



**Wolverhampton
Girls' High School**

Sixth Form Subject Information 2020-22

EXCELLENCE | COMMUNITY | OPPORTUNITIES

I am delighted to welcome Wolverhampton Girls'

We have a long and established history of providing outstanding education for girls for over 100 years. We pride ourselves on our traditions, but we do not stand still, we are striving for continuous improvement. There is no charge or cost related to the admission of a student to the school and we welcome students from within the City of Wolverhampton and beyond.



ome you to High School.

We offer a broad and rich curriculum where all students are encouraged and supported to achieve their personal best in all aspects of school life. Our combination of high expectations and support, tailored to meeting individual needs, leads to academic excellence. Students are highly motivated to learn and personalised learning lies at the heart of our provision.

The school is respected as one of the best state schools in the country, regularly achieving examination results which place it near the top of national league tables. This success has also been recognised by Ofsted, with the school achieving four successive "Outstanding" inspections.

Whilst academic achievements are an important part of life at WGHS, students enjoy the wide range of other opportunities. These include participation in the thriving House system; and opportunities in the fields of sport, music and drama. Sixth Formers are an integral part of the school, taking on various leadership posts and acting as role models for the younger students. There is a plethora of activities for the students to engage in from leading whole school events; to organising charity fundraising activities; participating in debating competitions and enjoying expeditions abroad.

Our team of dedicated staff all ensure that students are well supported to achieve academic success, within a caring community. Pastoral care is exceptional, with a focus upon student wellbeing. High quality advice and support is provided to ensure that students are well informed to make their choices when preparing for higher education and their future careers. The school has an impressive record of students going on to read a variety of degree courses including Medicine and Law; and at some of the best institutions in the country including Oxford and Cambridge, alongside securing prestigious higher level apprenticeships at companies such as KPMG.

The school's motto: *Ludus Supra Praemium*, emphasises the value of taking part as a member of the school community. Our girls are encouraged to develop skills for life long success in terms of understanding themselves as learners and developing as responsible citizens, demonstrating care and respect for all members of the community. We focus on the importance of encouraging each of our students to aim for their personal best.

I want each and every one of our students to develop confidence, determination, resilience and self belief. We encourage our students to embrace all that an education here at Wolverhampton Girls' High School has to offer by seizing the myriad of opportunities both within and outside of the curriculum, to develop passion for learning, and enjoy enriching activities.



As a result, our students leave Wolverhampton Girls' High School with fond memories, and equipped as confident and independent minded young women ready to take on the challenges ahead and enjoy success in their chosen fields.

WGHS truly is a special place to be, with its supportive atmosphere, encouraging all students to achieve their best in all aspects of school life. If you would like to find out more about our school, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Trudi Young
Headteacher

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Subjects Offered at WGHS 2020-22

Art
Biology
Business
Computer Science
Chemistry
Classical Civilisation
Economics
English Literature
Geography
German
Government & Politics
History
Latin
Mathematics
Further Mathematics
Music
Physics
Psychology
Religious Studies
Russian
Sociology
Theatre Studies

In Year 12, all students will study 3 A Levels with the opportunity to study 4 or 5 dependent on the individual student's aspirations. All subjects from 2019 will follow the new reformed specifications. A Levels will be assessed at the end of the second year of study and students will be assessed on the subject content at the end of Year 12 via internal mock examinations. The viability of a course running will depend on the number opting for it. In Year 13 there is also the opportunity to complete the Extended Project Qualification.

In addition, there is an extensive enrichment programme on offer.

Advice on making choices

Admissions criteria for Sixth Form as follows:

Students (external and internal) wishing to join the Sixth Form at Wolverhampton Girls' High School will usually be expected to achieve the academic standards outlined on the school website. Some subjects will require specific grades in order to study them; the subject information requirements can be found in this booklet. Subjects which are not GCSEs but deemed to be equivalent to GCSEs are not accepted. The Headteacher reserves the right to make the final decision on the application of this criteria.

An enrichment programme is also in place to compliment your Sixth Form programme of study.

When making decisions on your subject choices you should consider:

- the subjects which you like and will enjoy studying and for which you have the motivation and interest to engage in additional research and background reading;
- the subjects you think you can do well in – it is the nature of your A Level grades which determines your university choice;
- possible degree courses and careers you are interested in, check the full entry requirements details for a handful of courses across different unis to make sure you're picking relevant subject choices;
- not committing yourself to areas of study for which you have no enthusiasm because of a career plan which you may well wish to change later on. Keep your future options open by combining subject choices to include 'facilitating' subjects;
- preparing yourself for the jump in Level of difficulty in the transition from GCSE to A Level;
- looking into Higher Apprenticeships and Degree Apprenticeship for opportunities to work and study simultaneously in the field you're interested in.

WGHS students will receive advice on A level choices:

- through the Year 11 PSHCE programme;
- by attending the Sixth Form open evening;
- by timetabled individual interviews with senior staff at which your parents will also be present;
- by talking to the staff who teach you;
- by attending university masterclasses;
- by attending a Higher Education fair.

Students new to the school

Suitable external applicants will be invited to a discussion with senior staff about your application which will involve possible career aspirations and guidance on choices before any final offer of a place is made.

A level Examination Results 2018-19

Subject	Total Entries	A*	A	B	C	D	E	U	% A*	% A* - B
Biology	78	8	16	15	12	14	12	1	29.5	50.0
Business Studies										
Chemistry	64	3	15	12	17	7	8	2	28.1	46.9
Classical Civilisation										
Economics	10	0	2	4	2	2	0	0	20.0	60.0
English Literature	21	4	4	10	2	1	0	0	38.1	85.7
Fine Art										
French										
Geography	26	2	10	7	4	3	0	0	46.2	73.1
History	25	2	7	6	7	3	0	0	36.0	60.0
Japanese										
Latin										
Mathematics	47	7	17	6	8	5	1	3	51.1	63.8
Mathematics Further	8	0	2	1	2	1	2	0	25.0	37.5
Music	7	0	2	3	1	1	0	0	14.3	71.4
Physics	11	3	0	4	3	1	0	0	27.3	63.6
Politics	9	0	5	1	3	0	0	0	55.6	66.7
Psychology	22	0	5	11	4	1	1	0	22.7	72.7
Religious Studies	9	0	4	3	1	1	0	0	44.4	77.8
Sociology	10	1	2	5	2	0	0	0	30.0	80.0
Spanish										
Totals	389	3	109	98	75	40	24	6	37.5	62.7
Totals excluding Extended Project	382	34	106	98	74	40	24	6	36.6	62.3

In line with Department for Education practice with published data, where there are six or fewer candidates, the information has been suppressed as some students could be recognisable, dependent on their grade and what other information is available in the local community or public domain. On average these subjects achieved 75% A*/B and 100% A*/C.

ART

Entry Requirements

Minimum Grade 5 in GCSE Art (endorsed or unendorsed)

Examination Board

AQA

Curriculum Leader

Mrs S Arrowsmith

Brief introduction to subject:

Art at A Level aims to deepen visual literacy and develop an articulate communication of ideas. Students are introduced to a variety of experiences exploring a range of media (painting, drawing, mixed media, sculpture, installation, printmaking and lens or light-based media). Opportunities exist to work initially within "Art, Craft and Design" and to specialise in Fine Art later if the student and teacher deems this appropriate. Many students choose to develop their painting or mixed media work and work within Fine Art in Year 13.

Staff-led starting points encourage a focus on observational drawing, experimentation with media and a developed understanding and appreciation of artists' work from a range of contexts. Through a series of workshops and then sustained portfolio work, individuals generate refined and resolved personal work in their particular area of interest.

At A Level more emphasis is on independent enquiry following tutorials with staff. The portfolio element in Year 13 is a "Personal Investigation" and includes a 3000 word essay, which is researched and developed to link closely to practical work. Students are encouraged to pursue their own line of enquiry or thematic idea or pose themselves a question to research and explore through visiting artists' work and conducting their own practical investigations that lead to personal conclusions.

Progression to Career/University Courses:

Studying Art can often be seen as a favourable addition to many other subject combinations and can represent a well-balanced education. It complements many subjects, including English Literature, Classical Civilisation, History and Government and Politics. Employers and admissions tutors can view those who have studied Art to A Level as having developed excellent visual literacy, independent enquiry, creative thinking and problem solving skills. These are highly prized abilities in a competitive market and an A Level in Art is far from dismissed in considering point scores and entry grade requirements for most university courses.

Art related courses include; Fine Art, Architecture, Art History, Printmaking, Sculpture, Graphic Design, Illustration, Fashion Design, Textiles, Museum and Gallery Studies, Photography, Animation, Advertising, Ceramics, Silversmithing & Jewellery Design, Glass Design.

Key Points:

- Art, Craft and Design pathway or Fine Art pathway depending on skill and interests
- Other endorsements such as three dimensional design and graphic communication considered
- Opportunities to develop skills in 2 and 3 dimensions
- Critical & Contextual Studies (making effective links with Artists' work) and academic writing
- Gallery visits
- 5 hours homework most weeks needs commitment and time management
- Inclusion of Art historical discussion topics which require independent research and presentations to the group.

A LEVEL

Component 1: Personal Investigation

- No time limit – usually begin in summer of Year 12
- 96 marks
- 60% of course for A level
- One whole sustained portfolio plus additional smaller portfolio work

Component 2: Externally set assignment

- Starting points issued from 1st February
- Preparatory period +15 hours supervised time
- 96 marks
- 40% of the course for A level

BIOLOGY

Entry Requirements

Minimum Grade 7 at GCSE is preferable due to demands of the course

Examination Board

AQA

Curriculum Leader

Mrs A Savage

Brief introduction to subject:

The A Level course is designed to provide a suitable preparation for degree courses while the AS course would be appropriate for any student with an interest in Biological Sciences, but who does not intend to pursue a science related career. As well as developing biological knowledge and understanding, the course emphasises the way biologists work and the contributions they make to modern society.

The course builds on concepts and skills that will have been developed in the new GCSE science specifications. It presents biology as exciting, relevant and challenging.

Progression to Career/University Courses:

Biological Sciences, Microbiology, Genetics, Molecular Biology, Ecology, Environmental Sciences, Medicine, Veterinary Sciences and Sport Sciences.

Key Points:

Some mathematical ability is required as there is statistical work with the A Level, with 10% of the total A Level marks requiring higher tier GCSE mathematical skills.

Please note – There will be no coursework or controlled assessment. 15% of the total A Level marks will be for practical knowledge and understanding. Teachers will also assess practical competency. If students pass, this will be reported on their certificate; otherwise it will not be reported.

To aid students in acquiring the skills and knowledge necessary to gain their practical endorsement, a compulsory trip is organised every year towards the end of year 12. This will be to a practical field centre and will give them hands on experience of the skills they need to master. This will incur costs.

A LEVEL

Paper 1

Core content

- Biological molecules.
- Cells.
- Organisms exchange substances with their environment.
- Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms.

Assessment:

Written paper: 2 hours

76 Marks: mixture of short and long answer questions.

15 marks: extended response questions

Maximum Marks available:

91 marks

35% of total A level marks

Paper 2

Core content

- Energy transfers in and between organisms.
- Organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments.
- Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems.
- The control of gene expression.

Assessment:

Written paper: 2 hours

76 Marks: mixture of short and long answer questions.

15 marks: comprehension question

Maximum Marks available:

91 marks

35% of total A level marks

Paper 3

Any topics covered in paper 1 and 2 including relevant practical skills.

Assessment:

Written paper: 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.

Maximum Marks available:

78 marks

30% of total A level marks

BUSINESS

Entry Requirements

Meets school entry requirements

Examination Board

Edexcel

Teacher

Mrs McMahon

Brief introduction to subject:

Aimed at anyone who wishes to develop an understanding of business operations, this course will help you to appreciate how and why business decisions are made and how they affect a variety of people – both within the business and externally.

A Level Business helps students develop a critical understanding of organisations, the markets they serve and the process of adding value. It enables students to develop an awareness of the current structure of business and business practice. It also provides students with the ability to foster a range of skills including decision-making and problem-solving.

Progression to Career/University Courses:

This A Level subject is accepted as an entrance qualification for a wide variety of courses in higher education. A Business degree is often used as an umbrella term covering a wide range of courses. Common course options include: accounting, business administration, business analysis, business computing, business ethics, business statistics, commercial law, developing markets, economic principles, finance, human resources, international studies, research and technology.

Skills in management and marketing are also required in other areas such as charity, social work and local government, while a knowledge of business is also important for consultancy, certain teaching jobs and for financial journalists.

Key Points:

Advanced GCE in Business is structured into four themes and consists of three externally examined papers. Students are introduced to business in Themes 1 and 2 through building knowledge of core business concepts and applying them to business contexts to develop a broad understanding of how businesses work. Breadth and depth of knowledge and understanding, with applications to a wider range of contexts and more complex business information, are developed in Themes 3 and 4, requiring students to take a more strategic view of business opportunities and issues.

Students are encouraged to use an enquiring, critical and thoughtful approach to the study of business, to understand that business behaviour can be studied from a range of perspectives and to challenge assumptions.

A LEVEL

Paper 1

Title: Marketing, people and global businesses

Assessment:

Written exam: 2 hours

Questions drawn from Theme 1 and Theme 4

- Section A: one data response question, including one extended open-response question
- Section B: one data response question, including one extended open-response question

Maximum Marks available:

100 marks

35% of qualification

Paper 2

Title: Business activities, decisions and strategy

Assessment:

Written exam: 2 hours

Questions drawn from Theme 2 and Theme 3

- Section A: one data response question, including one extended open-response question
- Section B: one data response question, including one extended open-response question

Maximum Marks available:

100 marks

35% of qualification

Paper 3

Title: Investigating business in a competitive environment

Assessment:

Written exam: 2 hours

Questions drawn from all themes

Two data response questions broken down into a number of parts, each including one extended open-response question.

This paper has a pre-released context to enable students to investigate an industry or market in which businesses operate.

Maximum Marks available:

100 marks

30% of qualification

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Entry Requirements

Minimum Grade 5 at GCSE Computer Science

Examination Board

AQA

Curriculum Leader

Mrs N Godfrey

Brief introduction to subject:

It is an exciting time to be a computer scientist! We are living in the midst of a revolution powered by computers. This course will extend what students have experienced at GCSE so that they gain an in-depth knowledge of how computers work and how to develop software solutions to difficult problems.

Computer Science at A Level spans theory and practice. The practical side of the course will give you intensive hands-on experience of coding, but Computer Science is also about problem solving. This requires precision, creativity and careful reasoning.

The first year of the A Level course concentrates on developing these problem solving approaches and the practical skills of programming. It also gives you an insight into how the computer works, from the inner workings of the microprocessor to memory, storage, operating systems, databases and networks.

The second year will deepen your understanding by introducing you to a range of programming languages and techniques, as well as exploring current technology developments such as Cloud computing, functional computing and big data. You will also put your skills to the test by producing a programming project.

Progression to Career/University Courses:

A Level Computer Science is valued by universities and employers alike as proof of a logical mind and is seen as the perfect complement to other maths, science or engineering subjects.

Avenues for future employment include: video game development, artificial intelligence, software engineering, animation, computer architecture, teaching, biomechanics, electrical and mechanical engineering, networking, graphics and many more.

Key Points:

A Level computer science requires a logical mind & successful candidates will need to be good at problem solving.

The course gives students an introduction to the following areas of computer science:

- Programming basics
- Problem solving
- Theory of computation
- Fundamentals of data representation, computer systems and computer
- Organisation and architecture
- Consequences of uses of computing
- Communication and networking
- Databases
- Functional programming
- Big Data

ASSESSMENTS

Paper 1

Computational Thinking & Programming

This paper tests a student's ability to program, as well as their theoretical knowledge of computer science fundamentals including programming, data representation & algorithms.

On-screen exam: 2 hour 30 minutes

Maximum Marks available:

40% of total A level marks

Paper 2

Computer Science

This paper tests a student's understanding of technology developments, advanced techniques, a variety of programming languages and big data.

Written exam: 2 hour 30 minutes

Maximum Marks available:

40% of total A level marks

Paper 3

Programming Project

The non-exam assessment assesses student's ability to use the knowledge and skills gained through the course to solve or investigate a practical problem. Students will be expected to follow a systematic approach to problem solving.

Maximum Marks available:

20% of total A level marks

CHEMISTRY

Entry Requirements

Minimum Grade 7 at GCSE is preferable due to demands of the course

Examination Board

AQA

Curriculum Leader

Mrs K MacDonald

Brief introduction to subject:

Chemistry may be studied as a single science or in combination with any of the other sciences. It builds on the concepts and ideas studied at GCSE with a particular emphasis on practical work throughout the course which is designed to develop investigative skills.

Progression to Career/University Courses:

The importance of Chemistry as a science is reflected in its priority requirement in many fields of science such as medicine, dentistry, veterinary science, pharmacy, geological and environmental sciences, biochemistry and chemical engineering. Many of our former students have gone to university to study in these areas of Chemistry.

Since Chemistry involves logical thought and critical analysis, many non-science related courses at university accept those who have studied Chemistry.

Key Points:

For future progression on to university Chemistry-based courses, the study of GCE mathematics and/or another science would be supportive.

This specification is designed to inspire students, nurture their passion for Chemistry and lay the foundation for further study within the workplace. The course content will be delivered over 2 years with terminal examinations in the summer of the second year of the course. Student's progress will be traced throughout the course using a variety of assessment techniques.

A LEVEL

3.1 Physical Chemistry

This unit extends the principles learnt at AS and includes the further study of acids and bases.

3.2 Inorganic Chemistry

This unit studies more patterns and trends in Inorganic Chemistry, including the physical and chemical properties of elements across the periodic table.

3.3 Organic chemistry and analysis

Further Organic Chemistry and analysis.

ASSESSMENTS

Paper 1

- Some Physical Chemistry topics
- Inorganic Chemistry
- Relevant practical skills

Written exam; 2 hours

Maximum Marks available:

105 marks

35% of total A level marks

Questions:

105 marks of short and long answer questions

Paper 2

- Some Physical Chemistry topics
- Organic Chemistry
- Relevant practical skills

Written exam; 2 hours

Maximum Marks available:

105 marks

35% of total A level marks

Questions:

105 marks of short and long answer questions

Paper 3

- Any content
- Any practical skills

Written exam; 2 hours

Maximum Marks available:

90 marks

30% of total A level marks

Questions:

40 marks of questions on practical techniques and data analysis

20 marks of questions testing across the specification

30 marks of multiple choice questions

CLASSICAL CIVILISATION

Entry Requirements

Meets school entry requirements

Examination Board

OCR

Curriculum Leader

Mr J Carlyle

Brief introduction to subject:

Many of us have fond memories of Greek myths and legends. Classical Civilisation builds on these great stories with their striking morals and debates fundamental questions. What should we strive for in life: the virtuous or the pleasurable? Should the head always rule the heart? Is it the most noble thing you can do to die for your country? What responsibilities does a ruler have towards his or her subjects? How and why do civilisations develop as they do? One of the most interesting questions of course is to what extent humanity has changed, and whether we have actually learnt anything from our past. We aim to answer these and more through studying texts and archaeological finds which have, incredibly, survived well over 2000 years.

Progression to Career/University Courses:

Classical Studies and Archaeology courses continue to grow at university and the A Level especially complements related courses such as English, Theatre Studies, History and Art. However, many students also take it as balance for the sciences.

Previous students have been taken on as management trainees, gone into the media, banking, accountancy, law or teaching. All Classical subjects are known to keep your options open because of the wide range of skills learned. Students develop their understanding of cultures that underpin our lives and learn to think for themselves, drawing conclusions from primary evidence.

Key Points:

Greek and Roman history and culture touch all our lives today – their insights into important questions are as relevant in the 21st century as they were 2000 years ago. Personal viewpoints are absolutely vital. Students research and organise material into an argument, increasingly working on clarity of expression. There is a wide variety of sources: vase paintings, Greek sculptures and temples, letters, epic poetry and more! Guest speakers are invited when possible, and trips are arranged to classical sites in Italy.

A LEVEL

Paper 1

Title: The World of the Hero

Set Sources: Homer's *Odyssey* and Virgil's *Aeneid*

Assessment:

Written paper 2 hour 20 minutes

Section A: Commentary Questions

Section B: Essays

Maximum Marks available:

100 marks

40% of total A level marks

Paper 2

Title: Greek Theatre

Set Sources: Sophocles' *Oedipus the King*, Euripides' *Bacchae*, Aristophanes' *Frogs*

Assessment:

Written paper 1 hour 45 minutes

Section A: Commentary Questions

Section B: Essays

Maximum Marks available:

75 marks

30% of total A level marks

Paper 3

Title: Love and relationships in the ancient world

Set Sources: Plato, Seneca and Sappho (from OCR anthology), Ovid *Ars Amatoria*

Assessment:

Written paper 1 hour 45 minutes

Section A: Commentary Questions

Section B: Essays

Maximum Marks available:

75 marks

30% of total A level marks

ECONOMICS

Entry Requirements

Meets school entry requirements

Examination Board

EDEXCEL

Teacher

Mr D Bowdler

Brief introduction to subject:

Economics is the science that deals with the production, distribution, and consumption of goods and services, or the material welfare of humankind. To this end it aims to solve practical problems within the world.

The roles of Governments and the Bank of England (specifically) in managing the economy are also investigated. An interest in current economic affairs is essential.

Progression to Career/University Courses:

Economics is an excellent choice for degrees in Economics, Business Studies, Management and Finance, Politics, Geography, Law and History. It is highly recommended for careers in government, mass media, industrial firms, banks and financial firms in the City, international organisations and trade unions.

Economics develops valuable analytical skills in assessing arguments, views and statistical data. Economics requires and develops logical thinking skills.

Key Points:

Economics combines well with a wide range of other subjects including languages, science & other humanities.

AS/A2 Mathematics is not necessary for studying A Level Economics but will be advantageous for university Level Economics. A-Level does though require the application of GCSE mathematics skills such as reading graphs and calculating basic calculations such as percentages and ratios.

The course is delivered through four themes:

- Theme 1: Introduction to markets and market failure
- Theme 2: The UK economy – performance and policies
- Theme 3: Business behaviour and the labour market
- Theme 4: A global perspective

Theme 1 looks at such things as how do consumers react when the price of goods changes? Why are some goods e.g. alcohol and tobacco over-consumed? What can be done about this?

Theme 2 investigates areas such as how can the Government promote economic growth? When should the Bank of England raise interest rates?

Theme 3 examines how firms compete and such questions as are Monopolies good or bad or should the minimum wage be raised and why are wage rates for different workers so varied?

Theme 4 considers topics such as development economics and does globalisation benefit Britain?

A LEVEL

Paper 1

Title: Markets and business behaviour

Assessment:

2 hours

Section A: multiple choice and short answer questions

Section B: A structured data response question

Section C: A choice of extended open-response questions

Maximum Marks available:

100 marks

35% of total A level marks

Paper 2

Title: National and International Economy

Assessment:

2 hours

Section A: multiple choice and short answer questions

Section B: A structured data response question

Section C: A choice of extended open-response questions

Maximum Marks available:

100 marks

35% of total A level marks

Paper 3

Title: Economic problems and issues

Assessment:

2 hours

The paper comprises two sections

Each section comprises one data response question broken down into a number of parts, including a choice of extended open-response questions;

students select one from a choice of two.

Maximum Marks available:

100 marks

30% of total A level marks

ENGLISH LITERATURE

YEAR 12

Entry Requirements

Minimum Grade 6 or above in both English and English Literature at GCSE

Examination Board

OCR

Curriculum Leader

Ms J Marshall

Brief introduction to subject:

This is a course which will stimulate, challenge and inspire anyone who enjoys reading novels, poetry and plays and who likes to form independent views and judgements on what they read. You will study a range of literary genres, considering the relationships between a text and its social, historical and cultural context.

Progression to Career/University Courses:

This subject could open the door to an exciting career in any number of fields, including psychology, sociology, journalism, the media and law.

Key Points:

English Literature offers you the opportunity to develop your ability to communicate fluently, accurately and effectively and to express cogent argument both verbally and in writing. You will be encouraged to respond critically and creatively to a range of literary texts, engaging with and challenging other readers' interpretations. In addition, you will be expected to read widely in order to enhance your knowledge and understanding of different genres and periods.

Lively debate is crucial to the study of any literary text and you will be called upon to voice your own views and judgements, whether in small group or whole-class discussion. You will also be asked from time to time to give paired or individual presentations on a particular aspect of a text. Such activities provide the opportunity to orally rehearse arguments and support you in producing more formal written responses.

The literary texts studied at both AS and A Level represent some of the finest works ever written across all three genres: poetry, prose and drama. To support your study of the Shakespeare play, you will have the opportunity to go to see a production at the theatre.

Unit 1

Title: Shakespeare and Poetry 'The Tempest' And 'The Merchant's Tale' - Chaucer

Unit 2

**Title: Drama and Prose post - 1900
'The Great Gatsby' - Fitzgerald
And 'Streetcar Named Desire' - Williams**

A LEVEL

Unit 1

**Drama and Poetry pre - 1900
'Duchess of Malfi' - Webster**

Assessment:

2 hour 30 minutes written paper (closed text)

Maximum Marks available:

60 marks

40% of total A level marks

Unit 2

**Title: Comparative and Contextual study:
America 1880-1940**

Assessment:

2 hour 30 minutes written paper (closed text)

Maximum Marks available:

80 marks

40% of total A level marks

Unit 3

Title: Literature Post - 1900

Assessment:

Coursework comprising:

Task 1: one essay of 1000 words. Close textual analysis of poetry.

Task 2: one essay of 2000 words, comparing a prose and a drama text.

Maximum Marks available:

40 marks

20% of total A level marks

EXTENDED PROJECT QUALIFICATION

Entry Requirements

Meets school entry requirements

Examination Board

AQA

Co-ordinator

Mrs McMahon

Brief introduction to subject:

The EPQ is a free-standing Level 3 project qualification and is equivalent to an AS Level. It allows students to research a subject from an area of personal interest or activity outside their main programme of study. It will be based on a topic chosen by the learner(s) and agreed as appropriate by the centre.

Progression to Career/University Courses:

Universities rarely make offers based on the EPQ grade. However, they may consider it when deciding whether to make an offer. It is held to be excellent preparation for the more independent learning style needed in Higher Education.

Key Points:

There are no normal lessons for the EPQ. You will be taught some skills at the beginning of your project and you will meet regularly with a supervisor throughout the process, but it will be your responsibility to:

- Plan and complete an individual project applying organisational skills and strategies to meet stated objectives;
- Obtain and select information from a range of sources;
- Select and use a range of skills, including new technologies where appropriate;
- Evaluate outcomes including own learning and performance and select and use a range of communication skills and media to convey and present evidenced outcomes and conclusions.

ASSESSMENT

How will I be assessed?

There is no exam. You will be assessed by the centre on the following:

- A completed Production Log including the Project Proposal Form;
- A written report of 5000 words; and
- Evidence, as appropriate, depending on the topic or subject area chosen e.g. an artefact or recording of a performance; a multi-media presentation in front of an audience.

Grades available: A* - E

GEOGRAPHY

Entry Requirements

Meets school entry requirements with minimum Grade 5 if studied for GCSE

Examination Board

OCR

Curriculum Leader

Mrs K Maiden

Brief introduction to subject:

Geography is such an important part of our understanding of the world. At a time of growing concern about climate change, shrinking energy resources and desire for sustainable solutions, Geography is one of the most relevant courses that you could choose to study. It is a multidisciplinary subject – a really interesting mix across science and arts.

Progression to Career/University Courses:

“There is no question that the understanding and skills that come from a study of Geography are highly valued by employers” Darrel Sheinman, Managing Director Sheinman Exploration Ltd.

Former students have gone on to read Geography, Geology, Environmental Sciences and International Development at a wide range of universities including Cambridge, Oxford, Durham, York, Birmingham, Manchester, Leeds, Plymouth, Southampton, Nottingham and Bristol.

Geography can lead to a very wide range of careers, including those in environmental planning, health, politics, housing, land management, education, international relations and development.

Key Points:

Post 16 study of Geography enables you to develop an in-depth understanding of physical and human processes at a range of scales, and to consider the key issues facing the world today, including global migration and variations in female rights, as well as opportunity to gain vital geographical, field work and life skills.

There are opportunities for extra-curricular activities, much of which centre on fieldwork. In Year 12 there will be a residential course to Borth near Aberystwyth in Ceredigion, Mid Wales. We look at coastal processes and management in the local area. It is likely that there will be a foreign trip. Iceland was visited in 2010, 2012 and 2014, 2016, 2018, and there is a planned trip for March 2020 to Italy.

A LEVEL

Unit 1

Title: Physical Systems

- Landscape Systems (Coasts, Glaciation)
- Earth's Life Support Systems (Water and Carbon Cycles)

Assessment:

Written exam; 1 hour 45 minutes

Maximum Marks available:

24% of total A level marks

Unit 2

Title: Human Interaction

- Changing Spaces; Making Places
- Global Connections (Global Migration, Human Rights)

Assessment:

Written exam; 1 hour 45 minutes

Maximum Marks available:

24% of total A level marks

Unit 3

Title: Geographical Debates

- Disease Dilemmas
- Hazardous Earth

Assessment:

Written exam; 2 hour 30 minutes

Maximum Marks available:

32% of total A level marks

Unit 4

Title: Investigative Geography

- Independent Investigation

Assessment:

Coursework (3000 word individual enquiry based on fieldwork)

Maximum Marks available:

20% of total A level marks

GERMAN

Entry Requirements

Minimum Grade 6 at GCSE

Examination Board

AQA

Curriculum Leader

Mrs C Dhamia

Brief introduction to subject:

Can you communicate? Do you want to find out more about the German-speaking world? The course builds on the skills acquired at GCSE, provides insight into another culture and society, provides a sound basis for further study and enhances employment prospects.

Progression to Career/University Courses:

A degree in German, or a degree in German combined with another subject, can help prepare you for a career in many fields: Tourism, Education, Translating, Interpreting, Journalism, Civil Service, Administration, Marketing, Linguistics... the possibilities are endless.

Key Points:

You will:

- Need to play an active part in lessons.
- Be encouraged to express your ideas and opinions orally and on paper.
- Learn about German life and culture.
- Be willing to tackle German grammar.

Themes and Sub-themes:

Aspects of French-speaking society: current trends

- Aspects of German-speaking society
- The changing state of the family
- The digital world
- Youth, Culture: fashion and trends , music, television

Artistic culture in the German-speaking world

- Festivals and traditions
- Art and architecture
- Cultural life in Berlin, past and present

Multiculturalism in German-speaking society

- Immigration
- Integration
- Racism

Aspects of political life in the German-speaking world

- Germany and the European Union
- Politics and youth
- German reunification and its consequences

A LEVEL

Paper 1

Assessment:

Written exam: 2 hour 30 minutes

- Listening, reading and responding to a variety of texts
- Translation into English
- Translation into German

Maximum Marks available:

100 marks

50% of total A level marks

Paper 2

Assessment:

Written exam: 2 hours

- One essay on a set literature text
- One essay on a set film

Maximum Marks available:

80 marks

20% of total A level marks

Paper 3

Speaking Assessment:

Recorded test 21-23 minutes (including 5 minutes preparation time)

- Discussion of one sub-theme based on a stimulus card (5-6 minutes)
- Presentation and discussion of individual research project (11-13 mins)

Maximum Marks available:

30% of total A level marks

GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

Entry Requirements

Meets school entry requirements

Examination Board

AQA

Curriculum Leader

Miss T McStay

Brief introduction to subject:

'Lively, relevant, controversial... there are many ways to describe A-Level Politics. There's no denying that it's one of the most interesting and engaging qualifications you can choose. Covering news, current affairs, where power lies and how democracy works in the UK and US, it helps you understand how the UK is run and develops the students' research, written communication and debate skills. The focus in A Level is upon the way democracy works in Britain and the United States of America through examining political ideas and structures of government. An opinion and an open mind to others' views are needed.

Progression to Career/University Courses:

The skills and critical thinking you will develop in studying Politics will help you go on to a range of further study and career choices. It's ideal if you're considering studying politics, sociology, philosophy, ethics, economics, law, history, advertising, international relations or journalism at university. It is also highly regarded by employers in industries including politics, international organisations, the media, government and the civil service' From AQA specification, 2017.

Key Points:

In Year 12 the focus is upon Britain and students study a range of topics. These include;

- Referendums-Should they decide issues such as membership of the EU?
- The Role of the Media in politics- How are newspapers biased?
- Voting Behaviour- Do women vote differently to men?
- Political Parties- Is Jeremy Corbyn changing the Labour Party?
- Parliament- How should the House of Lords be reformed?
- Devolution and Europe.
- The UK Constitution – How will Brexit alter our constitutional arrangements?
- Prime Ministerial Power – How far does the PM determine policy and dictate events?
- The UK Judiciary – How far are judges free from political interference?
- Political ideas – what is the nature of conservatism and liberalism?

In Year 13 the focus is upon America and students study a range of topics. These include;

- Elections- How was Donald Trump elected in 2016?
- Pressure Groups- What is the role of the National Rifle Association in politics?

- The American Constitution- Why is the Constitution central to America?
- Presidential Power - Is the President too powerful?
- The Supreme Court - How are citizens' rights protected?
- US Civil rights - How far are rights in the US protected e.g. race, religion, gender?
- Political ideologies - What is the nature of liberalism, conservatism and feminism?

Politics also offers a range of extracurricular opportunities to experience Politics in the 'real world'. This includes: a visit to the Houses of Parliament and the Supreme Court in London, Debating Club and competitions, Politics Club, running school elections and referendums and visits from speakers from the real world of politics.

A LEVEL

Paper 1

Title: Government and politics of the UK

Assessment:

Written exam; 2 hours

A mixture of medium length 'explain' and essay style questions.

Maximum Marks available:

77 marks

33.3% of total A level marks

Paper 2

**Title: Government and politics of the USA
Comparative politics**

Assessment:

Written exam; 2 hours

A mixture of medium length 'explain' and essay style questions.

Maximum Marks available:

77 marks

33.3% of total A level marks

Paper 3

Title: Political ideas

Assessment:

Written exam; 2 hours

A mixture of medium length 'explain' and essay style questions.

Maximum Marks available:

77 marks

33.3% of total A level marks

HISTORY

Entry Requirements

Meets school entry requirements with minimum Grade 5 if studied for GCSE

Examination Board

AQA

Curriculum Leader

Miss T McStay

Brief introduction to subject: History

It will include:

1. A breadth study of approximately 100 years. Russia in the Age of Absolutism and Enlightenment 1682-1796
2. A depth study of approximately 50 years. The Making of Modern Britain 1951-2007
3. A personal study over 100 years – the struggle for U.S. Civil Rights c1860 – 1970

Progression to Career/University Courses:

History is a very highly regarded academic discipline that facilitates access to a wide range of higher education courses and careers. Students of History are equipped with a wide range of transferable skills. They are adept at dealing with large quantities of information, have the ability to apply an analytical mind set to all kinds of situations and challenges, learn to construct convincing sustained arguments, and can gather, investigate and assess a range of sources. Employers value the research, analytical, teamwork and communication skills that History students develop and these skills are relevant in just about any industry which has a focus on current societies and future developments, particularly in, but not exclusively, the fields of business, law, politics, journalism and academia.

Key Points:

There are three units you will study over the two years:

Modern British History 1951-2007. Including the study of the following themes:

- Society; immigration, racism, feminism and the fight for equality, social change, the Welfare state and the birth of teenagers, culture, music and social tension.
- Foreign relations; Britain's declining empire, relations with Europe, warfare- the Cold War, the Falklands and the Iraq war.
- Political parties and the role of PM's in shaping our lives; Labour and the birth of the Welfare State, the "Swinging sixties and controversial social reform, the Thatcher revolution, the decline of the Conservative party and the rise of the Labour Party under Tony Blair.

Russia in the Age of Enlightenment. Including topics such as:

- How did rulers of Russian such as Peter the Great and Catherine the Great establish and maintain autocratic power?
- How far did Peter the Great modernise Russian?
- Was Catherine the Great an enlightened monarch, or was she really a reactionary?
- How significant was opposition to the Russian Tsars and how effectively was it dealt with?

Students also undertake a personal study which enables them to demonstrate their historical research skills. This independent study is excellent preparation for Higher Education and will focus on the Civil Rights Movement in the USA. Students explore the 100 years struggle for African Americans to achieve basic political rights from the end of slavery in the US in the 1860s. We study early pioneers who spread their messages of freedom and equality in an environment of lynching, KKK violence and the ambivalent attitude of Presidents. We then focus upon the splits in the movement for civil rights between Martin Luther King Jnr and Malcolm X.

A LEVEL

Paper 1

Breadth study - Russia in the Age of Absolutism and Enlightenment 1682 - 1796

Assessment:

Written exam: 2 hour 30 minutes

Compulsory – Source question on historical interpretations
Plus 2 essay questions from a choice of 3

Maximum Marks available:

40% of total A level marks

Paper 2

Depth study - The Making of Modern Britain 1951 - 2007

Assessment:

Written exam: 2 hour 30 minutes

Compulsory – Source question on primary sources
Plus 2 essay questions from a choice of 3

Maximum Marks available:

40% of total A level marks

Paper 3

Personal Study (Coursework) covering a period of 100 years – US Civil Rights c1860 – 1970

Assessment:

Coursework 3,000 - 4,500 words

Maximum Marks available:

20% of total A level marks

LATIN

Entry Requirements

Minimum Grade 5 or above at GCSE Latin

Examination Board

OCR

Curriculum Leader

Mr J Carlyle

Brief introduction to subject:

Latin combines many disciplines into one subject, with elements of language, literature, history, cultural awareness and moral debate. It complements all other subjects extremely well, including the sciences. Despite its reputation for academic rigour, many students comment that Latin is their 'fun subject' and they gain immense satisfaction from finding out about Rome's rich history through original Latin stories. The course is varied, stimulating and entertaining. There are extended selections from the best Roman authors, studied in their social context. Language and vocabulary build on GCSE.

At its annual conference, UCAS is always clear that students should follow their passions. Students who enjoy and do well in GCSE should strongly consider continuing at A Level.

Progression to Career/University Courses:

Latin is very highly regarded by universities and employers and an A Level in the subject will attract the immediate attention of interviewers. They know that a Latin student will have strong academic and interpersonal skills, as well as precision, historical understanding and the ability to analyse new situations. The Russell Group of top universities define Latin as a 'facilitating' subject, which means that it keeps students' options open to a range of careers, such as management, Civil Service, teaching, archaeology and competitive courses like medicine and law. A Level Latinists have gone on to a range of courses, including competitive subjects such as Medicine, at highly respected universities in the Russell Group and Oxbridge.

Key Points:

A Level Latin tends to attract dedicated, passionate students. The key skills which really matter to employers are central to the course. Guest speakers are invited when possible and trips are arranged to classical sites in Italy. "Students taking Latin are typically scholarly. They pursue academic study in the purest sense, they are not simply fulfilling a requirement." Matthew Potts, Admissions Tutor.

A LEVEL

Papers 1 and 2

Title: Language

Assessment:

Paper 1

1 hour 45 minutes written paper
Unseen translation

Paper 2

1 hour 15 minutes written paper
Unseen Comprehension

Maximum Marks available:

150 marks
50% of total A level marks

Paper 3

Title: Prose Literature

Assessment:

2 hour written paper
Section A: Tacitus' *Histories*
Section B: Tacitus' *Histories*

Maximum Marks available:

75 marks
25% of total A level marks

Paper 4

Title: Verse Literature

Assessment:

2 hour written paper
Section A: Horace's *Satires*
Section B: Ovid's *Amores*

Maximum Marks available:

75 marks
25% of total A level marks

MATHEMATICS

Entry Requirements

Minimum Grade 7 at GCSE is usually required due to demands of the course

Examination Board

Edexcel

Curriculum Leader

Mrs E Pataki

Brief introduction to subject:

Mathematics is historically a highly valued subject, studied by many famous scientists, philosophers and thinkers, from many different cultures and throughout time; so to study it is to join a long list of intellectuals. It is an exciting and interesting subject in its own right.

Progression to Career/University Courses:

Mathematics is a highly valued tool for many disciplines such as science, economics, engineering, computing, and finance. The list is endless as Mathematics has become an integral part of almost every job, especially with the growth in the use of statistics to analyse data over the last century. Mathematics provides a general education in logical thought and problem solving, skills which are highly marketable.

In recent years Mathematics students have gone to do Pure Mathematics degrees at Cambridge, Warwick, Birmingham, Oxford and Liverpool. Mathematics students have also gone on to do a variety of other Mathematical related courses including: Mathematics and Physics, Mathematics with Ocean and Climate studies, Aeronautical Engineering and Astrophysics.

Key Points:

All modules are compulsory. Two thirds of the course will be pure maths, with mechanics and statistics having equal weighting in the final third.

The Pure units build on your knowledge of graphs, trigonometry and algebra. You will also study calculus which is a very powerful mathematical tool.

In Statistics you will learn to interpret large data sets, consider statistical modelling and hypothesis testing and look at probability.

In Mechanics you are introduced to mathematical modelling of physical situations using dynamics, kinematics and statics and will be introduced to Newton's laws.

All papers will contain a mix of question styles from short, single-mark questions to multi-step problems.

A LEVEL

Paper 1

Title: Pure Mathematics

Assessment:

100% Examination

2 hours

Maximum Marks available:

Paper marked out of 100

33.3% of total A level marks

Paper 2

Title: Pure Mathematics

Assessment:

100% Examination

2 hours

Maximum Marks available:

Paper marked out of 100

33.3% of total A level marks

Paper 3

Title: Statistics and Mechanics

Assessment:

100% Examination

2 hours

Maximum Marks available:

Paper marked out of 100

33.3% of total A level marks

FURTHER MATHEMATICS

Entry Requirements

Minimum Grade 7 in GCSE Mathematics

Examination Board

Edexcel

Curriculum Leader

Mrs E Pataki

Brief introduction to subject:

Further Mathematics allows students to learn about new areas of Mathematics that are not visited in the Mathematics A2 course. Students will learn about more current mathematical topics and be stretched with more complex Pure Mathematics. Students cannot study Further Mathematics without Mathematics.

Progression to Career/University Courses:

Anyone considering Mathematics, Engineering or some Economics courses at university is strongly recommended to choose this option. It encourages an offer and helps in the first year of undergraduate study.

Key Points:

In Further Mathematics students study Further Pure Mathematics and Further Mechanics and are introduced to Decision Maths.

A LEVEL

Paper 1

Title: Core Pure Maths

Assessment:

100% Examination

1 hour 30 minutes

Maximum Marks available:

Paper marked out of 75

25% of total A level marks

Paper 2

Title: Core Pure Maths

Assessment:

100% Examination

1 hour 30 minutes

Maximum Marks available:

Paper marked out of 75

25% of total A level marks

Paper 3

Title: Further Mechanics

Assessment:

100% Examination

1 hour 30 minutes

Maximum Marks available:

Paper marked out of 75

25% of total A level marks

Paper 4

Title: Decision

Assessment:

100% Examination

1 hour 30 minutes

Maximum Marks available:

Paper marked out of 75

25% of total A level marks

MUSIC

Entry Requirements

Grade 5 or higher at GCSE alongside a minimum of Grade 4 on your chosen instrument

Examination Board

AQA

Curriculum Leader

Mrs J Bishop

Brief introduction to subject:

The AQA Music course is divided into three components: Appraising Music, Performance and Composition. Appraising Music gives an overview of classical music through history alongside options such as Pop, Music for Media, Jazz, Contemporary, and Music for Theatre. Performances of solo or ensemble pieces of your choice may be performed on any instrument and compositions are produced both to a brief and from free choice. The emphasis is placed on performance for A Level.

Progression to Career/University Courses:

A Level Music may be used as part of the entry for any degree with the single exception of Veterinary Science. It is a necessary requirement for anyone wishing to read Music or Music Technology at university and is a highly regarded "A-list" subject at all leading universities as it demonstrates qualities of perseverance and dedication and it is a highly demanding academic study. A degree in Music enables students to pursue a variety of careers both in the Arts and in any area where lateral thinking, focus, resilience, personal drive and team work are required. Many positions are available in the creative industries such as performance, composition, music research, journalism, music production and studio work and the world of theatre or media as well as teaching.

Key Points:

You need to be an enthusiastic performer and dedicated to your musicianship. The music department holds weekly rehearsals for Choirs and Vocal Ensembles, String Orchestra, Concert Band for wind and brass and Jazz Band to name but a few. There is also the option of joining a chamber music group and performing as a soloist in a variety of situations. If you opt to study Music at A Level you will be required to commit to a minimum of one ensemble and you will also be encouraged to find external groups with whom you would perform. Regular enhancement activities such as concert visits are arranged and these are tailored to the studies of the group. The school is a centre for the main examination boards offering instrumental grading for one or more of ABRSM, Trinity Guildhall and London College each term. A Level students are given a 50% discount on their first instrumental lesson and in the 2nd year, a free recital lesson in addition to the first discounted lesson.

A LEVEL

Component 1

Title: Appraising Music

Listening, Analysis and contextual understanding.

Assessment:

Written examination with 3 sections;
Listening, Analysis and Contextual Understanding
2 hour 30 minutes

Maximum Marks available:

120 marks
40% of total A level marks

Component 2

Title: Performance

Solo or ensemble performances with a combined time of 10 - 12 minutes.

Assessment:

Externally assessed recording.

Maximum Marks available:

50 marks
35% of total A level marks

Component 3

Title: Composition

1 composition to a brief and 1 free composition with a combined time of 4.30 - 6 minutes.

Assessment:

Externally assessed scores.

Maximum Marks available:

50 marks
25% of total A level marks

PHYSICS

Entry Requirements

Minimum Grade 7 at GCSE is usually required due to demands of the course

Examination Board

AQA

Curriculum Leader

Ms J Davies

Brief introduction to subject:

Studying physics after your GCSEs really develops your practical and mathematical skills. If you enjoy experimenting in the lab and problem solving, you'll love it.

Physicists explore the fundamental nature of almost everything we know of. They study everything from the fundamental particles that build matter, to the galaxies that make up the universe itself. Join them to enter a world deep beneath the surface of normal human experience.

The course is designed to form strong scientific investigative skills while introducing you to the wonderful world of physics. The course covers the more traditional mechanics, waves and electricity modules as well as introducing you to particle and quantum phenomena.

Progression to Career/University Courses:

Studying Physics at A-Level or degree Level opens up all sorts of career opportunities.

For example, healthcare scientist, medical physics, higher education lecturer or secondary school teacher, research scientist (physical sciences), meteorologist, structural or acoustic engineer, product/process development scientist, systems developer, technical author.

You can also move into engineering, astrophysics, chemical physics, nanotechnology, renewable energy and more. With physics, the opportunities are endless.

Even if you don't decide to work in physics, studying it still develops useful and transferable skills for other careers such as Law and accountancy. You'll develop research, problem solving and analytical skills, alongside teamwork and communication. Universities and business regard all of these skills very highly.

Key Points:

For further progression onto university Physics or Engineering courses, the study of A Level Mathematics would be required and strongly advised for the study of A Level Physics.

A LEVEL

Core Content

Title: Measurements and their errors, Particles and radiation, Waves, Mechanics and materials, Electricity, Further mechanics and thermal physics, Fields and their consequences, Nuclear physics plus an option topic.

Assessment:

Written Examination

June - 3 papers

2 hours each

Maximum Marks available:

Paper 1 85 marks

Paper 2 85 marks

Paper 3 80 marks

PSYCHOLOGY

Entry Requirements

Meets school entry requirements

Examination Board

AQA

Teachers

Mrs Olomolaiye and Ms Usman

Brief introduction to subject:

Psychology is the science of mind and behaviour. The popular A Level Psychology course provides a broad introduction to the subject and girls find that they can apply their knowledge to everyday life. Psychology enables students to develop their essay writing and research skills. These skills are transferable and support other subject areas. Students learn to use critical analysis to argue a particular point of view with evidence.

Progression to Career/University Courses:

Though it is not essential for entry to a degree course, the majority of Psychology undergraduates have studied Psychology at A Level. Following a British Psychological Society BPS accredited course of study there are a number of postgraduate qualifications that lead to Chartered status; among these are Clinical, Educational and Occupational Psychology. The BPS website is an invaluable source of information about careers in Psychology, www.bps.org.uk. In addition, it is a particularly useful subject for careers such as Medicine, Teaching, Personnel and others that involve working closely with people.

Key Points:

A Level

Paper 1: Social influence, Memory, Attachment, Psychopathology.

Paper 2: Approaches in Psychology, Biopsychology, Research Methods.

Paper 3: Issues and Debates in Psychology and 3 options will be selected from a list of topics.

A LEVEL

Paper 1

Title: Introductory Topics in Psychology

Assessment:

Written exam: 2 hours

Maximum Marks available:

96 marks

33.3% of total A level marks

Paper 2

Title: Psychology in Context

Assessment:

Written exam: 2 hours

Maximum Marks available:

96 marks

33.3% of total A level marks

Paper 3

Title: Issues and Options in Psychology

Assessment:

Written exam: 2 hours

Maximum Marks available:

96 marks

33.3% of total A level marks

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Entry Requirements

Meets school entry requirements

Examination Board

OCR

Curriculum Leader

Mrs A Meredith

Brief introduction to subject:

The Religious Studies A Level course offers a combination of Philosophy, Ethics, and Developments in Christian Thought.

This course encourages you to challenge the opinions of others by anticipating viewpoints and objections, and offering a critical approach to study.

Progression to Career/University Courses:

A Level Religious Studies helps you to acquire skills that are invaluable preparation for any degree course and is highly regarded by all universities. Previous students of Religious Studies have gone on to take university degrees in a variety of subjects including Law, Medicine, Languages, English, Business Studies, Accountancy, Psychology, Theology, Philosophy and Social Work. Skills developed during the course prepare students to negotiate effectively and critically analyse texts in any discipline. A previous student who has recently graduated in Law commented that: "A Level Religious Studies is the best possible preparation for Law because you learn to back up your points with examples and scholarly quotes".

Key Points:

Students are encouraged to identify strengths and weaknesses in arguments, see several points of view and weigh up alternatives, identify key points, and draw clear conclusions from complex information. In addition, students are equipped to reason logically and persuasively, discuss coherently, research efficiently, communicate effectively and distinguish between fact and assumption.

What is Philosophy and Ethics?

Philosophy deals with the big questions humans ask, such as 'does God exist?' and 'why does God allow bad things to happen to good people?' Study includes an exploration of the ancient philosophy of Plato and Aristotle, arguments for the existence of God, the nature of religious experience and how religious believers have attempted to overcome the problem of evil and suffering in the world.

Ethics looks at how humans make important decisions, such as 'what is right?' and whether human beings naturally selfish. Study includes an exploration of ethical theories (religious and non-religious), and applies these theories to different ethical dilemmas such as euthanasia.

Developments in Christian Thoughts

This component of study explores developments in early Christian thinking, such as Augustine on human nature and developments in Christian eschatological teaching, to asking questions such as 'how can we know God?', 'what is the significance of Christ?' and 'how do Christians apply these beliefs to modern day living?'

A LEVEL

Paper 1

Title: Philosophy of Religion

Assessment:

Three essays (40 marks each):

2 hours

Maximum Marks available:

120 marks

33.3% of total A level marks

Paper 2

Title: Ethics and Religion

Assessment:

Three essays (40 marks each):

2 hours

Maximum Marks available:

120 marks

33.3% of total A level marks

Paper 3

Title: Developments in Christian Thought

Assessment:

Three essays (40 marks each):

2 hours

Maximum Marks available:

120 marks

33.3% of total A level marks

RUSSIAN

Entry Requirements

Minimum Grade 6 in GCSE Russian

Examination Board

Edexcel

Curriculum Leader

Mrs C Dhamia

Brief introduction to subject:

Would you like to master the intricacies of the Russian language? The A Level course is designed to give you confidence in your language skills as we return to the basics of the grammar and enable you to widen your vocabulary with the help of cartoons, pop songs, poetry, literature and film. The course gives an insight into the history and the lives of the Russian people.

Progression to Career/University Courses:

A Level Russian allows you to study various courses at university, such as Russian, Slavonic Studies, Linguistics and European Studies. Russian also combines well with other languages and with other subjects such as History, Business Studies, Economics and Politics. A degree in Russian can lead to jobs in Translating and Interpreting at the highest Level, including at the U. N. Russian offers opportunities for careers in Tourism, Journalism, Business, Teaching and Social Work in Russia as well as a raft of other exciting possibilities.

Key Points:

All aspects of grammar are examined; practise your spoken Russian; learn about Russia's past and present through newspaper articles, literature and film.

The content of the course is based on 4 Themes and Sub-themes

1: The development of Russian Society

- Life of young people in Russia - Health, leisure, new technology
- Education
- World of work - Attitudes, opportunities, equality

2: Politics and culture in the Russian speaking world

- The Media
- Music, the circus, dance
- Celebrations, public holidays, festivals and traditions

3: Moscow and St. Petersburg

- Changes in population
- Social problems – Poverty, crime
- The Environment – Reconstruction of cities, pollution

4: The last years of the Soviet Union – M S Gorbachov (1985-1991)

- Perestroika (Reconstruction) – Causes, economic changes, consequences
- Glasnost (Openness) - Causes, social changes, consequences
- 1991 – Fall of the Soviet Union

ASSESSMENT

Paper 1

Listening, reading and translation

Written exam: 2 hours

Section A: Listening (30 marks)

Section B: Reading (30 marks)

Section C: Translation into English (20 marks)

Maximum Marks available:

80 marks

40% of the qualification

Paper 2

Written response to works and translation

Written exam: 2 hour 40 minutes

Section A: Translation (20 marks)

Section B: Written response to a literary text (50 marks)

Section C: Written response to a film (50 marks)

Maximum Marks available:

120 marks

30% of the qualification

Paper 3

Speaking

Between 21 and 23 minutes
(including 5 minutes' preparation time)

Task 1 - 30 marks

Students discuss one theme from the specification based on a stimulus containing two different statements.

Task 2 - Parts 1 and 2 - 42 marks

- Independent research presentation

Students present a summary of their research and give a personal response to what they have read.

- Discussion on independent research

Students answer questions on their presentation and then have a wider discussion on their research.

Maximum Marks available:

72 marks

30% of the qualification

SOCIOLOGY

Entry Requirements

Meets school entry requirements

Examination Board

AQA

Curriculum Leader

Miss T McStay

Brief introduction to subject:

Sociology is an exciting social science that will inspire you to think about and view the world from different perspectives. Sociology is the study of societies and human interaction within them. Sociologists try to explain what holds society together, the causes of social problems, and the reasons behind social continuity, trends and social change.

You will study a diverse and controversial range of topics, ranging from why crime occurs, what British families are like today and why, the impact of media on your conceptions of “normality”, race, gender, class and age and the impact of education and shaping your place in society. Sociology encourages you to question the way our society is organised and to realise that things are not always what they seem! You will be introduced to the methods used by Sociologists and explore how people are socialised to become members of society and gain their identity.

Progression to Career/University Courses:

People who study Sociology go on into a wide variety of jobs. You will gain a range of valuable skills including how to research, argue and critique data and theories. Such skills are valuable in any work context and particularly so in careers which involve working with people.

Related courses/careers: Criminology, Law, Social Policy, Psychology, Economics, Crime analyst, Paralegal, Law clerk, Police officer, Journalism, Counselling, Social service, Community worker, Housing manager, Information scientist, Journalist, Lecturer, Prison governor, Probation services, Researcher, Teaching, Social worker, Government researcher, Social Researcher and Politics.

Typical grade requirements to study Sociology/ a Sociology related degree are as follows: Oxbridge: A* A A, Russell Group: A B B to B B B, Non Russell Group: A B B to C C C.

Key Points A level:

Strong essay writing skills are needed to succeed in this subject as well as the ability to engage with complex material in a critical and evaluative manner. Students should also be aware of current affairs or interested in engaging more with this while studying the course.

You will study Education, Media, Families, Crime and Deviance in British society as well as research methods and theories of Sociology. Some examples of questions that will be explored are: Why do girls do better at school than boys? Who is most likely to be the victim of crime? Why do many of the top jobs in society go to students who have been educated at private schools and Oxford? How scientific is science? How does the construction and ownership of the media control societies views on race, class, sexuality, disability and gender? How do our police control crime? How does labelling in schools impact student performance? Who creates government social policy and how does it control and normalise certain patterns in society?

A LEVEL

Paper 1

Title: Education with Methods

Assessment:

Written exam: 2 hours

Education: short answer and extended writing, 50 marks

Methods in Context: extended writing, 20 marks

Theory and Methods: extended writing, 10 marks

Maximum Marks available:

80 marks

33.3% of total A level marks

Paper 2

Title: Topics in Sociology: Families and Households

The media

Assessment:

Written exam: 2 hours

Section A: extended writing, 40 marks

Section B: extended writing, 40 marks

Maximum Marks available:

80 marks

33.3% of total A level marks

Paper 3

Title: Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods

Assessment:

Written exam: 2 hours

Crime and Deviance: short answer and extended writing, 50 marks

Theory and Methods: extended writing, 30 marks

Maximum Marks available:

80 marks

33.3% of total A level marks

THEATRE STUDIES

Entry Requirements

Meets school entry requirements

Examination Board

Edexcel

Teacher

Ms Marshall

Brief introduction to subject:

Why choose to study Drama and Theatre Studies?

This qualification engages students through encouraging creativity, focusing on practical work which reflects 21st-century theatre practice and developing skills that will support progression to further study of drama and a wide range of other subjects.

The course has a practical focus, concentrating on the exploration of performance texts, including studying them in light of the work of theatre practitioners. The performance texts that will be studied for the exam will require you to articulate how you would perform in certain roles, design for certain scenes and interpret a text for performance, putting practical work at the heart of your work.

Progression to Career/University Courses:

Any course in the Creative Arts, Literature or Humanities. An interest in Design. A career in Law, Teaching or Business.

A LEVEL

Component 1

Title: Devising

- Devise an original performance piece.
- Use one key extract from a performance text and a theatre practitioner as stimuli.
- Centre choice of text and practitioner.
- Performer or designer routes available.

Assessment:

Non-examination assessment

- AO1, AO2 and AO4 are assessed.
- Internally assessed and externally moderated.
- There are two parts to the assessment:

1) a portfolio (60 marks, 40 marks assessing AO1 and 20 marks assessing AO4)

The portfolio submission recommendations are: - can be handwritten/typed evidence between 2500–3000 words or recorded/verbal evidence between 12–14 minutes or - can be a combination of handwritten/typed evidence (between 1250–1500 words) and recorded/verbal evidence (between 6–7 minutes).

2) the devised performance/design realisation (20 marks, assessing AO2).

Maximum Marks available:

80 marks

40% of total A level marks

Component 2

Title: Text in Performance

- A group performance/design realisation of one key extract from a performance text.
- A monologue or duologue performance/design realisation from one key extract from a different performance text.
- Centre choice of performance texts.

Assessment:

Non-examination assessment

- AO2 is assessed.
- Externally assessed by a visiting examiner.
- Group performance/design realisation: worth 36 marks.
- Monologue or duologue/design realisation: worth 24 marks

Maximum Marks available:

60 marks

20% of total A level marks

Component 3

Title: Theatre Makers in Practice

- Live theatre evaluation – choice of performance.
- Practical exploration and study of a complete performance text – focusing on how this can be realised for performance.
- Practical exploration and interpretation of another complete performance text, in light of a chosen theatre practitioner – focusing on how this text could be reimagined for a contemporary audience.
- Centre choice of 15 performance texts from two lists on the next page.
- Choice of eight practitioners.

Assessment overview Section A: Live Theatre Evaluation

Written exam: 2 hour 30 minutes

20 marks, assessing AO4.

- Students answer one extended response question from a choice of two requiring them to analyse and evaluate a live theatre performance they have seen in light of a given statement.
- Students are allowed to bring in theatre evaluation notes of up to a maximum of 500 words. Section B: Page to Stage: Realising a Performance Text
- 36 marks, assessing AO3.
- Students answer two extended response questions based on an unseen extract from the performance text they have studied.
- Students will demonstrate how they, as theatre makers, intend to realise the extract in performance. Students answer from the perspective of a performer and a designer.
- Performance texts for this section are not allowed in the examination as the extracts will be provided. Section C: Interpreting a Performance Text
- 24 marks, assessing AO3.
- Students will answer one extended response question from a choice of two based on an unseen named section from their chosen performance text.
- Students will demonstrate how their re-imagined production concept will communicate ideas to a contemporary audience.
- Students will also need to outline how the work of their chosen theatre practitioner has influenced their overall production concept and demonstrate an awareness of the performance text in its original performance conditions.
- Students must take in clean copies of their performance texts for this section, but no other printed materials.

Maximum Marks available:

80 marks

40% of total A level marks

NOTES



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