



Sheldon School

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Course Handbook

2026-2028

SIXTH FORM COURSE HANDBOOK



There are many things to take into account before you make a final decision on which subjects you would like to study.

If you already know what you would like to do when you leave school, check the entry requirements online, book an appointment with our Careers Adviser or speak to one of the Sixth Form Team.

Some factors to consider include:

- which subjects to study;
- grades you will need;
- work experience or extracurricular accomplishments which may be necessary.

If, at this stage, you have only a general idea of what you wish to do, or are really not sure yet, then select subjects which you actively enjoy and which you are good at. It would also be useful to see the Careers Adviser.

For higher education, some degree courses require particular subject combinations, whilst others require very high grades in key subjects. If you change your mind once you have begun your courses, it is not always easy to swap courses and catch up.

It is therefore crucial that you research carefully before you make a final decision.

Pathways Through Sheldon Sixth Form

POSSIBLE DESTINATION BEYOND SHELDON	Foundation Routes Into University or Apprenticeships or Employment	Universities or Apprenticeships or Employment	Competitive / Selective Universities or Degree / Higher Level Apprenticeships	Internationally Competitive Universities or Degree Level Apprenticeships
PROGRAMME OF STUDY	1 or 2 A Level courses and 1 or 2 L3 courses dependent upon results Possible English GCSE or Maths GCSE resit	3 A Levels or L3 courses Possible English GCSE or Maths GCSE resit Core Maths	3 A Levels or L3 courses optional EPQ or Core Maths	3 A Levels + EPQ or AS in Further Maths <i>Sheldon Scholars</i>
ENTRY REQUIREMENTS	GCSE grades mostly 4s (at least 5 x 4s)	GCSE grades mostly 4-5 (at least 3 x 5s and 2 x 4s)	GCSE grades mostly 5-6 including English and Maths	GCSE grades mostly 7-9 including English and Maths

Extended Project Qualification

The EPQ is equivalent to $\frac{1}{2}$ an A level and allows you to demonstrate your interest in a project of your choice that extends your studies. It requires advanced planning, research and project management skills and is highly valued by many universities.

Core Mathematics

Equivalent to an AS Level. Core Mathematics is designed for students to retain, deepen and extend their knowledge and skills from GCSE, as well as studying and applying new level three material relevant to their needs.

CONTENTS

- L3** Level 3 Course
- SH** Joint course with Hardenhuish School
- H** Offered at Hardenhuish School

L3	APPLIED SCIENCE	3
	ART	4
	BIOLOGY	5
	BUSINESS	6
	CHEMISTRY	7
	COMPUTER SCIENCE	8
SH	DANCE	9
SH	DRAMA & THEATRE STUDIES	10
	ECONOMICS	11
	ENGLISH LANGUAGE	12
	ENGLISH LITERATURE	13
	FASHION & TEXTILES	14
L3 SH	FOOD SCIENCE & NUTRITION	15
SH	FRENCH	16
	FURTHER MATHEMATICS	17
	GEOGRAPHY	18
	GERMAN	19
L3	HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE	20
	HISTORY	21
	MATHEMATICS	22
	MEDIA STUDIES	23
SH	MUSIC	24
	MUSIC TECHNOLOGY	25
	PHILOSOPHY & ETHICS	26
	PHOTOGRAPHY	27
	PHYSICAL EDUCATION	28
L3	PHYSICAL EDUCATION (CAMBRIDGE)	29
	PHYSICS	30
	POLITICS	31
SH	PRODUCT DESIGN	32
	PSYCHOLOGY	33
	SOCIOLOGY	34
H	SPANISH	35

Click on the course name to view the description, entry requirements, career progression and method of assessment.

APPLIED SCIENCE

LEVEL 3 ALTERNATIVE ACADEMIC QUALIFICATION (AAQ) CAMBRIDGE ADVANCED NATIONAL

For more information contact: Mr Darren Grainger
Board: OCR

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This qualification provides you with an understanding of applied science practical techniques and applications. Through a combination of theoretical study and hands on experience, you will develop the necessary knowledge and skills that can support progression to higher education study. You might be interested in this qualification if you want to develop key theoretical knowledge and understanding of the subject, but also apply what you learn to different situations, contexts and practical tasks, such as:

- Researching the fundamentals of science
- Planning and performing laboratory investigations
- Researching and undertaking an ecological survey report
- Conducting a forensic crime scene investigation and evidence analysis
- Testing unknown organic and inorganic compounds

The qualification will also help you develop independence and confidence in using skills that are relevant to the sector and that prepare you for progressing to university courses where independent study skills are needed. You will develop the following transferable skills that can be used in both higher education and other life and work situations:

- Communicating effectively with individuals or groups.
- Researching topic areas and recording research sources, then using them to interpret findings and present evidence.
- Presenting information, this will involve managing time and identifying aims, purpose, resources, methods.
- Problem solving when matching and analysing data

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Students need a grade 4 or higher in GCSE Maths and English Language and 44 or higher in GCSE Science.

CAREER PROGRESSION

Both the subject-specific knowledge, understanding and skills, and broader transferable skills developed through this qualification, will help you progress to further study in related areas such as:

- Biomedical Science degree
- Allied Health and Nursing degree
- Life Sciences degree
- Forensic Science degree

METHOD OF ASSESSMENT

40% exam

60% coursework / non-examined assessment (NEA)

Compulsory exams:

- Fundamentals of science
- Science in society

Compulsory NEA:

- Investigating science

Optional NEAs (two to be studied):

- Analytical techniques in chemistry
- Environmental studies
- Forensic biology
- Medical physics



[Back to Contents](#)

ART (FINE ART or ART, CRAFT & DESIGN)

For more information contact: Mrs Rhian Brunt
Board: Eduqas

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Option 1

Fine Art

In this course students will be involved in the tradition art practice areas of painting, drawing, printmaking and sculpture, as well as the new media increasingly use by fine artists such as video and installation. A critical focus of the work of fine artists, and in particular with contemporary art, informs personal project work.

Option 2

Art, Craft and Design

Art Craft and Design Students can follow a single pathway or combine units from diverse areas of study within Art which will include options in embellished expressive and constructed textiles, sculpture and printmaking.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

A grade 6 at GCSE Art is normally required, or a grade 6 in Art, Craft & Design. Those who have not studied GCSE art will be asked to assemble a portfolio of relevant work. Students will be required to take part in at least one trip over the course to help conduct primary critical research.

CAREER PROGRESSION

There are many careers in art, craft and design. Most of these require further study at art school, further education college or university. If students are unsure about whether to make a career of the subject the best thing is for them to speak to their art teacher who will know about courses on offer in the local area and further afield.

At present most students wishing to take art, craft and design further will go on to do a one year "Foundation" course at an art college or college of further education before applying to degree courses in more specialist areas of art and design.

Students may wish to do an Art A Level for its own sake, perhaps to form the basis of a future career or as part of a range of their subjects. However, they might wish to go into a job where it is useful to have experience with art, craft and design, or where they will need to use some of the skills developed during this course. These might include careers in such fields as advertising, marketing, design, architecture, publishing and media.

METHOD OF ASSESSMENT

Component 1:

Personal Investigation 60% of A-Level (120 marks).

Component 2:

Externally set Assignment 40% of A-Level (80 marks)
40% Terminal, Coursework Personal Investigation 60%



[Back to Contents](#)

BIOLOGY

For more information contact: Dr William Butler
Board: AQA

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course covers cells, biological molecules, exchange of substances between organisms and the environment during the AS part of the course; whilst genetics, homeostasis, ecology and control of gene expression are to be found in the A Level. There is practical content throughout the course, with 12 practicals being compulsory and the skills and theory of these practicals will be part of the A Level exams.

A Level exams will be at the end of the second year and consist of 3 papers each lasting 2 hours.

Paper 1 (91 marks) covers all topics found from the first year of the course. Paper 2 (91 marks) covers the second year course components and paper 3 (78 marks) covers all content, practical skills and an essay question from a choice of 2. Practical based questions will consist of at least 15% of the final mark.

First Year

Biological molecules and biochemistry, cells and their fine ultra-structure, how organisms exchange substances with the environment, genetic information, how organisms show variation and to measure this, different relationships between organisms.

There is an element of field work in the course which has included field trips with individual days out of school. We will share the details of any planned fieldwork well in advance.

Second Year

Energy transfers in and between organisms; organisms responding to changes in their internal and external environments; genetics, population biology, ecology and evolution; the control of gene expression.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Students will normally be expected to have achieved a double grade 6 in Science together with a grade 5 at Mathematics.

CAREER PROGRESSION

Appropriate grades at A Level will admit students to Biology based degree courses. The course satisfies entry requirements where A Level Biology are specified.

METHOD OF ASSESSMENT

Terminal exams at the end of Year 13 for A Level.

Throughout the course teachers have to assess whether the students pass or fail the practical aspect of the course and this will appear as a separate pass/fail on their certificate.



[Back to Contents](#)

BUSINESS

For more information contact: Mr Tim Rand
Board: Pearson Edexcel

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course offers students an in-depth understanding of the dynamic world of business. Throughout the course, students will explore key areas such as marketing, finance, operations, and human resources, alongside broader topics like globalisation, business ethics, and entrepreneurship. By analysing real-world case studies and applying theoretical concepts, students will develop a strong grasp of how businesses operate, make decisions, and respond to external and internal challenges. This course is ideal for those with a passion for business, economics, and leadership, providing the skills and knowledge to succeed in a commercial environment.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Students need a grade 5 or higher in GCSE Business Studies if they studied it or a grade 4 or higher in GCSE English Language.

CAREER PROGRESSION

A level Business provides an excellent foundation for careers in business management, marketing, finance, entrepreneurship, and human resources. It is also a valuable qualification for students pursuing further study in areas such as economics, accounting, law, or international business at university. Graduates of this course often move on to roles in corporate management, business consultancy, financial analysis, or start their own enterprises.

METHOD OF ASSESSMENT

The course is assessed through three external examinations at the end of Year 13:

Paper 1:

Marketing, people and global businesses (35%)

Paper 2:

Business activities, decisions and strategy (35%)

Paper 3:

Investigating business in a competitive environment (30%)

Each exam involves data response, extended writing, and essay-based questions, assessing both theoretical knowledge and practical business application.



[Back to Contents](#)

CHEMISTRY

For more information contact: Dr Alison Simpson
Board: OCR Chemistry B (Salters)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A Level Chemistry B will give you an exciting insight into the contemporary world of chemistry. It covers a range of different contexts, conveying the excitement of contemporary chemistry. This combination of academic challenge, relevant context and practical focus makes the prospect of studying A level Chemistry highly appealing. You will learn about chemistry in a range of different contexts and the impact it has on industry and many aspects of everyday life. You will learn to investigate and solve problems in a range of contexts.

Key features

- Simple straightforward assessment through examinations.
- Based on key contexts relevant to chemistry.
- Opportunities to build practical skills through a range of experiments and investigations.

There are 10 modules covered throughout the course 1-5 are covered in Y12 and 6-10 in Y13.

1. Elements of life

Atomic structure; Chemical equations and the mole; Titrations; Periodic table; Group 2 chemistry; Bonding and shapes of molecules

2. Developing fuels

Thermochemistry; Catalysis; Alkanes and alkenes; Addition polymers; Isomerism; Dealing with polluting gases

3. Elements from the sea

Halogen chemistry; Redox chemistry; Equilibrium

4. The ozone story

Rates of reaction; Radical reactions; Intermolecular bonding; Halogenoalkanes; Ozone layer

5. What's in a medicine?

Chemistry of the OH group; Carboxylic acids and esters; Analytical techniques

6. The chemical industry

Equilibrium; kinetics; nitrogen chemistry; the costs and effects of chemical processes

7. Polymers and life

Enzyme catalysis; amino acid and protein chemistry; proton and ¹³C NMR; structure and function of DNA and RNA

8. Oceans

Enthalpy changes; entropy; acid base equilibria; pH; greenhouse effect

9. Developing metals

Redox titrations; cells and electrode potentials; rusting; d-block chemistry; colorimetry

10. Colour by design

Origins of colour in organic compounds; dyes; aromatic compounds; carbonyl compounds; organic synthesis

Emphasis throughout the course is on developing knowledge, competence and confidence in practical skills and problem solving. You will learn how society makes decisions about scientific issues and how sciences contribute to the success of the economy and society.

To achieve a Practical Endorsement you will be expected to achieve a range of experiments to display your competency in:

- Following procedures
- Applying an investigative approach when using instruments and equipment
- Working safely
- Making and recording observations
- Researching, referencing and reporting

Where can A Level Chemistry take me?

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

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

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Students will normally be expected to have achieved a double grade 6 in Science or a grade 6 in Chemistry together with a grade 5 at Mathematics.

METHOD OF ASSESSMENT

Total of 6 hours of examinations (2 x 2 hours 15 minutes and 1 x 1 hour 30 minutes) taken at the end of the course.

A wide range of question types including multiple choice, short answer and extended response questions.

Opportunity to demonstrate your knowledge of both theory and practical skills through the examinations.

[Back to Contents](#)

COMPUTER SCIENCE

For more information contact: Mr Ben Foulger or Mrs Mariam Akalanne

Board: OCR

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Computer Science is a practical subject where students can apply the academic principles learned in the classroom to real-world systems. It's an intensely creative subject that combines invention and excitement.

The aims of this qualification are to enable learners to develop:

- the fundamental principles and concepts of computer science including; abstraction, decomposition, logic, algorithms and data representation
- the ability to analyse problems in computational terms through practical experience of solving such problems including writing programs to do so
- the capacity for thinking creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically
- the capacity to see relationships between different aspects of Computer Science
- the ability to articulate the individual (moral), social (ethical), legal and cultural opportunities and risks of digital technology
- a clear progression into higher education, as the course was designed after consultation with members of BCS, CAS and top universities.

There are 3 main units:

01: Computer Systems (40%)

This component will introduce learners to the internal workings of the Central Processing Unit (CPU), the exchange of data and will also look at software development, data types and legal and ethical issues.

02: Algorithms and Problem Solving (40%)

This component will incorporate and build on the knowledge and understanding gained in component 01.

In addition, learners will:

- understand what is meant by computational thinking
- understand the benefits of applying computational thinking to solving a wide variety of problems
- understand the principles of solving problems by computational methods
- be able to use algorithms to describe problems
- be able to analyse a problem by identifying its component parts.

03: Programming Project (20%)

Learners will be expected to analyse, design, develop, test, evaluate and document a program written in a suitable programming language. The underlying approach to the project is to apply the principles of computational thinking to a practical coding problem.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

An interest in solving problems is the main requirement, along with GCSE Computing at grade 5 or above and GCSE Maths at grade 6 or above. Evidence of extra-curricular projects related to computing would also be a consideration. A summer project will be provided.

CAREER PROGRESSION

Computing is, to the modern world, what engineering was to the Industrial Revolution. Few industries do not use computing, and the reach of the systems seems to be deepening all the time. Studying Computer Science will give you a very wide range of career paths. The A Level opens the doors for students to go on and do a Degree, Diploma or study other sciences. The options available to students are limitless, but include software/hardware development, database administration, network security and maintenance as well as many others

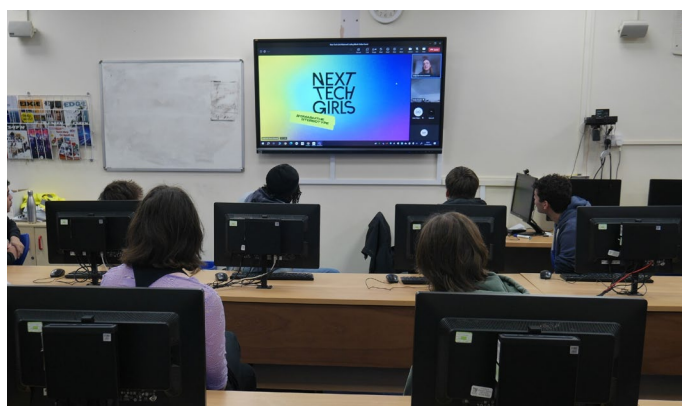
METHOD OF ASSESSMENT

A Level

01: Computer Systems (40%) – 2.5 hour written exam

02: Algorithms and Problem Solving (40%) – 2.5 hour written exam

03: Programming Project (20%) – Internal Non-Examined Assessment



[Back to Contents](#)

DANCE

For more information contact: Miss Tammy Spalding
Board: AQA

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Component 1

Performance and Choreography
(Practical examination)

- Solo performance linked to a specific practitioner within an area of study (20 marks)
- Performance in a quartet (20 marks)
- Group choreography (40 marks)

Component 2

(Written examination)

Section A: Short answer questions (25 marks) and one essay question (25 marks) on the compulsory set work/ area of study

Section B: Two essay questions on the second set work/ area of study (25 marks for each essay)

The two works and related areas of study are Sutra and the Contemporary Dance Scene in Britain, and Rooster and the work of Rambert Dance Company

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Minimum of Grade 5. If you have done some dance outside of school, we are happy to consider candidates who have not done GCSE dance. These will be considered case by case.

CAREER PROGRESSION

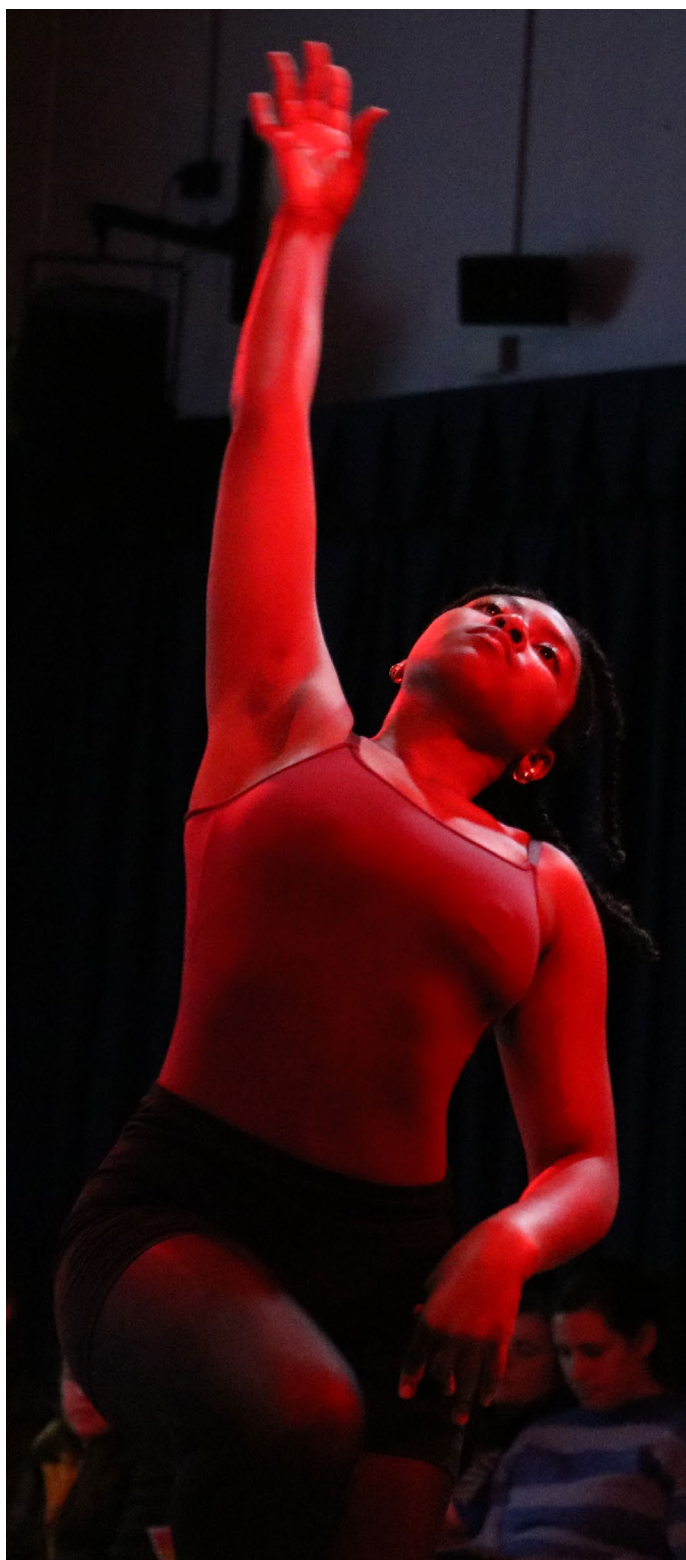
Students who complete A-Level Dance can then follow dance to degree level or audition to join dance schools. From here, students can go into the dance sector in jobs such as teaching, performing, choreographing, marketing, administration, managing/directing or being a journalist or critic.

Students who have a real interest or passion for dance will excel in this subject. The course is a balance of practical and theory work. Double lessons will alternate between practical and theory. The practical work will involve working with others, and individually, to create choreography while the theory will look into various professional works and choreographers' backgrounds. Written tasks will be set for homework on a weekly basis and near to assessments, additional rehearsals at lunch time or after school may be required.

METHOD OF ASSESSMENT

Component 1: Written Paper (50% of A Level)

Component 2: Practical Assessments (50% of A level)



[Back to Contents](#)

DRAMA & THEATRE STUDIES

For more information contact: Mrs Amy Wilkins
Board: Pearson Edexcel

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A Level Drama and Theatre will engage 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 A Level has a straightforward structure with three components; one that focuses on devising, one that focuses on performing and one that focuses on practical exploration of texts to interpret them for performance.

Students will develop a multitude of skills including collaboration, communication and an understanding of how to amend and refine work in order to make a smooth transition to their next level of study or employment.

Unit 1:

Coursework

40% of the qualification

- 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

Unit 2:

Text in Performance

Acting Exam - 20% of the qualification

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

Unit 3:

Theatre makes in Practice

Written exam: 2 1/2 hours

- Live theatre evaluation - choice of performance practical exploration and study of a complete text - focusing on how this can be realised for performance
- Practical exploration and interpretation of two complete performance texts, in light of a chosen practitioner - focusing on how this text could be re-imagined for a contemporary audience
- Centre choice of texts
- Centre choice of practitioners

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Students need to have a grade 4 in GCSE Drama if they studied it and if not they will need to demonstrate their keen interest in Drama to the subject leader.

CAREER PROGRESSION

The course is an ideal stepping stone for both higher education and employment. It is accepted by universities for courses other than drama, and is an excellent foundation course for those wishing to pursue careers and study in drama or the theatre. The course develops self-confidence, communication and interpersonal skills. In today's ever competitive jobs market, drama offers the chance to develop valuable life skills.

METHOD OF ASSESSMENT

Unit 1: There are two parts to the assessment

1. A written portfolio of between 2,500 -3,000 words
2. The devised performance

ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

Section A: Live theatre evaluation; students answer one extended response question from a choice of two.

Section B: Answer two questions from an unseen extract of the studied play.

Section C: Students will answer one extended response question from a choice of two using their chosen text.



[Back to Contents](#)

ECONOMICS

For more information contact: Mr Tim Rand
Board: Pearson Edexcel

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A Level Economics offers students a comprehensive understanding of how economies operate on both a national and global scale. The course explores fundamental economic concepts, including supply and demand, market structures, government intervention, and international trade.

Students will develop analytical and evaluative skills by examining the decisions of individuals, businesses, and governments, and understanding how these affect economic performance. Through real-world case studies, students will engage with pressing economic issues such as inflation, unemployment, and sustainability, fostering critical thinking and problem-solving abilities.

The four themes studied are:

- Introduction to markets and market failure
- The UK economy – performance and policies
- Business behaviour and the labour market
- A global perspective



ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Students should have at least a grade 4 in both English Language and Mathematics at GCSE as well as a grade 4 in Business if taken. It is also important that students have an interest in current affairs and are willing to follow economic events in the news, and refer to appropriate newspapers and magazines.

CAREER PROGRESSION

Economics is a versatile subject that opens doors to numerous career opportunities. Many students pursue further studies in Economics, Finance, Business, or International Relations at university. Career paths often include roles in finance, banking, business consultancy, public policy, research, and economic analysis. Additionally, the analytical and problem-solving skills developed in economics are highly valued in industries such as law, journalism, politics, and management.

METHOD OF ASSESSMENT

The course is assessed through three written examinations, each focusing on different aspects of the subject:

Paper 1

Markets and Business Behaviour (Microeconomics): A mix of data response, multiple-choice, and extended essay questions.

Paper 2

The National and Global Economy (Macroeconomics): A similar structure to Paper 1, covering broader national and international economic concepts.

Paper 3

Microeconomics and Macroeconomics: A synoptic paper that assesses the students' ability to integrate both microeconomic and macroeconomic knowledge through a case study and essay-based questions.

There is no coursework; all assessment is exam-based.

[Back to Contents](#)

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

For more information contact: Miss Elaine Beange
Board: AQA

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course aims to further candidates' interest and enjoyment in the use of English, through learning more about the structures and functions of English and the way language is used in real contexts.

Students entering this course should be fascinated by all aspects of written and spoken English. They will be keen to develop their own writing skills and interested in understanding the position of the language within society.

A Level: Language, the Individual and Society

Textual Variation

In this unit students will explore how language is shaped according to audience, purpose, genre and mode, and how it varies according to context.

Children's language development (0-11 years)

Students learn how children develop their spoken and written skills by studying theories and research about language acquisition as well exploring the functions of children's language.

Language Diversity and Change

The focus of this unit is how language varies across different social groups (occupation, ethnicity, class, age, gender, sexuality). In addition, regional, national and global variations of English are studied. Students also have the opportunity to explore how language has changed from 1600 to the present day.

Language in Action – Coursework Projects:

Students have the chance to work independently to carry out a language investigation into an area of individual interest. They must also produce a piece of creative writing (e.g. short story, travel journalism, persuasive speech) and an accompanying commentary to complete their coursework portfolio.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Students embarking on the AS and A Level courses needs at least a grade 5 in both GCSE English Literature and English Language.

CAREER PROGRESSION

A Level English enriches one's general understanding of life and develops skills in critical analysis and communication which are important for a wide range of careers. Possession of an English A Level is valued in professions such as Law, management, teaching, journalism, public relations, librarianship, information management and advertising, to name but a few.

METHOD OF ASSESSMENT

Combination of coursework and examinations.



[Back to Contents](#)

ENGLISH LITERATURE

For more information contact: Miss Elaine Beange
Board: Pearson Edexcel

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The A Level English Literature course aims to develop a real love of literature in students through studying a range of whole texts, allowing them to foster a personal relationship with a writer or genre. Students will learn to develop informed responses to texts, linking them to their social and historical contexts, and gaining insights from critical perspectives. There is an emphasis on the development of independent research skills, essay writing, and giving presentations to other members of the class.

The A Level course requires that students study eight texts over two years - three of these from before 1900 (including one Shakespeare play).

Unit 1: Drama

(30% of the total A Level)

Assessed by a two hour open book examination, students study one Shakespeare play and one play by another writer. The most popular Shakespeare plays for study in recent years have been Othello, Hamlet, King Lear or Measure for Measure. Students usually study *A Streetcar Named Desire* by Tennessee Williams as their other drama text.

Section A of the exam contains a question about the chosen Shakespeare play, which students must examine in the light of their wider critical reading.

In Section B students have a choice of two questions from their chosen play; they are tested on their ability to analyse the text with insight and contextualised literary knowledge.

Unit 2: Prose

(20% of the total A Level)

Assessed by a one hour and 15 minutes open book examination, students study two novels linked by a particular theme. We choose either Women and Society or Science and Society as themes and the choice of texts include *Wuthering Heights* by Emily Brontë, *A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hosseini, *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley and *The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood. Students write a comparative essay about their studied theme.

Unit 3: Poetry

(30% of the total A Level)

Assessed by a 2 hour and 15 minute open book examination, students study an anthology of modern poems from this century, a range of unseen poems, and a collection of poems from either a named poet or a literary movement, for example, the poems of John Donne or Romantic poetry. In Section A students must write an essay on an unseen poem compared with a poems from the set anthology: 'Poems of the Decade:

An Anthology of the Forward books of Poetry', and in Section B students answer one question about their studied poet or literary period.

Unit 4: NEA (Coursework)

(20% of the total A Level)

Internally assessed and externally moderated. Students have more freedom in choosing texts for this unit, although it is always under teacher guidance. Currently we introduce students to two literary texts written by contemporary Black British writers in lessons and have a recommended reading list from which students can pick a second text for comparison. Students write a 2500 – 3000 word comparative essay on their chosen texts having negotiated the focus and title with a teacher. This is an opportunity for students to pursue some of their own literary interests, develop research skills and work more independently.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade 5 in both GCSE English Language and English Literature.

CAREER PROGRESSION

A Level English Literature enriches students' understanding of life, and develops skills of communication and critical analysis relevant to a wide range of careers. English Literature A Level is particularly valued by professions such as law, management, journalism, public relations, advertising, and teaching.

METHOD OF ASSESSMENT

As above

[Back to Contents](#)

FASHION & TEXTILES

For more information contact: Mrs Kate Driver
Board: AQA

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course provides excellent progression and diversity leading to qualifications that reflect a strong understanding of Fashion and Textiles. Students will develop their own design context and work with both a client and an industrial tutor to solve a real problem which may prove commercially viable. Students will develop the following skills:

- Develop and enhance their own creative and innovative design skills whilst following the design process; producing in depth research analysis, imaginative design sheets, effective models (Toiles) and quality prototypes.
- Develop first-hand experience of analysing and evaluating their own products and the work of others
- Apply knowledge and understanding of fibres and fabrics, tools, machinery and production processes including CAD/CAM in order to plan for different scales of production
- Develop skills in pattern drafting and garment construction to be able to produce high quality fashion and textiles products, clothing and accessories
- Understand how to enhance fabrics through decoration and embellishment
- Explore design movements, historical influences and the work of iconic fashion designers when considering the impacts on fashion
- Review major developments in technology such as the use of technical textiles, E-textiles, eco-textiles and smart fabrics
- Use key scientific knowledge and mathematical skills to understand and develop product design in textiles and fashion
- Develop an understanding of social, moral, spiritual and cultural issues relating to design and manufacture.
- Discover fashion cycles and understand the importance of marketing and branding
- Be open to take risks, showing innovation and enterprise whilst considering their role as responsible designers and citizens. Develop intellectual curiosity about the design and manufacture of fashion and textiles products

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

A GCSE grade 5 or higher in DT Textiles plus a minimum grade 5 in GCSE Mathematics and Science.

CAREER PROGRESSION

Our DT Fashion and Textiles course provides a gateway to higher level courses including HNC and an art foundation whilst our full A Level course provides a strong foundation for a degree in design. Career paths include fashion design, costume design for theatre, television or film, textiles and knitwear design, tailoring and pattern cutting, interior design and merchandising.

ORGANISED TRIP

The course will provide students with the opportunity to go on visits which will enable them to experience work placements, industrial processes and manufacturing in action. Pre-COVID this included a trip to Paris but we will share the details of any planned trips well in advance.

METHOD OF ASSESSMENT

A Level

Unit 1: Written examination 2 ½ hours (30%)

Mixture of short answer, multiple choice and extended response

Unit 2: Written examination 1 ½ hours 20%

Product Analysis and Commercial Manufacture, Mixture of short and extended questioning

Unit 3: Coursework Project 50%

Students will produce their own individual context and brief



[Back to Contents](#)

FOOD SCIENCE & NUTRITION

LEVEL 3 ALTERNATIVE ACADEMIC QUALIFICATION (EXTENDED CERTIFICATE)

For more information contact: Mr James Finch

Board: WJEC

Food Science is an applied science that combines expertise from biology, chemistry, engineering and health sciences to address pressing issues such as food security, malnutrition and diet-related chronic diseases. The sector plays a critical role in improving global health, food quality and sustainability and encompasses two key components:

- **Food Science:** focus on food production, safety, processing and innovation
- **Nutrition:** examining the relationship between diet and health to prevent and manage diseases

Current trends driving the sector include rising consumer demand for health-conscious products such as functional foods, probiotics and plant-based alternatives. Sustainability is also a major focus with companies investing in alternative proteins, sustainable packaging and strategies to reduce food waste.

By integrating innovation and sustainability, the sector is poised to address global health challenges and drive progress toward a healthier, more sustainable future. As the demand for nutritious, safe and eco-friendly food grows, the sector is uniquely positioned to improve the quality of life and support global health objectives.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course provides excellent progression and diversity leading to qualifications that reflect a strong understanding on the food science and nutrition: understanding the nutritional needs of specific groups, engaging in food experimentation, food safety and current issues relating to food.

Students following either course will develop the following skills:

- Develop an understanding of the nutritional needs of a wide range of consumers
- Demonstrate an understanding about the science of food safety
- Through ongoing practical sessions to develop the skills to produce high quality food items
- Develop the ability to work alongside other food professionals
- Engage in project based research and development
- Develop the ability to work independently in order to solve problems

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

A GCSE grade 5 or higher in Food and Nutrition.

CAREER PROGRESSION

Our Food Science and Nutrition courses provide a gateway to higher level courses including HNC and apprenticeships. It provides the same UCAS point values as A Levels for entry to university degree courses in Public Health, Food Science and Human Nutrition. Career paths include Nutritionist, Food Scientist, Bacteriologist, Sports Science, Medical Dietician, Social Care, Public Sector Catering, Food Entrepreneur.

ORGANISED TRIP

The course will provide students with the opportunity to go on visits which will enable them to experience work placements, industrial processes and manufacturing in action.

METHOD OF ASSESSMENT

Year 12

Unit 1 (Mandatory) 25% of Extended Certificate:

Nutritional needs across the life stages (Examination)

Unit 2 (Mandatory) 25% of Extended Certificate:

Developing practical food production skills (Internally Marked Project)

Year 13

Unit 3 (Mandatory) 25% of Extended Certificate:

Principles of food hygiene and food safety in Food Production (External Examination)

Unit 4 (Optional) 25% of Extended Certificate:

Experimenting to solve food production problems (Internally Marked Project)

Unit 5 (Optional) 25% of Extended Certificate:

Current Issues in Food Science and Nutrition (Internally Marked Project)



[Back to Contents](#)

FRENCH

For more information contact: Mrs Puntis or Mrs Clemas
Board: AQA

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Our aim is for students to feel comfortable and confident in expressing themselves but also to develop their accuracy in both oral and written French. Grammar is an important feature of the course and students are expected to achieve a high level of accuracy. Indeed an ability to study independently is vital for this course.

Students will develop an advanced level knowledge and understanding of the French language, the culture of France and other French speaking countries including studying popular literary texts and films.

Four themes studied include:

Theme 1

Aspects of French Speaking Society: Current Trends

- The changing nature of family
- The 'cyber-society'
- The place of voluntary work

Theme 2

Artistic Culture

- A culture proud of its heritage
- Contemporary French music
- Cinema: the 7th Art form

Theme 3

Aspects of French Speaking Society: Current Issues

- Positive features of a diverse society
- Life for the marginalised
- How criminals are treated

Theme 4

Aspects of Political Life in the French Speaking World

- Teenagers – the right to vote and political commitment
- Demonstrations, strikes – who holds the power?
- Politics and immigration

Additional study

Students will also:

- study one film and one novel in French
- choose, research and speak about an individual project chosen and completed in Year 13 in the oral exam

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

GCSE French at grade 7 or above is desirable, grade 6 at a teacher's discretion.

CAREER PROGRESSION

A modern foreign language is highly desirable for many careers: teaching, journalism, international law, politics, trade, the diplomatic service, translation and interpreting, industry and travel and tourism to mention but a few. Knowledge of a foreign language is a marketable skill for any future career and is a high status academic subject, well regarded by all universities.

METHOD OF ASSESSMENT

Paper 1: Listening, reading and writing

Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes
100 marks, 50% of A Level

Paper 2: Writing

Two essays on one text and one film or two texts from the list set in the specification
Written exam: 2 hours
80 marks in total, 20% of A Level

Paper 3: Speaking

Individual research project
Discussion of one of Themes 1-4
Oral exam 21-23 minutes
(including 5 minutes preparation time)
60 marks in total, 30% of A Level



[Back to Contents](#)

FURTHER MATHEMATICS

For more information contact: Mrs Nicola Scott or Miss Emma Libby
Board: Pearson Edexcel

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Our provision covers the Further Mechanics and Decision modules as the options for the applied section of the course, covering topics such as work, energy, power, elastic collisions, optimisations with linear programming and critical path analysis.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Students should have gained at least a grade 8 in GCSE Mathematics. Students considering this course should talk to their Mathematics teacher or Mrs Scott to ensure that they would be suited to the course.

CAREER PROGRESSION

Students thinking about going on to study degrees in Mathematics, Physics and Engineering will find that Further Mathematics is welcomed by universities. Universities look favourably at students who have studied Further Mathematics

METHOD OF ASSESSMENT

A LEVEL EXAMINATIONS

Paper 1:

Core Pure Mathematics 1 Examination - 1½ hours

Paper 2:

Core Pure Mathematics 2 Examination – 1½ hours

Paper 3:

Further Mathematics Option 1 Examination
(Further Mechanics) – 1½ hours

Paper 4:

Further Mathematics Option 2 Examination
(Decision) – 1½ hours



[Back to Contents](#)

GEOGRAPHY

For more information contact: Ms Francesca Venner
Board: AQA

COURSE DESCRIPTION

During the course students will study a balance of physical and human geographical concepts, as well as developing fieldwork and investigation skills. The course will develop the opportunity to develop essay-writing skills and data-handling techniques.

YEAR 13 (A LEVEL)

Paper 1 – Physical Geography

Students study Water and Carbon Systems, with climate change a concluding focus. Coastal Systems and Hazards builds on work from GCSE, with a study of landforms, processes and impacts on people. Management of environments runs through all elements of this paper.

Paper 2 – Human Geography

Students study Changing Places, looking at perception and meaning of place. Resource Security involves analysis of energy, water and minerals at global and national scales. They will also study the economic, social and political changes associated with globalisation and the impact that this has on governance, with Antarctica as a case study.

Paper 3 – Individual Investigation

This will involve an independent investigation into an issue identified by the student and students will work on this from the end of Year 12 into the beginning of Year 13. It will conclude in a 3,000-4,000 word report and can cover any aspect of the specification.

There is an element of fieldwork involved in the course and in the past this has meant going on a residential trip. We will share the details of any planned fieldwork or trip well in advance.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Students will need to achieve a grade 6 in Geography at GCSE together with a grade 5 in Mathematics due to the statistics elements. Students who have not studied GCSE Geography should discuss their suitability with Mrs Venner as they would be expected to achieve a grade 6 or above in their Humanities GCSE subject.

CAREER PROGRESSION

A Level Geography is highly regarded by all Universities as a facilitating subject. The study of Geography often leads to careers in International Development, Business, Environmental Planning and Management. The holistic nature of the subject leads to a global awareness and transferable skill set desirable in many professions.

METHOD OF ASSESSMENT

This is a linear course, taught over Years 12 and 13.

Students complete two exams at the end of Year 13 and submit one piece of coursework.



[Back to Contents](#)

GERMAN

For more information contact: Mrs Yvonne Williams
Board: AQA

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Our aim is for students to feel comfortable with German and to be able to express themselves accurately and meaningfully, both orally and in writing. Grammar is an important feature of the course and students are expected to work towards a high level of accuracy.

Students are also encouraged to establish contact with German speaking countries to help them develop insights into their society, cultural background and heritage. We also aim to deepen and broaden the students' understanding of many areas of human experience to encourage students to visit a German speaking country through a programme of visits and exchanges and in addition to providing a sufficient basis for further study and/or practical use of the language.

A LEVEL COURSE

Theme 1

Aspects of German Speaking Society

- The changing state of the family
- The digital world
- Youth culture, fashion, music, TV

Theme 2

Artistic Culture in German Speaking Society

- Festivals and traditions
- Art and Architecture
- Cultural life in Berlin

Theme 3

Multiculturalism in German Speaking Society

- Immigration
- Integration
- Racism

Theme 4

Aspects of Political Life in German Speaking Society

- Germany and the EU
- Politics and youth
- German reunification and its consequences

Students will also:

- study one film and one novel in Year 13
- choose, research and speak about an individual project chosen and completed in Year 13 in the oral exam

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

GCSE German at grade 7 or above is desirable, but grade 6 at a teacher's discretion.

CAREER PROGRESSION

For any job which involves travel and tourism, industry and trade, government, the media, teaching, journalism, translation and interpreting, international law, politics.

METHOD OF ASSESSMENT

All final exams at the end of Year 13.

Paper 1: Listening, reading and writing

Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes
100 marks, 50% of A Level

Paper 2: Writing

Two essays on one text and one film or two texts from the list set in the specification
Written exam: 2 hours
80 marks in total, 20% of A Level

Paper 3: Speaking

Individual research project
Discussion of one of Themes 1-4
Oral exam 21-23 minutes
(including 5 minutes preparation time)
60 marks in total, 30% of A Level



[Back to Contents](#)

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

LEVEL 3 ALTERNATIVE ACADEMIC QUALIFICATION (AAQ) CAMBRIDGE ADVANCED NATIONAL

For more information contact: Mrs Hannah Squire
Board: OCR

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to provide students with theoretical knowledge and hands-on experience of health and social care, equipping them with the understanding and skills that will help prepare them for progression to undergraduate study and are relevant to the health and social care sector. The qualification will help students develop independence and confidence in using skills that are relevant to the sector developing transferable skills that can be used in both higher education and other life and work situations.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Students should achieve a double grade 5 in Science together with a grade 5 in Mathematics. Students who do not meet these criteria will be considered on an individual basis.

CAREER PROGRESSION

Where could this qualification lead to?

1. A Higher Education course: Combine this qualification with additional qualifications and choose to undertake a Health and Social Care related degree from options including Social Sciences, Health and Social Care, or Child Care, e.g. Occupational Therapy, Radiography, Midwifery, Social Work, Mental Healthcare, Nursing, Sports Science, Biomedical Sciences, Environmental Health
2. Entry onto a Higher Apprenticeship programme in Health and Social Care

METHOD OF ASSESSMENT

Extended Certificate There are four mandatory units, and two optional units students must complete:

- Principles of health and social care (F090) – External assessment
- Anatomy and physiology for health and social care (F091) – External assessment
- Person-centred approach to care (F092) – Non-examined assessment
- Supporting people with mental health conditions (F093) – Non-examined assessment

The two optional units are chosen from the following four units:

- Supporting people with long term physiological conditions (F094) – Non-examined assessment
- Investigating public health (F095) – Non-examined assessment
- Supporting people in relation to sexual health, pregnancy and postnatal health (F096) – Non-examined assessment
- Supporting healthy nutrition and lifestyles (F097) – Non-examined assessment



[Back to Contents](#)

HISTORY

For more information contact: Miss Ingrid Frater
Board: AQA

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The A Level History course enables students to develop their understanding of historical events, the role of individuals and the nature of change over time. The course considers the past through political, social, economic and cultural perspectives.

Students will learn a range of skills, including effective debating, producing coherent and well-justified arguments, and looking at historical evidence critically.

Component 1

A study in breadth: The Making of a Superpower: USA 1865–1975

Students explore the development of the United States of America during this period. This unit considers the USA's development in terms of politics, the economy, society, involvement in world affairs, and ideologies. The course includes:

- Reconstruction (following the American Civil War)
- Social changes including immigration, urbanisation, the role of women and the position of African-Americans
- Foreign affairs including the two World Wars, the Panama Canal, relations with Europe, and the Cold War
- Economic themes and events including the Depression, boom and bust, the rise of consumer society and economic growth

Component 2

A study in depth: The Making of Modern Britain, 1951–2007

Students explore the key political, economic, social and international changes which helped to mould Britain in the second half of the 20th century. The course includes:

- Prime ministers such as Churchill, Wilson, Thatcher and Blair, and the development of the major British political parties
- The economy – growing affluence in the 1950s, arguments between governments and trade unions, monetarism and privatisation under Thatcher
- Society – the status of women, student protests, the legalisation of homosexuality and abortions, the end of capital punishment, and the growth of multiculturalism

- Relations with the EEC and later EU, the Falklands Conflict, the 'special relationship' with the USA, and the Iraq War
- The 'Troubles' in Northern Ireland since the 1960s

Component 3

Coursework: Historical themes in Europe, 1400–1600

Students will study aspects of this period of European history in lessons, exploring themes including politics, religion, the economy and society. We will particularly focus on Spain; a key superpower of Europe during this period. Students then continue to produce their own extended piece of writing focused on a period of 80-100 years, answering a question of their choice.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

A grade 6 at GCSE History is preferable. Students who have not studied GCSE History should discuss their suitability with Miss Frater

CAREER PROGRESSION

A Level History is highly regarded by all universities. The study of History often lends itself to careers in law, politics, journalism and teaching, but provides a very well-respected qualification for any future career path.

METHOD OF ASSESSMENT

A LEVEL

Two exams on the USA (1865-1975) and Britain (1951-2007), and a piece of coursework.



[Back to Contents](#)

MATHEMATICS

For more information contact: Mrs Nicola Scott or Miss Emma Libby

Board: Pearson Edexcel

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A Level Mathematics consists predominantly of pure mathematics, delving much further into GCSE topics such as algebra, graphs, trigonometry and sequences; then introducing and developing new topics of differentiation and integration.

The overarching themes of the course are problem solving, mathematical modelling and proof. One third of the course is dedicated to applied mathematics: statistics and mechanics. Statistics topics will include probability, normal distribution and correlation. The mechanics component covers velocity and acceleration, Newton's Laws of Motion and the idea of moments.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Students will be expected to have achieved a grade 7 or higher at GCSE Mathematics. Students who achieve a grade 6 will be considered on an individual basis.

CAREER PROGRESSION

A Level Mathematics is a much sought after qualification for entry to a wide variety of full time courses in Higher Education. There are also many areas of employment that see a Mathematics A Level as an important qualification and it is often a requirement for the vocational qualifications related to these areas. Higher Education courses or careers that either require A Level Mathematics or are strongly related, include:

- Physics, Chemistry
- Economics
- Medicine
- Architecture
- Engineering
- Accountancy
- Teaching
- Psychology
- Environmental Studies
- Computing
- Information Technology

If students wish to continue their study of Mathematics after A Levels they could follow a course in Mathematics at degree level or even continue further as a postgraduate and get involved in mathematical research. Students with Mathematics degrees have an excellent record of employment. If you are considering Further Mathematics, see details on separate subject page.

METHOD OF ASSESSMENT

A LEVEL

Paper 1: Pure Mathematics Examination - 2 hours

Paper 2: Pure Mathematics Examination - 2 hours

Paper 3: Statistics & Mechanics Examination - 2 hours



[Back to Contents](#)

MEDIA STUDIES

For more information contact: Mr Dominic Edwards
Board: OCR

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course enables students to develop a critical awareness of the media's role in building and moulding society's attitudes through the exploration of media products, media institutions and media audiences.

Year 12 students are required to study media products from all of the following media forms: TV, film, radio, advertising and marketing, video games, music video, newspapers, magazines and on-line media. In particular there will be a close study of newspapers and the impact of on-line media on news consumption; another key topic will be TV drama and how online consumption has affected longer forms of storytelling. Year 12 students will produce a media product, such as a television advertisement, in response to a brief set by the Exam Board.

They will have the opportunity to develop their digital media production skills which will include photography, film-making, copywriting and use of a range of post-production software. Coursework will make up 30% of the overall mark. A Level students will look at a range of products and contexts and focus on the changing face of media in the digital age.

There will be scrutiny of how products are promoted across media channels and occupy space across platforms. Alongside consideration of cross media products there will be extensive focus on media theory which explores narrative, audience and culture. A Level students will build on their coursework of Year 12 with a cross media campaign made up of different products in response to the set brief.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Students will need at least a grade 5 in GCSE English Language.

There is a need for clear, accurate English in examinations and coursework. Students should show a willingness to join in discussions and must be prepared to work on practical production in their own time. Media Studies combines well with other subjects at A Level including Art and Design, Sociology, History, Graphics, English Language and English Literature.

CAREER PROGRESSION

A media qualification is recognised by the industry thus opening up opportunities for future employment in the media sector. Such careers might include advertising, broadcasting, journalism and teaching. In addition, the course provides an excellent foundation for further study in media related courses in higher education. More generally, it is a valuable qualification for any career that requires good communication and analytical skills.

METHOD OF ASSESSMENT

This is a demanding but exciting A Level course. The course is divided into examination work based on theoretical knowledge of the media, and practical coursework.

This practical work is both print and moving image based.



[Back to Contents](#)

MUSIC

For more information contact: Mr Craig Goldsworthy
Board: AQA

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course is based on the interdisciplinary skills of performing, composing, listening and analytical skills in equal measure. The syllabus provides a foundation for students intending to pursue further courses in music or the performing arts. It can also be used as part of a broad, balanced course at A Level. Candidates will develop an understanding of the organisation of sounds, the context of music and musical styles and genres.

Component 1 - Appraising Music

(Worth 40% of the final grade)

Students are assessed on the skills of listening, analysis and contextual understanding. Assessment is carried out in an exam paper with a mixture of listening and written questions using excerpts of music. The exam paper is divided into three sections:

Section A: Listening (56 marks)

Section B: Analysis (34 marks)

Section C: Essay (30 marks)

Component 2 - Performance

Worth 35% of the final grade (50 marks)

Students are assessed through solo and/or ensemble performance as an instrumentalist or vocalist and/or music production (via technology). A minimum of 10 minutes performance time is required; this work is then marked externally. A standard of approximately grade 6 enables students to access the higher marks in this section.

Component 3 - Composition

(Worth 25% of the final grade)

Students learn how to develop musical ideas and compose music that is musically convincing through two compositions.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

It is essential that all candidates have studied GCSE Music, and ideally would have achieved a grade 6 or higher. A minimum level of grade 5 on at least one instrument is required. Where this is not the case, an audition of the prospective candidate will be held.

In exceptional cases candidates having not studied GCSE but with a very good standard of practical and theoretical musicianship would be considered after an audition and theory test (grade 5+). It is desirable for students to be having individual lessons on their chosen instruments.

CAREER PROGRESSION

The course provides a good foundation to Higher Education courses in music and performing arts. It is also acceptable as an entry qualification for non-music courses.

METHOD OF ASSESSMENT

Assessment in this subject will be through coursework and examination. The syllabus has been designed to provide progression from GCSE.



[Back to Contents](#)

MUSIC TECHNOLOGY

For more information contact: Mr Craig Goldsworthy
Board: Pearson Edexcel

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Students of Music Technology will focus on the techniques, practices and principles of music technology as an area of advanced study. They will learn about the technical principles that underpin music technology, develop a technical vocabulary, and be encouraged to use music technology as a tool to develop their composing and arranging skills. It is worth noting that the Music Technology course is one that requires no formal musical theory knowledge to access and has been designed as such by the exam board.

Component 1

Recording – 20% of the qualification (60 marks)

Students will use the studio to record a song (from a list of 10 songs provided by the exam board), consisting of a minimum of five compulsory instruments and two additional instruments.

Students will learn the processes involved in recording and mixing a piece of music using the studio. Skills such as microphone choice and placement, how to record amplified instruments, using audio effects and mixing will be covered during the course to facilitate this.

Component 2

Technology Based Composition – 20% of the qualification (60 marks)

One technology-based composition will be created chosen from three briefs set by the exam board. The composition will use synthesizers and samplers as skill in using and programming these instruments will be taught alongside compositional skills, production and mixing.

Component 3

Listening and Analysing – 25% of the qualification (75 marks) in the form of a 90 minute exam

Students are assessed on their knowledge and understanding of recording and production techniques and principles, by listening to unfamiliar music set by the exam board. Application of knowledge related to three areas of study will be assessed:

1. Recording and production techniques for both corrective and creative purposes
2. Principles of sound and audio technology
3. The development of recording and production technology.

This paper comprises two sections: A and B

Section A:

Listening and analysing (40 marks) – four questions, each based on unfamiliar commercial recordings (10 marks each).

Section B:

Extended written responses (35 marks) – two essay questions. One comparison question, which uses two unfamiliar commercial recordings. The second essay uses the final unfamiliar commercial recording on the CD (20 marks).

Component 4

Producing and analysing – 35% of the qualification (75 marks) in the form of a 135 minute exam

Students are expected to show knowledge and understanding of editing, mixing and production techniques, to be applied to unfamiliar materials provided by during the exam. Students will correct and then combine the audio and MIDI materials to form a completed mix, which may include creating new tracks or parts from the materials provided.

This paper comprises two sections: A and B

Section A:

Producing and analysing (85 marks) – five questions related to the audio and MIDI materials provided that include both written responses and practical tasks.

Section B:

Extended written response (20 marks) – one essay focusing on a specific mixing scenario, signal path, effect or music technology hardware unit.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

It is not essential that candidates study music GCSE to access the course but it can prove very useful, rounding in IT or computing can prove extremely beneficial. Keyboard skills are desirable but not essential for the composition element of the course.

CAREER PROGRESSION

The course provides a good foundation to higher education and to many institutions who offer music technology and its subsidiaries (sound design, post production etc). It is acceptable as an entry qualification for non-music course.

METHOD OF ASSESSMENT

Coursework and 2 examinations.



[Back to Contents](#)

PHILOSOPHY & ETHICS (RELIGIOUS STUDIES)

For more information contact: Mrs Sharon Wilson
Board: OCR

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Philosophy and Ethics draws its content from a range of different religions and beliefs and from a more philosophical and ethical approach to religion. It is designed to develop an interest in and an enthusiasm for rigorous study in religion and involves a lot of debate and argument.

This course makes a significant contribution to enhancing the Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Education of students. Furthermore, there is an emphasis on enabling learners to respond critically and engage with a wealth of philosophical, ethical and religious concepts, equipping them with analytical skills readily transferable to other subjects.

There is an opportunity during this course to take part on a 3 day Residential where the students undertake a combination of team-building activities and academic studies, at an approximate cost of £155.

Philosophy of Religion:

- Philosophical issues and questions
- Ancient philosophical influences
- Nature and impact of religious experience
- The problem of evil
- Ideas about the nature of God
- Issues in religious language

Religion and Ethics

- Normative ethical theories
- The application of ethical theory to two contemporary issues of importance
- Ethical language and thought
- Debates surrounding the significant idea of conscience
- Sexual ethics and the influence on ethical thought of developments in religious beliefs

Developments in Religious Thought (Christianity)

- Religious beliefs, values and teachings, their interconnections and how they vary historically and in the contemporary world
- Sources of religious wisdom and authority
- Practices which shape and express religious identity, and how these vary within a tradition

- Significant social and historical developments in theology and religious thought
- Key themes related to the relationship between religion and society

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Students do not need to have studied Religious Studies at GCSE Level in order to take this AS or A Level Course. It would, however, be beneficial to have gained grade 5 or higher in GCSE English.

CAREER PROGRESSION

Students taking this course will find it to be a highly regarded and valued subject for entry into Higher Education or Employment.

METHOD OF ASSESSMENT

A Level

Paper 1: Philosophy of Religion which will be assessed by written examination (2 hours) 33%

Paper 2: Religion and Ethics which will be assessed by written examination (2 hours) 33%

Paper 3: Developments in religious thought, assessed by written examination (2 hours) 33%



[Back to Contents](#)

PHOTOGRAPHY

For more information contact: Mrs Rhian Brunt
Board: Eduqas

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Students can follow a single pathway in photography with the use of digital cameras and image manipulation software is central to this course. This option would suit students with strong IT skills. A critical focus on the work of photographers and artists informs personal project work.

NEW FOR 2026: Learn traditional photographic techniques in our newly built darkroom

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

A grade 6 at GCSE Art or Photography is normally required. Those who have not studied GCSE Art or Photography will be asked to assemble a portfolio of relevant work.

Students will be required to take part in at least one trip across the course to help conduct primary critical research.



CAREER PROGRESSION

There are many careers in photography. Most of these require further study at art school, further education college or university. If students are unsure about whether to make a career of the subject the best thing is for them to speak to their art or photography teacher who will know about courses on offer in the local area and further afield.

At present most students wishing to take photography further will go on to do a one year "Foundation" course at an art college or college of further education before applying to degree courses in more specialist areas of art and design.

Students may wish to do Photography A Level for its own sake, perhaps to form the basis of a future career or as part of a range of their subjects.

However, they might wish to go into a job where it is useful to have experience with photography or where they will need to use some of the skills developed during this course. These might include careers in such fields as advertising, marketing, design, architecture, publishing and media.

METHOD OF ASSESSMENT

Component 1:

Personal Investigation 60% of A-Level (120 marks).

Component 2:

Externally set Assignment 40% of A-Level (80 marks)
40% Terminal, Coursework Personal Investigation 60%

[Back to Contents](#)

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

For more information contact: Mrs Holly Wainwright or Mr Robert Humphreys

Board: OCR

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course takes a multi-disciplinary approach, encouraging the development of different methods of enquiry drawn with a wide range of disciplines, with the focal point being the performer and performance. The syllabus is based on the interaction between the theory and practice of Physical Education.

The course is divided into three theoretical components:

Physiological Factors Affecting Performance

- Anatomy and Physiology
- Exercise Physiology
- Biomechanics

Psychological Factors Affecting Performance

- Skill Acquisition
- Sports Psychology

Social-cultural and Contemporary Issues

- Sport, Society and technological influences

Candidates will complete three examinations at the end of the course which will account for 70% of their final mark.

COURSEWORK

Students will need to complete coursework in the form of a practical performance.

Students will be assessed in ONE practical activity.

Students can choose from an extensive range of activities including sports participated in both inside and outside school (such as horse riding, swimming and skiing).

It is essential students prepare adequately for their practical activities and it is strongly recommended that they perform their chosen activity on a regular basis outside school.

Practical coursework accounts for 30% of the final grade.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

A grade 5 or above in the GCSE PE examination or an equivalent grade in Biology is desirable. A distinction in Cambridge National or BTec PE is also acceptable.

CAREER PROGRESSION

The course provides an excellent foundation for careers in teaching and coaching, the leisure industry, recreational management, health and physiotherapy and professional sport. It is also essential for students considering a degree in Sport Studies/Science at Higher Education.

METHOD OF ASSESSMENT

Assessment in this subject will be through examinations and practical coursework. The syllabus has been designed to provide progression from GCSE and to provide a sound foundation for study in Higher Education.



[Back to Contents](#)

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

CAMBRIDGE TECHNICAL LEVEL 3 EXTENDED CERTIFICATE IN SPORT & PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

For more information contact: Mrs Holly Wainwright or Mr Robert Humphreys

Board: OCR

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Extended Certificate (5 / 6 Units studied – equivalent to 1 A Level)

The course will provide learners with the opportunity through applied learning, to develop the core principles and knowledge and understanding required in the sport and physical activity sector. Students will gain an insight into the sector as they investigate opportunities for delivering sport and physical activity to a wide range of participants, whether it is to mobilise sedentary participants to improve their health and wellbeing or to support regular participants to improve their performance and fitness. Students study a range of physiology and psychology modules.

COURSEWORK

The core unit studies are:

- Body systems and the effects of physical activity (external exam)
- Sports coaching and activity leadership (internal assessment then moderated by the exam board)
- Sports organisation and development (external exam)

In addition, there are two or three additional units which are internally assessed and then moderated by the exam board from the following:

- Performance analysis in sport and exercise
- Organisation of sports events
- Physical Activity for specific groups
- Nutrition and diet for sport and exercise
- Sports injuries and rehabilitation
- Practical skills in sport and physical activities
- Sport and exercise psychology
- Sport and exercise sociology

The school will choose and deliver two or three additional units from the list above. There will not be the opportunity for student choice.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Students need a grade 4 or higher in GCSE English Language. They also need to have gained a grade 5 or above in GCSE Physical Education or a merit or above on the Btec Sport course in Key Stage 4.

CAREER PROGRESSION

The Cambridge Technical Level 3 Extended Certificate equates to one A Level and as such accumulates UCAS points which would allow students to access university courses at HND / HNC, foundation degree, or honours degree courses alongside other A Level or equivalent qualifications. Students could go on to a wide range of employment including working in the sports industry in a variety of roles.

METHOD OF ASSESSMENT

Students will be assessed by a mixture of:

- Assignment – set and marked internally (moderated by exam board)
- Exam – 2 compulsory units which are formally examined and marked by the exam board

Units are graded Pass, Merit or Distinction.

The qualification is graded Pass, Merit, Distinction or Distinction*.

Learners can re-sit an examined unit once before they complete the course.



[Back to Contents](#)

PHYSICS

For more information contact: Mr Darren Grainger or Mrs Beth Moyle

Board: AQA

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course covers measurements and errors, particles and radiations, waves, mechanics and materials and electricity as first year content with thermal physics, fields and their consequences, nuclear physics and astrophysics as the additional content in year two, with the first year content being the less difficult aspect of each area. There is practical content throughout the course, with 12 practicals being compulsory and the skills and theory of these practicals will be part of the A Level exams.

Final exams will be at the end of the course and consist of 3 papers each lasting 2 hours.

First year

The measurements and errors section looks at the use of SI units, limitations of physical measurements and estimations.

First year - particles and radiation

Particles, electromagnetic radiation and quantum phenomenon including wave particle duality.

First year - waves

Progressive and stationary waves, refraction, diffraction and interference.

First year - mechanics and materials

Force, energy, momentum and projectiles.

First year - electricity

Current electricity, EMF, resistivity and potential dividers.

A LEVEL

All first year content is covered and in addition:

Thermal physics

Ideal gases and kinetic and molecular theory.

Fields and their consequences

Gravitational fields, electric fields, capacitors and magnetic fields.

Radioactivity

Rutherford scattering, types of radiation, nuclear instability, $E=mc^2$.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Students will normally be expected to have achieved a double grade 6 at GCSE in Science together with a grade 6 in Mathematics.

CAREER PROGRESSION

A Physics qualification is very well regarded as a platform for numerous careers and study courses. Physics leads directly to careers in Science, Technology, Medicine and Engineering amongst many others. A qualification in Physics also indicates competence in Mathematics, practical and problem solving skills and an ability to evaluate evidence objectively.

METHOD OF ASSESSMENT

Terminal exams at end of Year 13. Throughout the course teachers have to assess whether the students pass or fail the practical aspect of the course and this will appear as a separate pass/fail on their certificate.



[Back to Contents](#)

POLITICS

For more information contact: Mrs Tracey Tillotson or Mrs Alice Allen

Board: Pearson Edexcel

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The Politics A Level is an ideal choice for so many students. It can complement arts subjects like History or Economics, or balance a selection of three Science subjects. Any student looking forward to gaining the right to vote within the next few years will benefit from a critical understanding of current political affairs and institutions. It would suit students who have an interest in the world around them and who enjoy debate, discussion and argument.

There will be three components over the two years.

Component One

UK Politics and Core Political Ideas

This module will explore the nature of politics and how people engage in the political processes in the UK. Students will investigate in detail how people and politics interact and explore the emergence and development of the UK's democratic system and similarities, differences, connections and parallels between indirect and direct democracy. They will focus on the role of political parties that are so central to contemporary politics, including manifestos and their relevance to the mandate of the resulting government. This section also allows students to understand the political process and their relationship with the state and how individuals and groups influence voting habits.

They will also look at the role of the media in contemporary politics.

Core Political Ideas

This section allows students to explore the three traditional political ideas of conservatism, liberalism and socialism.

Component Two

UK Government and Non-Core Political Ideas

This module is fundamental to understanding the nature of UK Government, since it enables students to understand where, how and by whom political decisions are made. It also gives students a base of comparison to other political systems. It introduces students to the set of rules governing UK politics, the UK constitution, which is different in nature to the rest of the world. It also introduces students to the roles and powers of the different major branches of government – legislative, executive and judiciary – as well as the relationships and balance of power between them and considers where sovereignty now lies in the political system.

Non-Core Political Ideas

This section allows students to explore the concept of Nationalism and how it relates to human nature, the state, society and the economy.

Component Three

Comparative Politics: Government & Politics of the USA

Students will explore the US Constitution and the arguments surrounding it. They will also learn about the key government institutions within the USA and analysing the manner in which they achieve their power and exercise it over their citizens. Students will judge whether 'liberty and justice for all' has been achieved in the USA. Students will begin to engage with the impact of the US government across the world by comparing and contrasting politics and institutions in the US with those in the UK. This will develop a wider understanding of politics as a discipline, underpinned by the theoretical concepts of comparative politics.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Students need a grade 5 or higher in GCSE English Language.

CAREER PROGRESSION

It would be a valuable subject for anyone considering a degree or career in law, media, journalism, business management or local government.

METHOD OF ASSESSMENT

All three components will be assessed in the June of Year 13.



[Back to Contents](#)

PRODUCT DESIGN

For more information contact: Mr Sam Fawcett
Board: AQA

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course provides excellent progression and diversity leading to qualifications that reflect a strong understanding of design. The course provides students with the opportunity to showcase their design and prototyping skills through work on a range of challenging briefs from a flat pack chair to a balance toy. Students will go through each element of the design process as well as the key theory elements throughout year 12 to prepare them for their final NEA and written exams. Students following the course will develop the following skills:

- Develop and enhance their own creative and innovative design skills whilst following the design process, producing in-depth research analysis, detailed design sheets, effective models and quality prototypes
- Develop a critical understanding of processes and products through product analysis
- Apply knowledge and understanding of materials, tools, machinery and production processes including CAD/CAM in order to plan for large scale production
- Use ICT to enhance their design and technological capability
- Use key scientific knowledge to understand and develop products through material properties and physical structure
- Develop mathematical skills to establish material quantities, machinery speeds, costing and to analyse data
- Develop an understanding of social, moral, spiritual and cultural issues relating to design and manufacture
- Develop as discerning consumers who are able to make informed choices about design through work collaboration, sustainability and experiencing manufacturing environments

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

A GCSE grade 5 or higher in DT Resistant Materials or DT Graphic Products plus a minimum GCSE grade 5 in Mathematics and Science.

CAREER PROGRESSION

Our Product Design courses provide a gateway to higher level courses including HNC and apprenticeships, whilst our full A Level course provides a strong foundation for a degree in design.

Career paths include architecture, industrial design, mechanical and civil engineering, product design, advertising, interior design, automotive engineering and graphic design.

ORGANISED TRIP

The course will provide students with the opportunity to go on a visit which will enable them to experience iconic designers and products as well as an insight into future careers and design courses.

METHOD OF ASSESSMENT

A Level

Unit 1: Written examination 1½ hours 30% Mixture of short answer, multiple choice and extended response

Unit 2: Written examination 2½ hours 20% Product Analysis and Commercial Manufacture, Mixture of short and extended questioning

Unit 3: Coursework Project 50%



[Back to Contents](#)

PSYCHOLOGY

For more information contact: Ms Chloe Dundas or Ms Amy Goldsmith

Board: AQA Specification A

COURSE DESCRIPTION

During the course students will study psychological theories and develop an understanding of the core areas of Cognitive, Social, Developmental and Physiological Psychology. The course will offer the opportunity to develop essay writing and design and conduct experiments.

We follow the AQA specification and study the following:

Paper 1 - Introduction to topics in Psychology

- Social influence
- Memory
- Attachment
- Psychopathology

Paper 2 - Psychology in context

- Approaches in Psychology
- Biopsychology
- Research methods

Paper 3 - A Level Psychology will include paper 1, 2 and 3.

- Forensic Psychology
- Schizophrenia
- Relationships
- Issues and debates (compulsory)

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

As the course is a science and there is a requirement to write essays, students would normally have to have grade 5 in English Language, Science and/or Mathematics.

CAREER PROGRESSION

A Level Psychology will equip students with valuable skills for many higher education courses and careers. Skills acquired in Psychology would be highly useful to those planning a career or course in teaching, medicine, law, business management, media, advertising, sports studies and academic research. Many students will go on to study Psychology at degree level to access careers in clinical, educational, occupational, forensic or sports psychology.

METHOD OF ASSESSMENT

Exams at the end of year 13

No coursework element



[Back to Contents](#)

SOCIOLOGY

For more information contact: Mr Eugene Spiers or Mr Joe Tillman
Board: AQA

COURSE DESCRIPTION

First year

Unit 1: The Family and Households

Students will look at how the family is changing and what different sociologists say about these changes. Topics include the division of housework, childhood, divorce, government policy on the family, family diversity and how demography has effected changes to family structures. Feminist, Marxist, Functionalist and post-modernist views on the family are also explored.

Unit 2: Education and Methods

Students will investigate the UK education system and why some social groups do better in it than others. A range of factors, both within schools and outside schools, will be explored, alongside the impact of current and past government policy. Students will also look at sociological research methods and the pros and cons of these alongside a study of how they can be used to investigate our education system.

Second year

Unit 3: Beliefs

If the Media is studied students will investigate sociological explanations of new media and their impacts on contemporary society; the relationship between ownership and control of the media; globalisation and popular culture; the selection and presentation of the content of the news; media representations of age, social class, ethnicity, gender, sexuality and disability and the relationship between the media and audiences.

If Beliefs in Society is studied students will investigate ideology, science and religion, including both Christian and non-Christian religious traditions. This will include the relationship between social change and social stability; different types of religious organisations, including cults, sects, denominations, churches and New Age movements; the relationship between different social groups and religious/spiritual practices; the significance of religion in the contemporary world, including the nature and extent of secularisation in a global context.

Unit 4: Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods

Students will investigate different theories about the causes of crime, control and punishments, the relationship between the media and crime and the impact of globalisation on crime. They will also

investigate reasons for different patterns of offending amongst different social groups for example – why is the UK prison population 95% male and why are you more likely to be stopped and searched by the police if you are not white? Students will also look at the main perspectives and research methods used in Sociology and address questions like “is Sociology a science?”

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Candidates are expected to have grade 4 or above in English.

CAREER PROGRESSION

Sociology will be useful to those students who are interested in entering higher education equipping them with a number of required skills. It will be particularly of benefit for those who are interested in entering the caring professions, social services, healthcare, police force, armed services, teaching, probation, law etc.

METHOD OF ASSESSMENT

EXAMINATIONS

A LEVEL

(3 Papers at the end of the second year)

Paper 1: Education with Theory and Methods (2 hours)

Paper 2: Families and Beliefs in Society (2 hours)

Paper 3: Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods (2 hours)



[Back to Contents](#)

SPANISH

For more information contact: Mr Eugene Spiers or Ms Rachel Greenslade RXG@hardenhuish.wilts.sch.uk
Board: AQA

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course comprises the following topics:

- Aspects of Hispanic society: Modern and traditional values, Cyberspace, Equal rights
- Artistic culture in the Hispanic world: Modern day idols, Spanish regional identity and Cultural heritage
- Multiculturalism in Hispanic society: Immigration, Racism and Integration
- Aspects of political life in the Hispanic world: Today's youth, tomorrow's citizens, Monarchies and dictatorships, Popular movements

We also study different literary texts and films.

The A Level Spanish course is currently delivered at Hardenhuish School.

WHY STUDY SPANISH?

Learning a foreign language increases personal satisfaction, employability, personal and social development of the individual, mobility and communication skills. Students gain a deeper understanding of another society through a study of literature, film, contemporary and historical events. Moreover, Spanish is the second most widely spoken language by first language speakers.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

GCSE grade 6 in Spanish.

CAREER PROGRESSION

Languages graduates are highly regarded by employers. There are many career options for languages graduates including interpreter, translator or a career in teaching. A Spanish degree would also be useful for careers in broadcast journalism, the diplomatic service, international aid, logistics and distribution, marketing, sales and tourism

METHOD OF ASSESSMENT

There are three components to the assessment of the course:

Paper 1

Speaking (30%)

Paper 2

Listening, Reading and Translation (50%): a 2.5 hour examination

Paper 3

Critical and analytical response in writing (20%): a 2 hour examination comprising of two essays of 300 words on a literary work and film



[Back to Contents](#)

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have any questions about Sheldon Sixth Form, please get in touch or visit www.sheldonschool.co.uk

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