mrs Arola.

ENHANCING THE CURRICULUM

Your A Level courses will enable you to study subjects in great depth and provide an excellent grounding for your ongoing education. The Sixth Form at GHS offers opportunities to expand and enhance the learning which will form the core of your A Level studies, coupled with guidance and support to help you to achieve your goals.

HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAREERS

Throughout your time in the Sixth Form at GHS, you will benefit from a structured Higher Education and Careers programme, as well as one-to-one advice on your future choices from the Higher Education and Careers department. You will have an interview after Christmas with a member of the Senior Management Team, the Sixth Form team or Mrs Arola to discuss your subject choices, but you are welcome to start talking to the Higher Education and Careers department before and after that! Dr Boyd is the Director of Higher Education and Careers, and is always available for a chat.

GHS has a strong track record in helping its students to secure places at highly selective universities. Approximately 15-20% of an average GHS year group receives offers from Oxford and Cambridge and significant numbers go to Durham, Exeter and Bristol. Other common destinations are University College London, London School of Economics, Imperial College London, St Andrews and Warwick. It is becoming increasingly common amongst GHS students to apply to universities overseas. The school gives individual support to students in this application process. What matters to us most is not where you go or what you study, but that you go somewhere you really like, in order to study something in which you are truly interested. We do not mind what your aspirations are; we simply want to help you achieve them!

How do we do this? We provide a structured UCAS programme, interview practice, departmental university “subject lunches”, departmental reading groups and seminars, information on OneNote and, of course, the unwavering support of the whole Sixth Form team and Higher Education and Careers department. You will get help every step of the way.

Finally, look out for Careers events on offer throughout the school year – they are advertised through our regular Careers Bulletin. It may seem like a long time until you have to start work but it is never too early to start finding out about all the jobs you could do. We regularly invite parents, alumni and other contacts in to talk, so make the most of these opportunities.



ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Academic enrichment is a key pillar of Sixth Form life. In the Lower Sixth the weekly enrichment lesson aims to introduce students to new ideas and approaches to study, including a book project, based on Orwell's *Animal Farm*, which students will discuss in seminars and discussion groups before having a summative lecture on the book. The Lower Sixth join with the Upper Sixth for the Sixth Form Symposium, a series of short lectures by staff and students which are designed to intrigue and enthuse students about subjects that lie outside of their A Level studies. Lower Sixth students will also undertake work to develop their presentation skills

In the Upper Sixth, students engage in university-style thematic seminars and lectures on a range of topics to help prepare them for university life, whilst giving them an insight into a range of topical issues and concepts.

Subject Enrichment

In the Lent and Trinity Terms the Lower Sixth attend subject specific sessions aimed to allow them the opportunity to explore their subjects beyond the curriculum with the aim of developing potential university interests. These sessions continue into the Michaelmas Term of the Upper Sixth, when they are tailored to support university applications. These department enrichment sessions play an important role in preparing students for the academic challenge of university life.

Oracy in the Sixth Form

We provide the Sixth Form with the opportunity to develop their Oracy skills through a range of activities and competitions. In January we run an annual, two-week long, Lower Sixth inter-form debating competition. In addition to this, the Lower Sixth can participate in the GHS Oratory competition and both year groups are able to compete in ARTiculation. Finally, the winners of the Upper Sixth Singer Independent Research Project also have the opportunity to present their research at the annual Singer Symposium.

GENERAL STUDIES

An enjoyable and informative General Studies programme is run in conjunction with the Royal Grammar School, Guildford. There are more than 40 courses on offer. Subjects include discussion-based current affairs groups, creative courses such as song writing and music production, cupcake decorating and flower design and practical courses such as car maintenance, giving students the chance to acquire interesting new skills. Courses are selected by the students from both Sixth Forms and are run by staff at both schools.

General Studies also incorporates outside speakers. In recent years, speakers have included the eminent historian David Olusoga talking on Britain's Black history and Alex Owumi, a professional basketball player, who spoke about getting caught in the Libyan uprising.



SO MUCH MORE...

Of course, Sixth Form at GHS is not all about work! Sixth Form life is an exciting and diverse mix of opportunities to develop your teamwork and leadership skills and have fun in the process. Many students continue with at least some of their current extracurricular activities, but there are also opportunities specific to the Sixth Form:

- **Pantomime and Fashion Show** – experiencing the challenge of running large-scale events, leading younger pupils, using your creative vision, managing budgets, working with GHS staff to produce fantastic events.
- **The online school newspaper** – you could join the editorial team or write articles, or both.
- **European Youth Parliament competition** – a debating competition we have won on several occasions. GHS teams have represented the UK at international level in countries such as Portugal and Norway.
- **Model United Nations** – an academic competition in which students can learn about diplomacy, international relations, and the United Nations.
- **Peter Jones Tycoon Scheme** – a great opportunity for students to create their own business venture.
- **Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award** – usually over 30 students opt to complete this. Expeditions and training days are to Dartmoor, the Brecon Beacons and Snowdonia. The weather can be challenging, but the experience is rewarding!
- **The Sixth Form expedition** - run on an annual basis. Recent expeditions have been to Laos in 2018, Zambia in 2019 and Cambodia in 2022 and Tanzania in 2024 focusing on exploring the country and completing a charity-based project.

SIXTH FORM ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- A minimum of seven GCSE grades 9-7, including English Language and Mathematics.
- Grade 9 or 8 in subjects being studied in the sixth form. To study A-level Economics, grade 9 or 8 in Maths is required; to study A-level Politics, grade 9 or 8 in History or English Literature is required; to study A-level Classical Civilisation, grade 7 or higher in a humanity or English Literature is required; to study AS or A-level Psychology, grade 7 or higher in Biology or Double Award Science is required.
- To study A-levels in Mathematics, Physics or Chemistry, grade 9 in the subject(s) at GCSE is strongly recommended.
- To study A-level Further Mathematics, grade 9 at GCSE Mathematics is required. Grade 9 or 8 in AQA Level 2 Certificate in Further Mathematics is strongly recommended.



MUSIC AND DRAMA

Sixth Formers play a key role in the many instrumental ensembles and choirs, and there are many concerts and services over the course of a school year. The GHS & RGS Joint Chamber Choir makes frequent visits to sing Choral Evensong at Cathedrals and Oxbridge College Chapels including, in the past few years, St Paul's Cathedral and Westminster Abbey; Winchester, Chichester, St Albans, Rochester, and Guildford Cathedrals; and the Oxbridge college chapels of Merton, Keble (Oxford), Queens', Clare, and Trinity (Cambridge). The three orchestras and three bands perform at two major concerts each year; and the Senior Chamber Choir performs at other school concerts, Prize Giving at G Live and the Commemoration Service at Holy Trinity Church. All five choirs Senior School choirs

sing at the Carol Service at Guildford Cathedral and the upper school choirs sing at a biennial large-scale choral/orchestral concert at G Live, in collaboration with the RGS. Joint musicals are staged with the RGS involving a cast from both school and from a number of years groups. Soloists of all ages and experience are encouraged to perform at the Informal Concerts (usually November and February) and Music Scholars put on lunchtime concerts at Holy Trinity Church in the Michaelmas and Lent terms. The smaller ensembles also have the opportunity to showcase their talent at the Chamber Concert in February. The academic year usually ends with a European tour, jointly with musicians from RGS.

In the Drama department this year we are staging two Senior School Drama productions of *Chaos* by Laura Lomas in December, and the RGS/GHS Joint Musical, *Oliver!*, will be staged at The Royal Grammar School in March 2024. Sixth form students are encouraged to audition and participate both on and back stage.



SPORT IN THE SIXTH FORM

While many students continue to play competitive school sports, representing GHS at the highest level, the activities on offer through timetabled lessons broaden to allow you to try new things and find sports you will enjoy long after you leave school. The well-equipped fitness suite is also available for you to use.

Sports available include:

- Badminton
- Football
- Golf
- Ice-skating
- Squash
- Swimming
- Tennis
- Trampolining
- Yoga
- Zumba



SIXTH FORM CURRICULUM & SPECIFICATIONS

ART AND DESIGN (EDEXCEL)

The Art Department has the expertise and facilities to teach a broad Fine Art A Level course. The Art A Level allows students to explore ideas through practical application and intellectual thought. Our A Level studio enables students to have the opportunity and freedom to execute their concepts in a visually stimulating environment and to work at a dedicated space that remains their own for the two-year course.

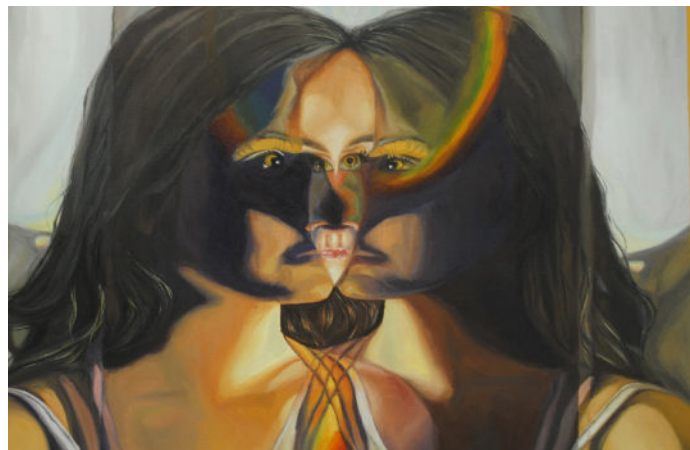
Art students experience a multitude of disciplines. We have a specialized area for screen-printing, a printing press, a separate kiln room for ceramics, our own art library, as well as resources for digital work and photography. Our studio can accommodate large-scale work and installation. Students can opt to work in a variety of media, allowing for creativity and independent study.

We offer the linear A Level course where students develop and refine their artistic skills over two years. As the course progresses students pursue more personal areas of interest as they evolve as young artists. One-to-one tutorials and independent study develop an ability to appreciate the visual world and to respond with insight and originality to pursue autonomous investigations.

Drawing is a discipline which underpins all areas of the syllabus, and this is explored in its broadest sense of experimental mark-making and sustained studies. We offer the opportunity to undertake formal life drawing classes to refine these traditional drawing skills. At the end of the course, we curate a formal exhibition of the students' work to celebrate all creative achievements.

The Art department works closely with other subjects with opportunities for students to be involved in set making, props and costume design for school productions and events.

Many of our students go on to study Art & Design Foundation and degree courses, Architecture and History of Art at a wide range of universities. They receive extensive support for portfolio submissions that are a formal requirement for some of these courses, alongside interview preparation and additional personal statements.



SPECIFICATION

A LEVEL

- Edexcel 9FA0 – Fine Art
- (NEA) Component 1: Personal Investigation (60%)
 - Part 1: Practical Work from personal starting points students submit supporting studies and personal outcome(s).
 - Part 2: Personal Study: Students submit a piece of continuous prose of approximately 3000 words. It is directly related to their practical work in Part 1.
- (NEA) Component 2: Externally Set Assignment (40%)
 - Externally-set, broad-based theme released on 1 February.
 - Sustained focus period of 15 hours of controlled assessment in which students create final response(s) to the theme.



BIOLOGY (AQA)

Biology is a subject that opens many career paths, including medicine, zoology, natural sciences and horticulture.

The AQA Biology A level course takes you on a journey from the biochemistry of life to the ecology of biomes. It builds on GCSE knowledge and explores topics in a more detailed and comprehensive way, such as the inner workings of the cell, the physiology of major organs and why sharks must keep swimming when they are asleep.

Alongside the theory, there are many opportunities for practical work. These include chromatography, biochemistry, dissections, microbiology and genetic engineering. There is also a three day residential field trip, during which students are immersed in ecological field work and the statistics that are essential when analysing data. Built into the course are 12 Required Practicals that help to develop scientific skills and techniques.

The AS Biology course covers the first 4 units of the A level course, which are covered in Year 12.

SPECIFICATION

A LEVEL

Subject content (AQA: 7402)

Lower-Sixth content

1. Biological molecules
2. Cells
3. How organisms exchange substances with their environment
4. Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms

Upper-Sixth content

5. Energy transfers in and between organisms
6. How organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments
8. Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems
9. The control of gene expression

Examination:

Paper 1 – Any content from topics 1 - 4, including relevant practical skills (written exam: 2 hours)

- 76 marks: a mixture of short and long answer questions
- 15 marks: extended response questions
- 35% of A Level

Paper 2 - Any content from topics 5 - 8, including relevant practical skills (written exam: 2 hours)

- 76 marks: a mixture of short and long answer questions
- 15 marks: comprehension question
- 35% of A Level

Paper 3 - Any content from topics 1 - 8, including relevant practical skills (written exam: 2 hours)

- 38 marks: structured questions, including practical techniques
- 15 marks: critical analysis of given experimental data
- 25 marks: one essay from a choice of two titles
- 30% of A Level

AS LEVEL

- Subject content (AQA: 7401)
- The AS content is the same as the Lower-Sixth content of the A-Level, i.e., sections 1-4 above.

Examination:

Paper 1 – Any content from topics 1 - 4, including relevant practical skills (written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes)

- 65 marks: short answer questions
- 10 marks: comprehension question
- 50% of AS

Paper 2 – Any content from topics 1 - 4, including relevant practical skills (written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes)

- 65 marks: short answer questions
- 10 marks: extended response questions
- 50% of AS



CHEMISTRY (OCR)

The study of Chemistry provides both a fascinating insight into the world around us, and the essential tools for meeting the biggest challenges of the 21st century. The A-Level course builds on ideas covered at GCSE, but goes much further, encouraging students to consider not just what happens during chemical reactions, but why substances behave the way they do. The first year, which is the same as the AS course, begins by covering fundamental principles that will underpin the subject, before moving onto core physical, inorganic and organic topics. The second year of the course continues along these lines, but you will explore ideas in much greater depth, while also being introduced to new concepts such as NMR spectroscopy, chemical synthesis, free energy, and many more. Chemistry is, fundamentally, a practical subject, so the course is taught with a strong emphasis on experimental work, allowing you to use your observations to bring the theory to life, and contributing to completion of the Practical Endorsement.

SPECIFICATION

A LEVEL

(OCR: H432)

- Module 1: Development of Practical Skills in Chemistry (covered throughout the course)

Lower-Sixth content

- Module 2: Foundations in Chemistry
- Module 3: Periodic Table and Energy
- Module 4: Core Organic Chemistry

Upper-Sixth content

- Module 5: Physical Chemistry and Transition Elements
- Module 6: Organic Chemistry and Analysis

Paper 1: Periodic Table, Elements and Physical Chemistry (Modules 1, 2, 3 and 5)

(Written Exam: 2 hours 15 minutes)

- Includes 15 multiple-choice questions and two 'Level of Response' questions
- Total: 100 marks, 37% of A Level

Paper 2: Synthesis and Analytical Techniques (Modules 1, 2, 4 and 6)

(Written exam: 2 hours 15 minutes)

- Includes 15 multiple-choice questions and two 'Level of Response' question
- Total: 100 marks, 37% of A Level

Paper 3: Unified Chemistry (All Modules)

(Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes)

- Synoptic assessment
- Includes two 'Level of Response' questions
- Total: 70 marks, 26% of A Level Practical Endorsement in Chemistry

Non-examination assessment, reported separately to performance in the A-Level examinations. Continuously assessed throughout the two years of the course, and reported to OCR as pass or fail.

AS LEVEL

(OCR: H032)

Subject content: Modules 1-4 of the A Level, as in Lower-Sixth content, above

Paper 1: Breadth in Chemistry (Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes)

- Includes 20 multiple-choice questions
- Total: 70 marks, 50% of AS Level

Paper 2: Depth in Chemistry (Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes)

- Includes two 'Level of Response' questions
- Total: 70 marks, 50% of AS Level

Both components assess content from all four modules, and will contain synoptic assessment.

CLASSICS (OCR)

Classics has something for everyone. Classics is the study of the languages, culture, history and thought of the civilisations of ancient Greece and Rome. Greco-Roman antiquity has remained a significant point of reference from late antiquity to the present day in virtually every cultural sphere. Classical subjects are varied and interdisciplinary, complementing all other subjects and vocations. Examination results for Latin, Greek and Classical Civilisation are exceptional, the uptake is strong, many students apply to study Classical subjects at undergraduate level and our Oxbridge applicants have enjoyed tremendous success rates.

Sixth-Form classicists are part of a treasured community and a love of learning pervades all that we do. Lessons are run as seminar-style sessions, aiming to encourage personal reflections on the prescribed material both through critical discussion and writing.

CLASSICAL CIVILISATION (OCR)

Classical Civilisation is for anyone interested in investigating ancient civilisations and their remains. It is a non-linguistic course that requires no knowledge of Latin or Greek. Classical Civilisation is a broad, coherent and rewarding study of the literature, written texts, visual art and material remains of ancient Greece and Rome, which fosters an understanding of their social, historical and cultural contexts. The course invites you to study and engage with the fascinating ancient Greek and Roman worlds through a variety of approaches: ageless mythological stories, the foundational literature of Homer and Virgil, Ancient History, Drama and Classical Art and Architecture.

As well as providing a stimulating insight into the immensely influential culture of the ancient Mediterranean, Classical Civilisation develops numerous transferable skills, such as analytical literary criticism, art appreciation, evaluation of other perspectives and interpretation of evidence - all skills which are valued highly by both universities and employers. The subject complements all other A Level subjects.

SPECIFICATION

A LEVEL

(OCR: H408)

Unit H408/11: The World of the Hero (2 hour 20 minute exam)
100 marks, 40 % of total A Level

This component is solely focused on the study of literature in translation.

- Homer's 'Iliad' (Books 1, 3, 4, 6, 9, 10, 16, 17, 18, 19, 22, 23 and 24).
- Virgil's 'Aeneid' (Books 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12).

Unit H408/21: Greek Theatre (1 hour 45 minute exam)

- 75 marks, 30 % of total A Level

This component involves the study of visual and material culture in combination with the study of literature in translation.

- The drama produced in the ancient Greek theatre forms some of the most powerful literature of the ancient world, and has had a profound and wide-reaching influence on modern culture. You will study two tragedies ('Oedipus the King' and 'Bacchae') and one comedy ('Frogs'), all of which have proven to be enduring favourites, and the context in which their form and production developed.
- Unit H408/31: Greek Religion (1 hour 45 minute exam)
- 75 marks: 30% of total A Level

This component involves the study of Greek Religion in combination with the study of visual and material culture.

- Religion was an essential part of ancient Greek identity, permeating all strata of society and all aspects of an individual's daily life. You will study the practicalities of religious ritual, and the role it played in society, alongside the functions and layouts of famous temple complexes. You will also explore the nature of the gods and their relationship with mortals, the different role of Mystery Cults, and the tensions caused by the rise of philosophical thinking.

GREEK AND LATIN (OCR)

These courses offer training in Latin and Greek language to make them gateways to the whole of the ancient world. Latin was the language not only of the Romans, but of much literature and other writing until the sixteenth century. Greek is the oldest European language still spoken for which records survive. Many modern genres (e.g. tragedy, comedy, history, lyric) were founded by the Greeks.

You will acquire a sophisticated knowledge of the language and literature of the ancient Greek and Roman worlds, developing linguistic and analytical skills, and gaining an understanding of the culture, politics and social life of Greece and Rome at significant periods of their history. By the end of these courses you will be able to read Greek and Latin independently. There is a defined vocabulary list for each language that forms the basis of the AS Level language paper. You will strengthen your knowledge of the grammatical structures that you studied at GCSE and will learn how to translate sentences from English into Greek/Latin. Literature lessons will increasingly enable you to translate your set texts independently and to express your own interpretations of the writers' style.

GREEK

In each year of the course, you will study one verse and one prose set text, which will enable you to acquire a detailed appreciation of writers whose influence on subsequent generations has been enormous: Homer, Herodotus, Sophocles, Euripides, Thucydides, Plato, Xenophon. You will be captivated by the dazzling thought-world of the Greeks and learn from them how to engage with, and question, received opinions. The study of Greek is an inspirational complement to all other A Level subjects but works particularly well with Latin, English Literature, Theatre Studies, Philosophy, Ethics and Religion (Religious Studies), History, Politics, and Modern Languages.

SPECIFICATION

AS LEVEL

Unit H044/01: Classical Greek Language (1 hour 30 minute exam)

- Unseen Greek prose, tested by translation into English (55 marks)
- Either unseen Greek prose comprehension questions or translation of English sentences into Greek (25 marks)
- 80 marks, 50% of total AS marks

Unit H044/02: Classical Greek Verse and Prose Literature (2 hour exam)

- One prescribed prose text (40 marks)
- One prescribed verse text (40 marks)
- 80 marks, 50% of total AS marks

Texts in 2024 will be selections from:

- Either Herodotus, Book 1, 1-6, 8-13, and 19-22 or Plato, 'Republic', Book 1, 327a to 332b
- Either Homer, 'Iliad' 16, 20-47, 644-867 or Euripides, 'Hippolytus', 284-361, 391-524

A LEVEL

Unit H444/01 Unseen Translation (1 hour 45 minute exam)

- Unseen Greek prose, tested by translation into English (50 marks)
- Unseen Greek verse, tested by translation into English (50 marks)
- 100 marks; 33% of total A Level

Unit H444/02: Prose Composition or Comprehension (1 hour 15 minute exam)

- Either translate a paragraph from English into Greek or respond to a passage of unseen prose through comprehension, translation and questions on syntax and accidence (50 marks)
- 50 marks; 17% of total A Level

Unit H444/03: Prescribed Prose Literature (2 hour exam)

- Translation, comprehension, commentary and essay on passage(s) from the set texts (75 marks)
- 75 marks, 25% of total A Level

Unit H444/04: Prescribed Verse Literature (2 hour exam)

- Translation, comprehension, commentary and essay on passage(s) from the set texts (75 marks)
- 75 marks, 25% of total A Level

Texts in 2025 will be selections from:

- Either Herodotus, Book 1, 1-6, 8-13, and 19-22 or Plato, 'Republic', Book 1, 327a to 332b
- Either Herodotus, Book 1, 29-45 or Plato, 'Republic', Book 1 336b to 337a7 and 338a4 to end of 342 or Plutarch, 'Antony', 56-75 and 87
- Either Homer, 'Iliad' 16, 20-47, 644-867 or Euripides, 'Hippolytus', 284-361, 391-524
- Either Homer, 'Iliad' 24, 349-595 or Euripides, 'Hippolytus', 601-624, 627-633, 638-662, 664-668, 682-731, 885-911, 914-1028, 1030-1035 or Aristophanes, 'Frogs' 1-208, 830-874.

LATIN

In each year of the course, you will study one verse and one prose set text, which will enable you to acquire a detailed appreciation of writers whose influence on subsequent generations has been enormous: Virgil, Cicero, Ovid, Propertius, Tacitus, Tibullus, Seneca. The study of Latin offers entry into the astonishing achievements and rich intellectual landscape of the Romans. Like Greek, Latin beautifully complements all other A Level subjects and is an academic discipline held in the highest esteem by admissions tutors at university level.



AS LEVEL

Unit H043/01: Latin Language (1 hour 30 minute exam)

- Unseen Latin prose, tested by translation into English (55 marks)
- Either unseen Latin prose comprehension questions or translation of English sentences into Latin (25 marks)
- 80 marks, 50% of total AS marks

Unit H043/02: Latin Verse and Prose Literature (2 hour exam)

- One prescribed prose text (40 marks)
- One prescribed verse text (40 marks)
- 80 marks, 50% of total AS marks

Texts in 2024 will be selections from:

- Either Cicero, 'Pro Caelio', 51-58, 61-68 or Tacitus, 'Annals' XII, 25-26, 41-43, 52-53, 56-59, 64-69.
- Either Virgil, 'Aeneid' Book 2, 40-249 or Juvenal, 'Satire' 6, 1-113, 242-305, 352-365, 398-412.

A LEVEL

Unit H443/01 Unseen Translation (1 hour 45 minute exam)

- Unseen Latin prose, tested by translation into English (50 marks)
- Unseen Latin verse, tested by translation into English (50 marks)
- 100 marks, 33% of total A Level

Unit H443/02: Prose Composition or Comprehension (1 hour 15 minute exam)

- Either translate a paragraph from English into Latin or respond to a passage of unseen prose through comprehension, translation and questions on syntax and accidence (50 marks)
- 50 marks, 17% of total A Level

Unit H443/03: Prescribed Prose Literature (2 hour exam)

- Translation, comprehension, commentary and essay on passage(s) from the set texts (75 marks)
- 75 marks, 25% of total A Level

Unit H443/04: Prescribed Verse Literature (2 hour exam)

- Translation, comprehension, commentary and essay on passage(s) from the set texts (75 marks)
- 75 marks, 25% of total A Level

Texts in 2025 will be selections from:

- Either Cicero, 'Pro Caelio', 51-58, 61-68 or Tacitus, 'Annals' XII, 25-26, 41-43, 52-53, 56-59, 64-69.
- Either Cicero, 'Pro Caelio', 33-50 or Tacitus, 'Annals' XIV, 1-13 or Pliny, 'Letters' 1.9, 3.16, 4.2, 4.19, 8.8, 8.16, 8.17, 9.6.
- Either Virgil, 'Aeneid' Book 2, 40-249 or Juvenal, 'Satire' 6, 1-113, 242-305, 352-365, 398-412.
- Either Virgil, 'Aeneid' Book 2, 268-317, 370-558 or Juvenal, 'Satire' 14.1-33, 74-232, 'Satire' 15.27-92 or Ovid, 'Fasti' 2, 267-358, 685-852.

COMPUTER SCIENCE (OCR)

This A Level Computer Science course is an exciting door to the digital world we live in. It has been designed to help you develop your analytical skills and focuses heavily on problem solving and creativity.

Computational thinking is at the core of the course. This is the ability to look at problems with an open and creative mind and engage in the exciting process of finding efficient solutions to real life situations.

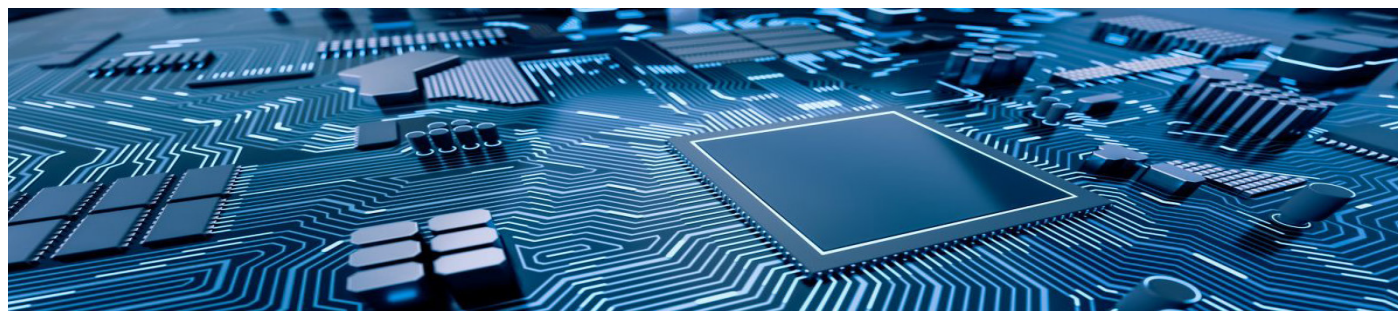
Computer Science is arguably one of the most essential disciplines of the 21st century and lies at the heart of the most recent advances in many fields. A background in Computer Science is guaranteed to provide you with extremely valuable abilities regardless of the career path you choose in the future.

An A Level qualification in Computer Science is highly regarded by universities and it is considered an excellent asset for careers in Medicine, Law, Business, Engineering or any of the Sciences.

Among other things, you will learn about:

- **Programming.** A skill that has been labelled as the 21st century universal language. Learning how to program demands discipline and patience but it can be very rewarding. Your capacity to solve problems by designing efficient algorithms will be an invaluable skill for your future.
- **Digital devices.** We are surrounded by microchips and it would not be an exaggeration to say that they have a life on their own. You will understand how computers work, including your mobile phone and many of the fascinating and complex devices that we normally take for granted.
- **Networks.** The 21st century citizen is a connected being. The Internet has changed our lives forever and it is crucial that we understand how it works and the deep transformations that it has generated in our society.
- **Legal and ethical issues.** Digital technology challenges our traditional understanding of some of our most ingrained beliefs about human intelligence, privacy, copyright, to mention just a few. In this course you will have the opportunity to learn about and discuss how digital technology is affecting our lives and explore the implications of these changes.

You are likely to do very well in this subject if you enjoy problem-solving activities and thrive when given the opportunity to approach tasks creatively. You may have developed these skills in a variety of subjects in the past, including Maths, Art and Science. Although a GCSE qualification in Computer Science will certainly make things easier at the beginning, it is not a requirement to take this course; if you have an inquisitive mind and you are interested in the digital world, problem solving and computer programming, you should definitely consider Computer Science as one of your A Level subjects.



SPECIFICATION

CONTENT OVERVIEW

- The characteristics of contemporary processors, input, output and storage devices
- Software development
- Exchanging data
- Data types, data structures and algorithms
- Legal, moral, cultural and ethical issues
- Elements of computational thinking
- Problem solving and programming
- Algorithms to solve problems and standard algorithms

The learner will choose a computing problem to work through according to the guidance in the specification.

- Analysis of the problem
- Design of the solution
- Developing the solution
- Evaluation

Assessment

Paper 1: Computer Systems (01)

- 2 hours and 30 minutes
- 140 marks (40% of total A Level)
- No calculators allowed

Paper 2: Algorithms and programming (02)

- 2 hours and 30 minutes
- 140 marks (40% of total A Level)
- No calculators allowed

Programming Project (Non-exam assessment)

- 70 marks (20% of total A Level)

Learners must take three components (01,02,03 or 01,02,04) to be awarded the OCR A Level in Computer Science



DEBATING - ESB LEVEL 3 AWARD

ESB Level 3 Award in Debating is a qualification designed to promote clear, effective, confident oral communication. Having the ability to communicate ideas successfully is an essential life skill and Debating allows learners to develop employability skills such as critical thinking, adaptability, teamwork and leadership.

This qualification will run as an enrichment option alongside students' A Level choices in the Lower Sixth year, helping them to build and deliver arguments, manage timing and signpost and link their ideas. It would be of benefit for any student looking to improve their oracy skills and enhance their confidence in speaking and listening, as well as supporting those studying subjects which require work involving the development of a sustained and convincing line of argument in written responses.

The final assessment will take place in groups of up to eight students in teams of three or four in one prepared debate, and is provided by external assessors. Teams will prepare a debate on an agreed motion (their own choice) and each member of the team will have five minutes to build and deliver arguments which support or oppose the motion. Their specific role will depend on the order in which they speak in the debate, but each member of the team should also reply (rebut) or respond (with a Point of Information) to arguments put forward by the other team.

Learners are assessed in the following four areas:

- Content – the way in which a learner demonstrates evidence of research and understanding.
- Style – the way in which a learner communicates, both verbally and non-verbally.
- Structure – the way in which a learner structures their contribution to the debate (e.g. introductions, conclusions, linking etc.).
- Listening and responding - the way in which a learner listens and responds to developments in the debate (rebuttal, points of information, etc.).

The award of this qualification also carries some UCAS Tariff points, depending on the final result achieved: Distinction (12), Merit (8), Pass (4).



DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY (AQA)

FASHION AND TEXTILES

A Level Fashion and Textiles offers an exciting opportunity to explore the dynamic world of fashion and textiles while equipping students with valuable skills relevant to future careers. Students gain a comprehensive understanding of the history of fashion and associated socio-economic issues; an understanding of fabric and fibres classifications, pattern drafting, decorative and construction techniques, materials technology, and modern industrial and commercial practice; and teaches them to apply their knowledge of mathematics to the design and manufacture of their garment. Studying A-Level Fashion and Textiles also opens up diverse career opportunities. Graduates can pursue careers as fashion designers, garment technologists, textile artists, fashion buyers, or fashion stylists. Moreover, the subject provides a unique gateway to careers in materials science and technology within the industry. During the course, students can explore roles as textile technologists, contributing to sustainable fabric development and innovative materials.

SPECIFICATION

A LEVEL

Paper 1 - Technical principles

- Written exam: 2.5 hours.
- 120 marks, 30% of A-level.
- A mixture of short answer and extended response questions.

Paper 2 - Designing and making principles

- Written exam: 1.5 hours
- 80 marks, 20% of A-level.
- A mixture of short answer and extended response questions:

Section A

- Product analysis: 30 marks
- Up to 6 short answer questions based on visual stimulus of product(s).

Section B

- Commercial manufacture: 50 marks
- A mixture of short and extended response questions.

Non-exam assessment (NEA)

- Practical application of core technical principles, core designing and making principles and additional specialist knowledge
- Substantial design and make project: 100 marks, 50% of A-level.

Evidence

- Written or digital design portfolio and photographic evidence of final prototype

Technical principles

- Materials and applications.
- Classification of materials.
- Methods for investigating and testing materials.
- Performance characteristics of fibres, yarns, and fabrics.
- Smart and Technical Textiles.
- Methods of joining and use of components.
- Use of finishes and enhancement of materials.
- Modern industrial and commercial practice.
- Digital design and manufacture.
- The requirements for textile and fashion design and development.
- Health and safety.
- Protecting designs and intellectual property and feasibility studies.
- Design for manufacturing, maintenance, repair and disposal.
- Enterprise and marketing in the development of products.
- Key historical design styles, design movements and influential designers that helped to shape fashion and textile design and manufacture.
- Design styles and movements.
- Responsible Design.
- How technology and cultural changes can impact on the work of designers.
- Selecting appropriate tools, equipment and processes and accuracy in design.
- Critical analysis and evaluation.
- Design processes, Design for manufacture and project management.

DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY (AQA)

PRODUCT DESIGN

Product Design A Level is an excellent choice for students with an interest in Design, Technology, Computer and Material Science, Engineering and Architecture. It gives students the opportunity to express their individuality through creatively designing both products and packaging.

Students will use both traditional and innovative technology to develop design ideas. We have an exceptionally well-equipped workshop containing state-of-the-art computer aided machinery such as a 3D printer, A1+ laser cutter and vinyl cutter.

Students will learn how to use CAD programs such as industry standard Solidworks which will add an exciting and creative dimension to both presentation and finish of the final product.

The first year of the qualification will focus on learning the theoretical side of the course as well as enhancing knowledge in the workshop through small design and make tasks. During the second year of the course, students will continue to develop their theoretical knowledge and understanding but focus on completing a comprehensive coursework project centered around a context and genuine problem they develop themselves. This freedom enables students to research, design, and manufacture a product which can fully focus on their interests and potential career paths in the future.

SPECIFICATION

A LEVEL

Paper 1 assesses technical principles

- Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes
- 120 marks, 30% of A Level
- A mixture of short answer and extended response questions

Paper 2 assesses the designing and making principles

- Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes
- 80 marks, 20% of A Level
- A mixture of short answer and extended response questions

Non-exam assessment (NEA) assesses the practical

- Application of technical principles, designing and making principles
- Substantial design and make project no set context.
- 100 marks, 50% of A Level

Evidence

- Written or digital design portfolio and photographic evidence of final prototype

Technical principles

- Materials and their applications
- Performance characteristics of materials
- Enhancement of materials
- Forming, redistribution and addition processes
- The use of finishes
- Modern industrial and commercial practice
- Digital design and manufacture
- The requirements for product design and development
- Health and safety
- Protecting designs and intellectual property
- Design for manufacturing, maintenance, repair and disposal
- Feasibility studies
- Enterprise and marketing in the development of products
- Design communication
- Modern manufacturing systems

Designing and making principles

- Design methods and processes
- Design theory
- How technology and cultural changes can impact on the work of designers
- Design processes
- Critical analysis and evaluation
- Selecting appropriate tools, equipment and processes
- Accuracy in design and manufacture
- Responsible design
- Design for manufacture and project management
- National and international standards in product design

Links to Maths

- Confident use of number and percentages
- Use of ratios
- Calculation of surface areas and/or volumes
- Use of trigonometry
- Construction, use and/or analysis of graphs and charts
- Use of coordinates and geometry
- Use of statistics and probability as a measure of likelihood

Links to Science

- Describe the conditions which cause degradation
- Know the physical properties of materials and explain how these are related to their uses



DRAMA AND THEATRE STUDIES (EDUQAS)

Drama and Theatre at A Level requires high levels of both practical and written creativity and discipline, challenging students in multi-disciplined areas; academic, creative, organisational and planning – skills that equip them for undergraduate study and the workplace, as well as highly developed communication attributes that are prized in all future workplace situations.

You will blend practical exploration with theoretical and textual analysis of Drama and Theatre across a range of periods, cultures and genres. You will study contrasting texts that expand your knowledge of Drama across a range of literary works and theatrical practitioners and you will practically reinvent a text based on your knowledge and understanding of such influential people and texts.

Students work creatively in small groups and pairs and will be required to consider theatrical texts, styles and practitioners from the perspective of actor, director and designer – this ensures that you develop a rounded understanding of Drama and Theatre, attributes that past students are now demonstrating in a huge array of professions, including as leading young playwrights in the West End, successful actresses and comediennees, theatre managers and artistic directors. Many other students have successfully ventured into degrees and careers in law, English, public relations, journalism, radio, teaching and marketing, to name a few. In recent years, a number of our successful medicine applicants have chosen Drama as their third or fourth choices, recognising the confidence and poise that it develops. Additionally, biennially, all A Level students are given the opportunity to perform at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, the next trip to the Fringe will be in August 2024.



SPECIFICATION

A LEVEL

Component 1: Theatre Workshop

Non-exam assessment: internally assessed, externally moderated. Students will be assessed on their performance skills. Students participate in the creation, development and performance of a piece of theatre based on a reinterpretation of an extract from a text chosen from a list supplied by WJEC. The piece must be developed using the techniques and working methods of either an influential theatre practitioner or a recognised theatre company.

Students must produce:

- A realisation of the performance or design
- A creative log
- 20% of qualification

Component 2: Text in Action

Non-exam assessment: externally assessed by a visiting examiner. Students will be assessed on acting skills.

Students participate in the creation, development and performance of two pieces of theatre based on a stimulus supplied by EDUQAS.

- A devised piece using the techniques and working methods of either an influential theatre practitioner or a recognised theatre company (a different practitioner or company to that chosen for Component 1)
- An extract from a text in a different style chosen by the learner.
- 40% of qualification

Students produce a process and evaluation report within one week of completion of the practical work.

Component 3: Text in Performance

Written examination: 2 hours 30 minutes
40% of qualification

Sections A and B

Open book: Clean copies (no annotation) of the two complete texts chosen must be taken into the examination.

Two questions, based on two different texts, one written pre-1956 and one written post-1956

Section C

Closed book: The extract of text required for answering the questions will be printed on the examination paper. A question based on a specified extract from:

- The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time, Mark Haddon, adapted by Simon Stephens
- Details of the 10 - 15 minute extract will be released during the first week of March, in the year in which the examination is to be taken.

SPECIFICATION

GCE AS LEVEL

Component 1: Performance Workshop

Non-exam assessment: internally assessed, externally moderated by EDUQAS

60% of AS qualification

Students participate in the creation, development and performance of:

1. An extract from a text of the student's choice
2. A piece of theatre based on a reinterpretation of a second extract from a text from a different social, historical or cultural context using the techniques and working methods of either a theatre practitioner or theatre company

All students must produce:

- A realisation of both performances
- A written creative log for each performance
- An evaluation of the process of creating and realising (the reinterpreted extract only: 1200-1500 words)

Component 2: Text in Context

Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes (externally assessed)

40% of qualification

Open book: Clean copies (no annotations) of the set text chosen must be taken into the examination.



ECONOMICS (EDEXCEL)

Are you curious about the society you live in and the people around you? Do you enjoy current affairs?

Economics is a social science studying human behaviour. Economics asks big questions and helps us to understand how the world works and how to make it a better place. It is at the heart of understanding the major social problems of our time, including climate change, inequality, global poverty, health care, globalisation, the impact of technological change on employment and creative destruction from the growth of digital platform industries; effective solutions to these problems require economic insights.

Economics is at the centre of policy making by governments and banks all round the world to tackle the economic challenges which have resulted from the Covid 19 health pandemic.

WHY STUDY ECONOMICS?

Economics is:

- About the modern world around us; it is current, interesting and dynamic
- A problem solving subject and develops a range of academic and transferable skills: research, logical analysis, evaluation, communication and team-working
- An academically rigorous subject and is highly respected by universities and future employers
- A great complement to all subjects including humanities and sciences
- A versatile subject and is an excellent basis for an exciting career in a number of different areas: working in business or the government and is also valuable support for a career in marketing, accountancy, law and media

UNIVERSITY

Every year, a number of Economics students choose to continue their studies in Economics, PPE, Management, and Finance at leading Russell group universities and Oxbridge. It is recommended that those considering Economics as a possible degree course should also study AS/A Level Mathematics and for Cambridge, Further Maths.



SPECIFICATION

A LEVEL

Paper 1: Markets & Business Behaviour

- 2 hours
- A range of multiple-choice and short-answer questions (25 marks)
- One data response question broken down into a number of parts (50 marks)
- Choice of one from two essay questions (25 marks)
- 35% of A Level

Paper 2: The National & Global Economy

- 2 hours
- A range of multiple-choice and short-answer questions (25 marks)
- One data response question broken down into a number of parts (50 marks)
- Choice of one from two essay questions (25 marks)
- 35% of A Level

Paper 3: Microeconomics and Macroeconomics

- 2 hours
- Synoptic paper drawing on topics from across the syllabus
- 2 sections each comprising one data response question broken down into a number of parts, including choosing one from two essay questions (50 marks per section)
- 30% of A Level

Note: NO prior learning or knowledge of Economics is required to take A Level Economics. A grade 8 or 9 at I/GCSE Mathematics is required.

ENGLISH (EDEXCEL)

‘A classic is a book that has never finished saying what it has to say.’ - Italo Calvino, The Uses of Literature.

English Literature at GHS is all about exploration and creativity underpinned by an academically rigorous approach. It is taught with passion and the English classroom is brimming with lively debate. Students study texts from the canon and from the ‘here and now’ with opportunities to study texts from a range of genres and literary periods. In Literature you will study a number of poems written post 2000 as well as Shakespeare and nineteenth century novelists.

ENGLISH LITERATURE

This course will allow you to develop a deep appreciation for the power of storytelling and the beauty of language. An A Level in English Literature will challenge you to expand your vocabulary, grapple with subtle nuances and enhance your critical appreciation of different genres and perspectives. You will be encouraged to develop your interests in literary studies through reading widely, independently, and critically. The course will hone your writing skills so that you can construct incisive arguments that debate texts with clarity and precision. The course offers a broad literary diet, including long-established and contemporary authors. We can’t wait for you to get started!

SPECIFICATION

A LEVEL

Paper 1: Drama (30%)

You will study one Shakespeare play and a modern playscript by Tennessee Williams.

- ‘Midsummer Night’s Dream’ by William Shakespeare
- ‘A Streetcar Named Desire’ by Tennessee Williams

Paper 2: Prose (20%)

You will study two novels: one pre 1900 and one post 1900. These are linked thematically:

- ‘Tess of the D’Urbervilles’, by Thomas Hardy
- ‘Mrs Dalloway’, by Virginia Woolf

Paper 3: Poetry (30%)

- You will study an anthology of poems written post-2000.
- You will study a collection of Metaphysical poems by John Donne.

Paper 4: Coursework (20%)

- You will write an extended essay (2500 – 3000 words) comparing two texts. You will study ‘The Great Gatsby’ by F. Scott Fitzgerald and select a second text (from a pre-selected list) to work on independently. The task gives you the opportunity to work on critical material, reading academic responses to your texts. Excitingly, you will consider how your view on the text aligns or diverges from the critical position expressed.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

English Language and Literature incorporates the study of everything from screenplays, political interviews and travel writing to novels. This course will nurture skills of critical analysis, and independent thinking allowing you to express yourself with eloquence and opening the doors to diverse career paths. You will gain a deeper understanding of human experiences across different eras and build your empathic response to literature. You will learn about the varieties of non-fiction, as well as reading a stimulating range of literary works. Excitingly, you will also develop your skills as a creative writer of both fiction and non-fiction pieces. This A Level crafts the same critical skills as English Literature and is highly regarded by Russell Group Universities.

SPECIFICATION

A LEVEL

Paper 1: Voices in Speech and Writing (40%)

Section A: Voices in Speech and Writing – The Anthology

Section B: Drama – You will study: ‘All My Sons’ by Arthur Miller

Paper 2: Varieties in Language and Literature (40%)

Section A: Unseen Prose Non-fiction Texts

- You will study: ‘The Bloody Chamber’, Angela Carter, and ‘Wuthering Heights’, Emily Bronte.
- One essay question on an unseen prose non-fiction extract from a choice of four. The unseen extract is linked to the studied theme.

Paper 3: Coursework (20%)

Two texts are studied: one fiction and one non-fiction text. You will study, ‘The Great Gatsby’ and ‘Educated’ by Tara Westover

Students produce two assignments:

- Two pieces of original writing; one piece of fiction writing and one piece of creative non-fiction. (1500 - 2000 words)
- An analytical commentary reflecting on the two pieces they have produced. (1000 - 1250 words)

EXTENDED PROJECT QUALIFICATION (AQA)

The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) is a standalone qualification designed to extend and develop students’ skills in independent research and project management. The EPQ is awarded UCAS points worth half an A Level and is recognised by universities and employers; some leading universities, including Bath, Exeter, Cardiff and Leeds, have made reduced offers to GHS students undertaking an EPQ.

By taking responsibility for the choice and design of an individual project, students:

- Become more critical, reflective and independent learners
- Develop and apply decision-making and problem-solving skills
- Increase their planning, research, analysis, synthesis, evaluation and presentation skills
- Learn to apply new technologies confidently
- Demonstrate creativity, initiative and enterprise

The EPQ requires students to carry out research on a topic that they have chosen and is not covered by their other qualifications. They then use this research to produce a written report and, in the case of practical projects, an artefact or a production. A student can take inspiration from something studied in class or something completely unrelated to their studies. Students are required, with appropriate supervision, to:

- Choose an area of interest
- Draft a title and aims of the project for formal approval by the centre
- Plan, research and carry out the project
- Deliver a presentation to a non-specialist audience
- Provide evidence of all stages of project development and production for assessment

Students will have a supervisor, with whom they will have various formal and informal meetings to help to guide their progress and log the process. Students will receive tuition in the necessary skills throughout the Michaelmas Term. Depending on the nature and topic of the project, taught skills might include:

- Research skills including the ability to search for and identify and evaluate suitable sources of information in the chosen subject area
- Skills or techniques that will be required for the safe and effective execution of the project which are not part of the candidate’s course of study. E.g. conducting risk assessment, assessing the ethical principles of project proposals and research, safe laboratory or workshop technique, professional codes of practice, ethical guidelines, research methodology
- Project management skills including time, resource and task management
- The format and structure of accepted academic forms of research report
- Referencing, the evaluation of sources and the prevention of plagiarism
- Presentation skills

The remaining time is allocated for the student’s independent work and the individual supervision and guidance received. In addition to a taught double lesson, students should spend two periods per week working independently on their EPQ, ideally in the library. The project requires strong time-management skills and needs to be worked on systematically throughout Lower Sixth. There are a number of interim deadlines and if these are missed, the student’s grade will be affected and they may be unable to continue with the project. It is a considerable amount of work and, whilst it is a highly stimulating and rewarding process that will stand students in very good stead for university study, it is not to be undertaken lightly.

GEOGRAPHY (OCR)

Geography is a subject for those who are interested in the world around them. It equips us with the skills, knowledge and understanding to satisfy our curiosity about landscapes and cities, ecosystems and societies. With our planet and its people changing at an unprecedented rate, there has never been a better or more important time to develop a strong global awareness.

The A Level Geography course tackles a wide range of engaging issues, on scales ranging from the local to the global. In Physical Geography, we explore the evolution of coastal landscape systems, examine the fragile balance of the water and carbon cycles, and assess the risks posed by earthquakes and volcanoes. The Human syllabus considers how the identity of a place develops, the geography of disease, contemporary migration crises and global variations in access to human rights.

Fieldwork is an essential and enjoyable element of Geography and in recent years our pupils have benefited from trips to the Sussex coast and East London.

SPECIFICATION

A LEVEL

Paper 1: Physical Systems (1 hour 30 minutes written paper)

- Landscape Systems (coasts)
- Earth's Life Support Systems (water and carbon cycles)
- 22% of total A Level

Paper 2: Human interactions (1 hour 30 minutes written paper)

- Changing Spaces, Making Places
- Global Connections (migration and human rights)
- 22% of total A Level

Paper 3: Geographical Debates (2 hours 30 minutes written paper)

- Disease Dilemmas (the geography of health)
- Hazardous Earth (managing risk from earthquakes and volcanoes)
- 36% of total A Level

Investigative Geography (coursework)

- Independent fieldwork leading to a 4000 word written report
- 20% of total A Level



HISTORY (OCR)

“Study the past if you would define the future.” Confucius

History allows us to make sense of the world around us and understand how today’s society came to be. History gives us the knowledge and skills to contextualise the major events of our time, linking the past to the present. Fundamentally, History is a subject for people who are curious about the world, its people, and its past.

The A Level History course covers exciting and impactful periods of British, Italian, and American history. In the Lower Sixth, we divide our time between the early Tudors and modern Italy, considering a range of significant topics including the Break with Rome and fascist Italy under Mussolini. In the Upper Sixth, we investigate American Civil Rights from 1865 to 1992, charting the changing status of women, Native Americans, trade unionists, and African Americans. Alongside this, pupils complete their coursework, which provides them with the stimulating opportunity to develop independent study skills and research a topic of interest to them.

Aside from covering a range of fascinating topics, A Level History provides pupils with a range of skills that are invaluable at university and in the world of work, particularly for those considering careers in law, government and politics, journalism, and many others. The ability to handle evidence, craft convincing arguments, evaluate sources and interpretations, work independently, discuss and debate, and make connections are all fostered throughout the course.

SPECIFICATION

A LEVEL

Unit 1: England 1485—1558: the early Tudors

- Henry VII, his government, threats to his rule and foreign policy
- Henry VIII and Wolsey and his reign from 1529-1547
- Enquiry Topic: Mid Tudor Crises 1547–1558 – the stability of the monarchy, religious changes, rebellion and unrest
- 25% of the total A Level
- 1 hour 30 minutes written paper

Unit 2: Italy 1896—1943

- Italy 1896–1925
- Fascist Italy 1925–1943
- Foreign Policy of Mussolini 1922–1943
- 15% of the total A Level
- 1 hour written paper

Unit 3: Civil Rights in the USA 1865—1992

- African Americans
- Trade Union and Labour Rights
- Native American Indians
- Women
- Depth Studies on: the Gilded Age, the New Deal, and Malcolm X and Black Power
- 40% of the total A Level
- 2 hours 30 minutes written paper

Unit 4: NEA (coursework)

- An independently researched essay of 3000– 4000 words
- Internally assessed unit
- Previous topics have included questions on Tudor Rebellions, Russia and the Soviet Union, and the First Crusade
- 20% of the total A Level

MATHEMATICS (EDEXCEL)

WHY STUDY MATHEMATICS?

- Mathematics is everywhere; it is immensely relevant to the way we lead our lives, underpinning much we take for granted. It can also be enjoyed in an abstract way, where the proofs you learn and the links you discover have a pattern and beauty of their own.
- You will learn more about how a situation may be represented mathematically and understand about the relationship between ‘real world’ problems and mathematical models and how these are refined and improved.
- You will extend your ability to use Mathematics as an effective means of communication, an important skill in many fields of work as well as many areas of further study.
- You will develop an awareness of the relevance of Mathematics to other disciplines, to the world of work and to society in general.

WHY STUDY FURTHER MATHEMATICS?

For those who love logic, problem solving and all things mathematical, an A Level in Further Mathematics can be taken in addition to A Level Mathematics. It is a fast-paced and challenging course, in which you will explore a wider range of concepts than you would meet in the single A Level. Those thinking about applying for degree courses in Mathematics, Physics, Engineering, Computer Science or Economics should certainly consider taking Further Mathematics A Level and, in some cases, it will be stipulated as a requirement for the course.

SPECIFICATION

A LEVEL (MATHEMATICS)

Pure Mathematics (two papers each two hours)

- Proof
- Algebra and Functions
- Co-ordinate Geometry in (x,y) Plane
- Sequences and Series
- Trigonometry
- Exponentials and Logarithms
- Differentiation
- Integration
- Numerical Methods
- Vectors

Statistics and Mechanics (1 paper, 2 hours)

- Statistics
- Statistical sampling
 - Data presentation and Interpretation
 - Probability
 - Statistical distributions
 - Statistical hypothesis testing
- Mechanics
- Quantities and Units in Mechanics
 - Kinematics
 - Forces and Newton’s Laws
 - Moments

FURTHER MATHEMATICS

Core Pure Mathematics (two papers, each 1 hour 30 minutes)

- Proof
- Complex Numbers
- Matrices
- Further Algebra and Functions
- Further Calculus
- Further Vectors
- Polar Coordinates
- Hyperbolic Functions
- Differential Equations

Further Mechanics (two papers, each 1 hour 30 minutes)

- Momentum and Impulse
- Work, Energy and Power
- Elastic Strings and Springs
- Elastic Collisions
- Circular Motion
- Centres of Mass
- Kinematics
- Dynamics



MODERN LANGUAGES (AQA)

“Language is the road map of a culture. It tells you where its people come from and where they are going.”
Rita Mae Brown

In our increasingly multicultural world, the acquisition of one or more languages to a good level is an extremely desirable addition to your skill base and one which will enhance career prospects and widen your opportunities. Anyone planning a career in journalism, finance, business, administration, politics, the arts or public speaking will find the study of a language an asset.

LOWER SIXTH EXAMS, OR AS LEVEL IF YOU CHOOSE TO ENTER:

Paper 1: listening, reading and translation to English

- 90 marks, 1 hour 45 minutes, 45% of overall grade

Paper 2: translation into French/German/Spanish and an essay on the film

- 50 marks, 1 hour 30 minutes, 25% of overall grade

When studying a modern language at AS or A Level, you will build on your learning from GCSE, changing your focus from talking about yourself to talking about case studies from the countries where the languages are spoken. You will study a film in the Lower Sixth and a text in the Upper Sixth, as well as developing your speaking, listening, reading, grammatical and translation skills. There is an exciting opportunity for Sixth Form students to become modern languages ambassadors, promoting languages and organising activities for the younger year groups.

Paper 3: speaking on two of the textbook topics

- 60 marks, 12-14 minutes, 30% of overall grade

A LEVEL EXAMS:

Paper 1: Listening, reading and translation to/from English

- 100 marks, 2 hours 30 minutes, 50% of overall grade

Paper 2: one essay on the film and one on the text

- 2 hours, 80 marks, 20% of overall grade

Paper 3: speaking on one of the textbook topics and the individual research project

- 60 marks, 18 minutes, 30% of overall grade

FRENCH

French is spoken in many European countries and by 220 million people throughout the world, it is one of the official languages of the EU, the UN and the Olympic Committee. London is regarded as France’s sixth biggest city in terms of population with more French speakers than in Dijon!

The cultural, political and social issues you will study are both diverse and fascinating. In the Lower Sixth, there is an annual visit to Paris for a busy weekend of cultural activities including visiting an art gallery, going to the theatre and working alongside volunteers at a charity. There are other enrichment opportunities such as the annual inter-school French debating competition.

FRENCH TOPICS: YEAR 1

- Study of the film *La Haine* by Mathieu Kassowitz
- The changing role of the family in the French-speaking world
- Digital technology in the French-speaking world
- Volunteer work in the French-speaking world
- Regional and national heritage in France
- Contemporary francophone music
- Francophone cinema

FRENCH TOPICS: YEAR 2

- Study of the novel *Un Sac de Billes* by Joseph Joffo
- Positive aspects of a diverse society
- Social marginalisation and criminality
- Protests, strikes and youth engagement in politics
- Politics and immigration
- Independent research project

GERMAN

With 100 million German speakers and Germany’s central political and economic role within Europe, the relevance of learning German is undisputed. But Germany is also at the heart of European culture. This wide-ranging and stimulating course develops language and research skills and heightens awareness of the German-speaking world’s cultural and social diversity. Those studying German have the opportunity to visit Germany each May and apply for study scholarships sponsored by the German government.

GERMAN TOPICS: YEAR 1

- Study of the film *Das Leben der Anderen* by Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck
- The changing role of the family in the German-speaking world
- Youth culture and digitalisation in the German-speaking world
- Traditions and festivals in the German-speaking world
- Art and architecture in the German-speaking world
- Berlin

GERMAN TOPICS: YEAR 2

- Study of the play *Der Besuch der alten Dame* by Friedrich Dürrenmatt
- Immigration, integration and racism
- Germany and the European Union
- Youth politics in the German-speaking world
- German reunification
- Independent research project

SPANISH

Spanish is the second most spoken language in the world after Mandarin Chinese. It is spoken by approximately 450 million people in more countries worldwide than any other language and is one of the official languages of international conferences, the United Nations, and of course, the European Union. Given the expanding markets in Latin America, the increasing proliferation of Spanish on the internet and the growing Hispanic presence in the United States, where over 10% of the population speak Spanish, proficiency in this in this language is becoming a much sought-after skill. Studying Spanish at this level offers the key to understanding the rich artistic and cultural heritage of Spain and Latin America. You will become familiar with Hispanic history, politics and society through this highly stimulating and interactive course. Your linguistic fluency and grammatical awareness will heighten, and you will acquire the skill of summary writing as well as honing the skills of listening, reading and writing in Spanish. Trips are also frequently run to Andalucía, and to see Spanish plays and other cultural events in London.

SPANISH TOPICS: YEAR 1

- Study of the film *Ocho apellidos vascos* by Emilio Martínez Lázaro
- Modern and traditional values
- Cyberspace
- Equal rights
- Modern day idols
- Spanish regional identity
- Cultural heritage

SPANISH TOPICS: YEAR 2

- Study of the play *La casa de Bernarda Alba* by Federico García Lorca
- Immigration
- Racism
- Integration
- Today’s youth, tomorrow’s citizens
- Monarchies and dictatorships
- Popular movements
- Independent research project

PORTUGUESE (EDEXCEL GCSE)

You will be amazed how quickly you can pick up a new language after completing your GCSE in French, German or Spanish. Not only is Portuguese useful if you intend to travel to any of the ten countries across four continents where the language is spoken, but the cultural aspect of the course will also open your eyes to the role Portugal has played in shaping the world as we know it today. In recent years there have also been Portuguese trips to Lisbon and Porto, with the students visiting the monuments they had studied in lessons and practicing their language skills first-hand.

KEY INFORMATION

Portuguese is an ‘extra’ subject that is taught in three periods a week over two years. Anyone can opt for this subject, though this is a fast-paced course designed for those who love learning languages.

With over 215 million native speakers across South America, Europe, Africa and Asia, Portuguese is the world’s seventh most widely spoken language. England’s alliance with Portugal, dating back to 1386, is the world’s oldest, while British trade with Brazil has grown at over 4% per annum in recent years.

In the long term, speaking Portuguese could help you in a career opening new markets to your company or working in a multi-national corporation – Brazil is expected to overtake the UK and France to become the world’s fifth largest economy before long.

How is the course structured?

Although two years does not seem much time to prepare for a GCSE from scratch, there is also time to look into the culture and history of the Portuguese world. In the first term alone you will develop your Portuguese accent, use a range of verbs in two tenses and begin writing exam-style essays.

How will it be assessed?

An exam for each skill, each worth 25% of the overall grade, just like your current language GCSEs.

MUSIC (EDEXCEL)

Students immerse themselves in the orchestras, bands, choirs and many other chamber ensembles. This practical approach helps to develop advanced aural skills and a greater knowledge of repertoire, being able to place it in context more easily than they would through attendance at lessons alone. Numerous concerts and services take place in prestigious venues. The Sixth Form courses allow students to study Music as a practical, intellectual and creative subject, developing performance skills, writing compositions and learning about harmony in a more advanced form. Aural and analytical skills develop through studying a wide range of set works. A Level course is excellent preparation if you intend to study Music at university, but is equally valuable if you wish to pursue other disciplines. Qualities demonstrated by musicians – creativity, flexibility, imagination, self-discipline, organisational skills and the ability to respond and learn quickly – are greatly respected in many careers.

SPECIFICATION

A LEVEL

Component 1: Performing (30% of the qualification). Externally assessed.

- The purpose of this component is to assess students’ performing skills in a solo and/or ensemble context
- Students must perform a minimum of one piece, performed live and uninterrupted as a recital in front of a (small) audience
- Performance can be a solo, as part of an ensemble or a combination of these
- Total performance time must be a minimum of six minutes of music. Timing does not include the time taken to tune the instrument or any gaps between pieces.

Component 2: Composing (30% of the qualification). Externally assessed.

- Total of two compositions, one to a brief set by Pearson and one either free composition or also to a brief
- One composition in response to a set brief, of at least two minutes in duration
- One free composition or in response to a different set brief of at least two minutes in length
- Total time across both submissions must be a minimum of four and a half minutes

Component 3: Appraising (40% of the qualification). Externally assessed.

- This unit tests students’ application of knowledge through the context of twelve set works, with two set works drawn from each of the following areas of study:

Vocal Music

- J.S. Bach, Cantata, Ein feste Burg
- Vaughan Williams, On Wenlock Edge

Instrumental Music

- Clara Wieck-Schumann, Piano Trio in G minor, Op. 17: movement 1
- Berlioz, Symphonie Fantastique

Music for Film

- Danny Elfman, Batman Returns
- Bernard Herrmann, Psycho

Popular Music and Jazz

- Kate Bush, Hounds of Love
- Beatles, Revolver
- Courtney Pine, Back in the Day

Fusions

- Debussy, Estampes
- Anoushka Shankar, Breathing Under Water

New Directions

- Kaija Saariaho, Petals for Violoncello and Live Electronics
- Stravinsky, The Rite of Spring

PHYSICAL EDUCATION (OCR)

If you are interested in discussing issues such as whether drugs should be legalised, can an understanding of psychology give you the edge in competitive sport, do host countries use the Olympics as a political tool and how biomechanics affects your technique and efficiency in Sport, then this subject is for you. Both the AS level studied over two years and the A Level syllabus are made up of both theoretical and practical aspects of Physical Education and requires you to participate in a competitive sport. The specification creates confident, independent thinkers and effective decision makers who can operate as individuals or as part of a team – skills required to promote themselves in life.

If you have an interest in following a Sports related degree, then this would be a relevant choice. Nevertheless, a Physical Education A Level can complement many other degree subjects, too, and offers great benefits to a wide range of future careers including Physiotherapy, Osteopathy, Psychology, Fitness Training, the Armed Forces and Exercise Physiologist.

SPECIFICATION

A LEVEL

Physiological factors affecting performance
2 hours (30% of the A Level).

- Injury prevention and the rehabilitation of injury
- Motion and fluid mechanics
- Energy for exercise
- Environmental effects on body system

Psychological factors affecting performance
1 hour (20% of the A Level).

- Personality
- Attribution
- Confidence and self-efficacy
- Leadership in sport
- Stress management

Socio-cultural issues in physical activity and sport
1 hour (20% of the A Level).

- Ethics and deviance (drugs, violence and gambling)
- Commercialisation and the media
- Routes to sporting excellence in the UK
- Modern technology in sport and its impact on participation, excellence, fair outcomes and entertainment

Performance in Physical Education
(30% of A Level)

- Performance or coaching in one sport
- Evaluation analysis of performance for improvement (EAPI)



PHYSICS (AQA)

Physics tries to solve all of Science's biggest questions. The AQA A Level Physics course will challenge your imagination with new concepts like Special Relativity and Quantum Physics whilst building on the fundamental concepts learnt at IGCSE including Mechanics, Waves, Nuclear Physics, Electricity and Magnetism to allow you to develop both breadth and depth in your understanding of natural scientific phenomena. Mathematics is integral to the study of A Level Physics and you will be introduced to how more sophisticated mathematical functions are applied in Science and you will develop and hone your numerical problem-solving skills. The course has an emphasis on practical work including 12 required practicals for the practical endorsement. However, the breadth of experimental work will provide you with a good grounding in the experimental techniques needed for university and will introduce you to more detailed analytical skills. While practical work remains integral for the AS Level Course, there is not a practical endorsement.

SPECIFICATION

AS LEVEL

Lower Sixth content

- Measurements and their errors
- Particles and radiation
- Waves
- Mechanics and materials
- Electricity

Upper Sixth content

- Circular motion
- Simple harmonic motion
- Thermal physics
- Fields and their consequences
- Nuclear physics
- The discovery of the electron
- Wave particle duality
- Special relativity

Paper 1: Sections 1 - 5 and 6.1 (Periodic motion).

- 2 hours
- 85 marks, 34% of A Level

Paper 2: Sections 6.2 (Thermal Physics), 7, 8 and assumed knowledge from sections 1 to 6.1

- 2 hours
- 85 marks, 34% of A Level

Both papers break down as follows: 60 marks of short and long answer questions and 25 multiple-choice questions.

Paper 3: Option Topic and Assessment of Practical Skills.

- 2 hours
- 80 marks, 32% of A Level
- 45 marks of short and long answer questions on practical experiments and data analysis, 35 marks of short and long answer questions on optional topic

A LEVEL

The subject content is the same as the Lower Sixth A Level content

Paper 1: Sections 1 - 5

- 1 hour 30 minutes
- 70 marks, 50% of AS Level

Paper 2: Sections 1 - 5 plus Assessment of Practical Skills.

- 1 hour 30 minutes
- 70 marks, 50% of AS Level

Section A: 20 marks of short and long answer questions on practical skills and data analysis.

Section B: 20 marks of short and long answer questions from across all areas of AS Level content

Section C: 30 multiple-choice questions

GCSE ASTRONOMY (EDEXCEL)

Most people are fascinated by the night sky and are interested in stories about our continuing exploration of our Solar System and Universe. GCSE Astronomy allows students to build upon that interest giving a thorough introduction to the subject of Astrophysics, beyond that studied at IGCSE and A-Level Physics. A small amount of Mathematics is required but this is mostly GCSE standard Mathematics and where appropriate we go beyond the scope of the course making links to A Level Physics. The course is delivered in a more relaxed setting than the A Level courses and is largely based around discussion work. As a part of the GCSE you will have the opportunity to complete both naked-eye and telescopic observations over the duration of the course to support your understanding of the night sky and celestial objects.

SPECIFICATION

GCSE

This course consists of two papers (1 hour 45 minutes) with eight topics assessed in each paper.

Paper 1: Naked-Eye Astronomy

- Planet Earth
- The Lunar Disc
- The Earth-Moon-Sun System
- Time and the Earth-Moon-Sun Cycles
- Solar system observation
- Celestial observation

Paper 2:

- Exploring the Moon
- Solar astronomy
- Exploring the Solar System
- Formation of Planetary Systems
- Exploring starlight
- Stellar Evolution
- Our place in the Galaxy
- Cosmology

Both papers contain a mixture of different question styles, including multiple-choice questions, short-answer questions, calculations, graphical and extended-open-response questions.

In addition to the two papers and study for this qualification students should develop their observational skills.

Students must undertake at least one unaided and one aided observation. Students will need to use their knowledge and understanding of observational techniques and procedures in the written assessments.

Astronomical observations will require students to demonstrate their ability to design observations, make observations, analyse observations and evaluate their observations.



POLITICS (EDEXCEL)

Studying Politics at GHS is a stimulating experience, with classes structured to facilitate discussion and debate. Opinions are readily expressed by all, including the teachers, and this creates an engaging environment. The topics studied are all relevant to contemporary politics and students are expected to use current examples to illustrate points in their examination papers. The remarkable changes and events that have characterised British and Global Politics in recent years mean that there has never been a more exciting time to study Politics.

In recent years, a large number of Politics students have gone on to university to study PPE at Oxford, HSPS at Cambridge, Politics at Durham, Bristol, Newcastle and International Relations at St Andrews, Bath, LSE, Stanford USA, and other prestigious universities.

Trips and talks, such as visits from MPs and a trip to the UK Supreme Court and the Houses of Parliament, add greater depth, awareness and understanding of political issues.

SPECIFICATION

A LEVEL

The Pearson Edexcel Level 3 Advanced GCE in Politics consists of three externally examined papers. Students must complete all assessments in May/June in any single year.

Paper 1 involves studying UK Politics covering democracy and participation, political parties, electoral systems, voting behaviour and the media (Section A) and core political ideas, covering conservatism, liberalism and socialism (Section B).

Section A includes one 30-mark question from a choice of two (each question uses a source) – students must complete one of these. Plus one 30-mark question from a choice of two – students must complete one of these. Section B includes one 24-mark question from a choice of two.

Paper 2 involves studying UK Government covering the constitution, parliament, Prime Minister and executive and relationships between institutions (Section A) as well as the non-core political idea, nationalism (Section B).

Each section is assessed in the same manner as Paper 1.

Paper 3(B) involves studying global politics covering sovereignty and globalisation, global governance, power and developments, regionalism and the European Union and comparative theories.

It is assessed through a 12-mark question from a choice of two, one compulsory 12-mark question focused on comparative theories and two 30-mark questions from a choice of three.



PSYCHOLOGY (AQA)

The course presents five of the conventional approaches to explaining human behaviour, from Freud to the Humanists, and everything in between. The History of Psychological thought can be tracked through examination of these approaches and applied to the various topics studied.

In the first year of the course, topics under examination focus mainly on the techniques of investigation and the ‘classic’ studies that shaped Psychology as we know it today.

The focus alters slightly in the second year of the course, when the theories are applied to the three topics of Cognition and Development (how thought processes change throughout childhood and early adulthood, and the impact of this knowledge on education); Stress (the positive and negative effects of stress on the human organism and how to deal with prolonged stress) and Addiction (how and why people develop addictive behaviours such as smoking and gambling, and therapeutic techniques and their effectiveness).

SPECIFICATION

A LEVEL

The A Level examination at the end of Upper Sixth has three papers. The examination for each paper is 2 hours long and marked out of 96.

The papers are each worth 33.3% of the A Level qualification, and comprise multiple choice questions, short answer questions of 2, 3, 4 or 6 marks, and extended answers of 8 and 16 marks.

Paper 1: Introductory Topics in Psychology

- Psychopathology

Paper 2: Psychology in Context

- Inferential testing

Paper 3: Issues and Options in Psychology

- Issues and Debates
- Cognition and Development
- Stress
- Addiction



PHILOSOPHY, ETHICS AND RELIGION (RELIGIOUS STUDIES) (OCR)

Have you ever wondered whether a business can be truly ethical? Have you ever questioned why we are here and the purpose of our existence? (There is not an app which can fully answer that one!). A Level Religious Studies offers you a chance to discuss and evaluate a whole variety of fascinating questions that are raised by our three strands of Philosophy, Ethics and Developments in Christian Thought. Studied over two years, this A Level will teach you to think independently, to formulate clear and persuasive arguments and to write with lucidity.

This course will enable you to enjoy debating a wide selection of philosophical, ethical and theological issues. Life will raise many questions; this course will help you to answer some of the most important ones.

SPECIFICATION

A LEVEL

Philosophy of Religion:

- Ancient philosophical influences: Plato and Aristotle
- Soul, body and mind in the thinking of Plato and Aristotle and metaphysics of consciousness
- Theological and Philosophical Developments: The nature or attributes of God
- Religious Language: Negative, analogical or symbolic
- Religious Language: Twentieth century perspectives: Logical Positivism
- Wittgenstein’s views on language games, and Arguments relating to this: Flew, Hare etc.

The existence of God:

- Arguments based on observation: the teleological and cosmological arguments and challenges to these
- Arguments based on reason: the ontological argument
- God and the world
- Religious experiences including mystical and conversion experiences
- The Problem of evil

Religion and Ethics:

- Natural Law
- Situation Ethics
- Deontological and teleological theories
- Kantian ethics
- Utilitarianism

Applied Ethics:

- Euthanasia
- Business ethics
- Ethical Language: Meta-ethical theories: intuitionism, naturalism and emotivism
- Conscience: Aquinas’ theological approach and Freud’s psychological approach
- Sexual ethics: Premarital and extramarital sex, Homosexuality, and Application of ethical theories

Developments in Christian Thought

- Insight: Augustine’s teachings on Human Nature, Death and the Afterlife
- Foundations: Knowledge of God’s existence, The person of Jesus Christ
- Living: Christian moral principles and Christian moral action: Bonhoeffer
- Development: Religious pluralism and theology / Religious pluralism and society
- Society: Gender and society / Gender and theology
- Challenges: The challenge of secularism and Liberation Theology and Marx

Assessment will take the form of three 2 hour papers, one for each of the areas studied. Each paper will contain four questions, with the learner choosing three out of the four to answer.

THINKING SKILLS (CAIE)

Thinking Skills is different from any other AS subject, as a skills based qualification it doesn't involve learning facts. In Critical Thinking you learn how to interpret, analyse and evaluate ideas and arguments, as well as how to write in a coherent and logical way. You will learn to read passages closely and respond to them in a logical manner, to identify parts of an argument and then evaluate its strengths and weaknesses by identifying and explaining a range of flaws in reasoning. You are required to analyse arguments presented in longer passages, to produce an analysis of the credibility of sources within a scenario, and to develop your own structured arguments to extend or challenge the arguments presented in a passage.

In Problem Solving you develop skills in using information to draw conclusions and make decisions. You will analyse numerical, graphical and diagrammatic information to derive solutions to real life problems. These will often involve numerical data but problem solving is not a test of mathematics. Rather the focus is on using modelling techniques, logic and reasoning to reach a solution.

The diverse range of skills that are developed in the Thinking Skills course will support most of the AS and A Level subjects and give a sound foundation for a wide range of careers, including Law, Scientific Research, Academia, Journalism, Medicine, Finance and Engineering.

Thinking Skills has proven extremely useful for students who have taken additional university entrance tests and we strongly encourage students who are aspiring to take these tests in the future to study AS Thinking Skills. The content of the AS Thinking Skills course is directly assessed in the Thinking Skills Assessment (TSA), an entrance test used by Oxford and Cambridge universities for a variety of courses including PPE, Geography and Human Sciences. The skills that are developed in AS Thinking Skills are also assessed in entrance tests for several other courses at Oxford and Cambridge universities as well as in the National Admissions Test for Law (LNAT), the BioMedical Admissions Test (BMAT) used for applicants to certain university medical schools, and the Clinical Aptitude Test (UCAT) used for applicants to certain university medical and dental schools.

You will follow a one-year course that will be completed towards the end of the Lower Sixth with two externally assessed examinations. It is taught in one double period and one single period per week, with half an hour's homework each week.



FURTHER INFORMATION

DESTINATIONS OF LEAVERS

2023

UNIVERSITY	COURSE
Cardiff University (2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">DentistryMedicine
Durham University (7)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Chemistry (Industrial)FinanceGeographyHistory x 2Modern Languages and Cultures (with Year Abroad)Theoretical Physics
Imperial College London (5)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">BiochemistryDesign Engineering x 2Earth and Planetary Science with a Year AbroadMathematics and Computer Science
King's College London, University of London	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Management and Modern Languages with a Year Abroad
Lancaster University	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Law (Placement Year)
London School of Economics and Political Science, University of London (4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">EconomicsHistoryPhilosophy, Politics and Economics x 2
Loughborough University (3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Business Analytics (with placement year)Product Design Engineering (with placement year)Sport and Exercise Science (with placement year)
Royal College of Music	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Music
Royal Holloway, University of London	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Psychology
The University of Edinburgh (2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">TheologyVeterinary Medicine
UCL (University College London) (7)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">ArchitectureBiomedical EngineeringComputer ScienceEconomicsEnglishFrench and SpanishMedicine (6 years)
University of Bath (4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Architecture with professional placementBusiness with work placementEconomics with professional placement or study abroadMechanical Engineering with professional placement

2023 (continued)

University of Birmingham (5)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Chemical Engineering (Industrial Experience)Chemical Engineering with Industrial StudyMedicine x 2Politics and Philosophy with Year Abroad
University of Bristol (6)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Biomedical SciencesChemistry with Study Abroad in a Modern LanguageEconomics and FinanceGeography with Study AbroadMathematicsPsychology
University of British Columbia, Vancouver	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Biomedical Engineering
University of Cambridge (10)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Classics x 2EngineeringEnglishHistory and PoliticsMathematicsMedicine x 2Modern and Medieval LanguagesTheology, Religion, and Philosophy of Religion
University of Exeter (7)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">GeographyHistoryLawLiberal ArtsMedicine x 3Natural Sciences
University of Leeds (3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Biological Sciences (Biotechnology with Enterprise)Biomedical SciencesNatural Sciences
University of Liverpool (2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">MathematicsMedicine
University of Manchester	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Zoology with Industrial/Professional Experience (4 years)
University of Nottingham	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Chemistry
University of Oxford	<ul style="list-style-type: none">German and Beginners' Portuguese
University of Southampton (4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Archaeology and AnthropologyChemistry with year-long industry experienceMedicineSoftware Engineering
University of St Andrews	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Art History and Classical Studies

2023 (continued)

University of Warwick (3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Biomedical Science with Placement YearHispanic Studies and Theatre StudiesPhysics
Williams College, Massachusetts, US	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Liberal Arts
Deferred place (3)	

2022

UNIVERSITY	COURSE
Brighton and Sussex Medical School (1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Medicine
Cardiff University (4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Architecture x 2Medicine x 2
Central St Martins	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Art Foundation
Durham University (7)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Biological SciencesEngineering (Mechanical)GeographyLawPhilosophy and PsychologyPhilosophy and TheologyPsychology
Falmouth University	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Game Art
Hobart and William Smith Colleges (USA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Liberal Arts
Imperial College London	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Biological Sciences
King's College London, University of London	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Classics (Greek & Latin)
Lancaster University	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Philosophy, Politics and Economics
London School of Economics and Political Science, University of London	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Economics
Queen Mary University of London	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Medicine
Royal Veterinary College, University of London	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Veterinary Medicine
The University of Edinburgh (5)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">English LiteratureInternational Business with SpanishPhilosophy and TheologyPsychology and BusinessSpanish and Business
UCL (University College London) (4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Italian and SpanishMedicine (6 years) x 3
University of Bath (5)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Civil Engineering x 2Mechanical EngineeringPsychologySport Management and Coaching

2022 (continued)

University of Birmingham (6)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mathematics with a Year in Industry• Medicine (5 years) x 3• Politics and Philosophy• Psychology
University of Bristol (7)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Biomedical Sciences• Chemistry• Civil Engineering with Study Abroad in a Modern Language• Economics with Study Abroad• Law• Mathematics• Neuroscience
University of Cambridge (10)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Classics x 3• Engineering• Mathematics x 2• Medicine• Modern and Medieval Languages• Natural Sciences• Veterinary Medicine
University of Dundee	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gateway to Medicine
University of East Anglia UEA (2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Medicine x 2
University of Exeter (9)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Applied Psychology (Clinical)• Biological and Medicinal Chemistry• Biological Sciences with Study Abroad x 2• Drama and Film & Television Studies• Geography• Law with European Study• Politics and International Relations with Study Abroad• Psychology
University of Leeds (4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• English Literature• Philosophy, Ethics and Religion• Psychology x 2
University of Manchester (4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Architecture• Geography with International Study• Medicine x 2

2022 (continued)

University of Nottingham (7)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Environmental Science (4 years)• Geography• Law• Natural Sciences• Philosophy• Psychology• Veterinary Medicine
University of Oxford (3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Beginners' Italian and Spanish• Classics• Physics
University of Pennsylvania (USA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Liberal Arts
University of Sheffield	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Medicine (Phase One)
University of Southampton (2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Law with Psychology• Medicine
University of St Andrews	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• English
University of Sussex	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• International Development
University of York (2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• English• Philosophy

2021

UNIVERSITY	COURSE
Bath (5)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Education with Psychology with Placement Year• Modern Languages (German Advanced & Spanish Advanced)• Architecture (with Placement Year)• Psychology (wth Placement Year)• Politics and International Relations
Birmingham (2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Medicine (5 years)• Psychology
Brighton and Sussex Medical School (1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Medicine
Bristol (10)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Biomedical Sciences• English• English and Spanish• Geography• Law x 2• Physics• Politics and French (4 years)• Psychology with Innovation• Veterinary Science
Cambridge (12)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Classics• Engineering• English• Geography• History and Modern Languages• Law• Mathematics• Medicine• Modern and Medieval Languages x 2• Music• Natural Sciences
Cardiff (2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Human Geography• Medicine
Carnegie Mellon, USA (1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Liberal Arts
Dartmouth, USA (1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Liberal Arts
Durham (18)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Anthropology• Biological Sciences• Combined Honours in Social Sciences x 2• English Literature x 3• General Engineering• Geography x 2• History x 2• Liberal Arts• Modern Languages and Cultures (with Year Abroad)

2021 (continued)

Durham (cont.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Natural Sciences• Philosophy and Politics• Politics and International Relations• Psychology
Edinburgh (7)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Biomedical Sciences• Geography• History• History of Art• International Relations• Physics• Veterinary Medicine
Exeter (7)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Biological Sciences• Classics• Economics• Economics with Year Abroad• English• Modern Languages• Politics, Philosophy and Economics
Imperial (1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chemical Engineering
King's College London (2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chemistry• Medicine
Lancaster (1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Economics
Leeds (4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Economics and Geography• Law• Mechanical Engineering• Modern Languages and English
Leicester (1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clinical Sciences
Manchester (4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Biochemistry with Industrial/Professional Experience (4 years)• Biomedical Sciences (4 years) [MSci]• Geography• Physics
Newcastle (1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Psychology
Nottingham (9)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Aerospace Engineering including an Industrial Year• Architecture• Economics• Medicine x 4• Philosophy, Politics and Economics• Physics

2021 (continued)

Oxford (8)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Archaeology and Anthropology• Biochemistry (Molecular and Cellular)• Biology• Chemistry• Computer Science and Philosophy• Engineering• English Language and Literature• History
Queen Mary (1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dentistry
Royal Northern College of Music (1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Graduate Diploma of the RNCM ('Joint Course with University of Manchester MusB')
Southampton (2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Medicine x 2
Swansea (1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Applied Medical Sciences



Inspiring Girls