

[excellence and enjoyment]



Shelley College

Sixth Form

a specialist centre for science

Course Guide

Choosing a relevant programme

In the first instance you should consider the likely grades you will achieve at GCSE; it is important to be realistic so that the decisions you make are of benefit. In addition, you should investigate any subjects that are essential for you to achieve your career ambitions. The workload at Key Stage 5 is much higher than at GCSE so you should choose subjects that you will enjoy studying.

You should think about the way in which you learn and how you perform best when deciding whether to select an A level, an Applied A level or BTEC course.

Level 3 Course programme

– A level, Applied A level and BTEC National

Students will have achieved 5 GCSEs grade A* to C (certain subjects may require specific grades). In addition, all students study General Studies at AS level in the first year and then A level in the second year.

Level 2 Course programme

– BTEC First Diploma and Certificate

Students will have achieved fewer than 5 GCSEs grade A* to C. Students may well need to study Maths and English GCSE re-sits which can be incorporated into the Level 2 programme. The level 2 provision is being reviewed and students

considering these options should contact the college for specific advice.

Opportunities for all

Shelley College is committed to offering students equality of opportunity in their education. Students who have a Statement of Special Educational Needs will have a review of those needs before they transfer to Shelley College and specialist teaching is available to students with dyslexia.

All classrooms are situated on one level. Students can access the school via a ramp to the front of the building, or via double doors that are situated at ground level to the rear of the school. Special arrangements are made for students with physical, visual and hearing impairments.

Shelley College has a Special Educational Needs Policy which is updated annually and an Accessibility Plan, which details arrangements for students who have disabilities. Copies of these documents are available from the college on request.

Financial Support

The Educational Maintenance Allowance provides students with weekly payments during term-time if they continue in education after the age of 16. This money is intended to help with the

day to day costs such as travel, books and equipment. Eligibility for an EMA is dependant on your family income. Further information should be available in your school.

Entry Requirements

Entry to the Sixth Form is by interview. The entry requirements are:

- A minimum of 5 GCSEs grades A* to C (except level 2 courses).
- Evidence of sustained commitment to current subjects being studied.

Students will normally be expected to have a GCSE grade C or better in subjects they intend to continue studying at AS/A level. However, students intending to study Maths, Physics or a Modern Foreign Language will normally be expected to have gained a grade B in the relevant subject at GCSE. When subjects have not previously been studied applicants will be considered on their individual merits.

Successful students will be able to show enthusiasm for their learning and a willingness to benefit from advice and support provided by the College's staff. Applications will be judged on information gathered from a range of sources which include interviews, post 16 Progression Forms, monitoring records, subject reports and teacher comments.

Applied Art & Design (Double Award)

Level: A Level (Equivalent to 2 A level grades)

Examination Board: Edexcel

Course Content:

Students study a wide range of art and design areas in depth, working to project briefs as they would in a professional art and design context. Within the course there is always opportunity to develop personal themes and interests.

In Year 12 students cover 6 areas of work, which are given, equal weighting in the mark scheme. These cover: experimenting with a range of 2D and 3D materials and technologies, studying the work of artists and designers, researching and developing ideas and producing final pieces of work.

In Year 13 students cover a further 6 areas of work which are given equal weighting in the mark scheme. These cover: preparing a portfolio, work experience, studying the work of artists or designers and working in a chosen medium to develop and produce an individual idea. This course gives students the time to build up their skills and undertake creative and reflective experimentation with media and materials. The nature of this course in terms of its capacity to build skills of independent, analytical and creative study makes it suitable not only for those wishing to progress into further and higher education in art and design but also those who want to gain 2 'A' levels in order to progress onto any other course.

Applied Business

Level: Applied AS and A level

Examination Board: Edexcel

Course Content:

The Applied Business A level award is designed to give students a comprehensive knowledge of business. The course teaches a range of business theories but the emphasis is to place the theoretical understanding into a commercial context. The AS course studies three main areas:

- Investigating People at Work
- Investigating Business
- Investigating Marketing

The Investigating People at Work element is assessed by an examination; the other two units are assessed by coursework.

The coursework for Investigating Business involves researching the setting up of a small local business. Students produce a presentation which includes a business plan and financial information.

The Investigating Marketing coursework involves producing a marketing plan for an existing product or service.

This Applied A level involves the study of:

- Business Development – The emphasis is on a SME.

And two further units from the following:

- Managing people
- Marketing Decisions
- The impact of finance on business decisions
- Organising an event
- External influence on business.

Applied Information and Communications Technology

Level: Applied AS and A level
Examination Board: Edexcel

Course Content:

Module 1: The Information Age

You will learn about the information communication technologies that enable people to access and exchange information and to carry out transactions anytime, anywhere. You will be assessed, through coursework which will be presented as an e-portfolio.

Module 2: The Digital Economy

You will investigate how organisations are responding to the pressures of the e-marketplace by using transactional websites. You will create a database and an e-portfolio about e-Commerce.

Module 3: The Knowledge Worker

You will learn about making informed decisions using the knowledge available to you. This will be assessed by a 2.5 hour practical examination.

Module 4: Using database software

You will learn the principles of data modelling and sound database design, and will use relational database software. The coursework will require you to design, implement and test a relational database system.

Module 5: Managing ICT projects

It can be difficult to juggle resources and make effective use of time. Determining what has to be done when and by whom, monitoring progress and reporting to managers requires considerable expertise.

Module 6: Using multimedia software

You will produce a fully functional multimedia project for a real end user.



Applied Science

Level: AS and A Level
Examination Board: AQA

Course Content:

In Year 12 three units of work are completed. Two are assessed internally as portfolio projects. One is assessed as an external exam in January, the exam is 1 ½ hours. The portfolio units make up 66.6% of the course grade.

Unit 1 – Investigating Science at Work. This is a portfolio unit on how science is used in an organisation and how the organisation impacts on the local community. Includes a visit to Drax power station.

Unit 2 – Energy Transfer Systems. This is the examined unit which looks at energy transfers in the human body and the application of energy transfer in physical principles.

Unit 3 – Finding out about substances. This is a portfolio unit on different analytical techniques which are used in the scientific workplace and how they are applied to find out about different substances.

In Year 13 a further three units are completed. Two are assessed internally as portfolio projects. One is assessed as an external exam in January.

Applied Science looks at science through its uses in the real world.

It enables students to develop both a broad understanding of scientific principles as well as the possibility of focussing on a specific pathway e.g. health care, applications of chemistry, ecology, applied science in medicine, environmental or laboratory work. In addition, the qualification covers a mixture of units from the main subject areas of Biology, Chemistry, and Physics with a clear practical emphasis, providing students with the essential skills, knowledge and understanding of science.



Art & Design

Level: AS and A Level
Examination Board: AQA

Course Content:

At AS there are two units of work, each one counts for 50% of the total AS mark:

- **Unit 1** A portfolio of work.
- **Unit 2** An externally set assignment where students work from exciting starting points to develop their own ideas. This culminates in a 5 hour controlled test.

At A level there are two units of work, each one counts as 25% of the total A level mark.

- **Unit 3** A personal investigation of the student's choice supported by 1000-3000 words.
- **Unit 4** An externally set exam where students work from exciting starting points to develop their own ideas. This culminates in a 15 hour controlled test.

This is a broad based course which will cover some or all of the following areas: Drawing & Painting, Printmaking, Fashion & Creative Textiles, Three Dimensional Design, Graphics and Photography. Although exceptional drawing skills are not essential, students will be expected to record ideas and develop their observational drawing skills throughout both courses. There will be the opportunity to specialise in practical areas towards the end of each course.

Biology

Level: AS and A Level
Examination Board: Edexcel

Course Content:

Units 1 and 2 are theory units and will be examined in Year 1. Unit 3 is a coursework unit and will take the form of a report on a visit to a place of biological interest or a biological issue. Students practical skills will be assessed by the teacher against criteria provided in the specification. Unit 1 will be assessed in January and units 2 and 3 will be assessed in June.

Units 4 and 5 are theory units and will be examined in Year 2. Unit 6 is a coursework unit which will require students to submit a written report of an experimental investigation.

Edexcel developed this specification directly from the Salters Nuffield course developed by the University of York. We were involved directly in the development of the course as a pilot college. It is a fully interactive course that differs significantly from traditional Biology courses in that the topics taught throughout are cleverly built around a context storyline which relates to the application of Biology in the modern world. The course is supported by a comprehensive and fully interactive website which provides downloadable activity resources, interactive tutorials, animations, self-marking tests and discussion forums for all students. Alongside this is a carefully matched textbook, which reinforces all topics covered.

Business Studies

Level: AS and A Level
Examination Board: AQA

Course Content:

Business Studies is a subject which applies to all areas of employment and provides a real insight into the Business world.

The AS level has 2 written exams: Unit 1 is a 1hr 15 minute exam involving short answer questions and extended responses based on a mini case study. Unit 2 is a 1 hr 30 minute exam involving multi-part data response questions.

At A level 2 exams will be taken: Unit 3 is a 1 hr 45 minute exam based on an unseen case study which builds on knowledge from the AS units. Unit 4 is a 1 hour 45 minute exam including a pre-release research exercise and a choice of essays.

The course covers the following business concepts:

Unit 1 Planning and Financing a Business

- Starting a new business/business planning
- Financial planning and accounting

Unit 2 Managing a Business

- Finance – budgets, cash flow and profits
- People – organisational design, recruitment, selection, training and motivation
- Operations Management – quality, customer service, suppliers and technology
- Marketing and Competition – the marketing mix, market conditions and competitiveness

Unit 3 Strategies for Success

- Financial Strategies and Accounts – financial information, measuring performance and investment decisions
- Marketing Strategies – analysing markets and marketing plans
- Operations Strategies – innovation, location and operational efficiency
- Human Resource Strategies – workforce planning, employee relations and organisational structures

Unit 4 The Business Environment and Managing Change

- Draws on knowledge from all units



Chemistry (Salters)

Level: AS and A Level

Examination Board: Oxford, Cambridge and RSA Examinations

Course Content:

Chemical concepts are introduced within a relevant context, the course being written as a series of units based on contemporary issues in Chemistry. Students study the chemistry in a spiral way so that chemical ideas, introduced in an early topic, are reinforced later. The 'drip-feed' approach to teaching and learning chemical principles allows candidates to revisit a particular topic several times during the course, each time taking their knowledge and understanding a step further. There is an Advance Notice article included in an AS unit which can be studied, researched and discussed by students well in advance of the unit test. A2 students undertake a four week Chemical Investigation of their own choice.

AS Level

There are two written exams on 'Chemistry for Life' and 'Chemistry of Natural Resources'.

Together these contribute 80% of the AS qualification.

There is also a 20% internally-assessed piece work called 'Chemistry in Practice'.

A Level

There are two written exams on 'Chemistry in Materials' and 'Chemistry by design'.

Together these contribute 35% towards the A2 qualification.

A further 15% is attached to an individual practical investigation. These units, combined with those from the AS make up the A level.



Computing

Level: AS and A level

Examination Board: WJEC

Course Content:

AS Level

Module 1: Assessed by Examination

You will learn about the technical aspects of computer systems. This will be assessed by formal examination, usually in January.

Module 2: Assessed by Coursework

You will be required to analyse, design, implement, test and evaluate a solution to a given problem requiring the production of original code (i.e. you will be programming a solution). You will be given a design brief by the examination board. This will take most of the year. You will learn about the system lifecycle and apply that learning to your chosen solution.

A2 Level

Module 3: Assessed by Examination

You will learn more about the technical aspects of computer systems and be required to explain in much greater depth during the examination. This will be assessed by formal examination, usually in January.

Module 4: Assessed by Coursework

You will analyse, design, implement, test and evaluate a solution to a substantial problem of **your own choice** requiring the production of original code (programming).

This is a substantial piece of work, undertaken over an extended period of time.



Critical Thinking

Level: AS and A Level
Examination Board: AQA

Course Content:

AQA Critical Thinking is characterised by the careful, reflective consideration of reasoned argument; and of the beliefs and claims that comprise arguments.

AQA Critical Thinking aims to develop the following, intellectual attitudes and habits, fair-mindedness, independence, healthy scepticism, care and persistence, confidence in reasoning & intellectual courage.

Unit 1 – Critical Thinking Foundation Unit

50% of AS, 25% of A Level

1 hour 30 minutes written examination

Section A: Source related short answer questions.

Section B: Extended writing questions requiring candidates to present their own reasoning on a subject related to the source material.

Unit 2 – Information, Inference and Explanation

50% of AS, 25% of A Level

1 hour 30 minutes written examination

Section A: Short answer questions requiring extracting and interpreting information, assessing claims and conclusions, drawing inferences and offering explanations.

Section B: One question requiring candidates to argue for or against a short statement or proposal.

Unit 3 – Beliefs, Claims and Arguments

25% of A Level

1 hour 30 minutes written examination

Section A: Short answer questions related to source material expounding a belief, theory or hypothesis.

Section B: Extended writing questions related to short but complex arguments or persuasive texts.

Unit 4 – Reasoning and Decision Making

25% of A Level

1 hour 30 minutes written examination

Questions based on a Case Study that will be part pre-released and part contained in the examination paper.

Design & Technology: Product Design

(GRAPHIC PRODUCTS AND RESISTANT MATERIALS TECHNOLOGY (RMT))

Level: AS and A Level
Examination Board: Edexcel

Course Content:

2009 brings a fresh approach to our post 16 curriculum in Product Design. “Good design is vital to our world and economy” and this new, evolved version of our tried and tested Resistant Materials and Graphic Products specifications provides an even better opportunity for you to learn and apply your creative design skills

AS (Advanced Subsidiary)

There are two units of assessment, one unit is assessed by internal marking and external moderation and one unit is externally assessed by examination.

Unit 1: Portfolio of Creative Skills (60% of total AS mark)

In this unit students are given the opportunity to develop their creative, technical and practical skills through a series of product investigation, design and manufacturing activities. Students will produce one portfolio with three distinct sections which will demonstrate the key assessment objectives

Unit 2: Design and Technology in Practice (40% of the total AS mark)

In this unit students will develop their knowledge and understanding of a wide range of materials and processes in the context of modern industrial and commercial procedures. The assessment will be a 1 hr 30 min examination.

Advanced GCE (A2)

Again, there are two units of assessment; one unit is internally set and marked by the centre and external moderated by Edexcel. The other is externally assessed by examination.

Unit 3: Designing for the Future (40% of the total A level mark)

In this unit students will develop their knowledge and understanding of a wide range of modern design and manufacturing practices and contemporary design issues. As a young designer they will be expected to demonstrate a good working knowledge and use of ICT and Systems and Control Technology. They will also develop a good understanding of the contribution made by designers from the past as a context for their future inspiration. Sustainability and the environment will play a key role in developing an awareness of the responsibility of the designer in our ‘fragile’ world. The assessment will be a 2hr examination.

Unit 4: Commercial Design (60% of the total A level mark)

In this unit students will have to demonstrate their ability to design and manufacture a working prototype for a nominated commercial client; a ‘third party’ who will provide critical ‘business’ feedback for the development of a product. Students will have some freedom in the choice of the product they want to develop. It will be vital that this product has commercial viability and demonstrates a keen awareness of sustainability and environmental responsibility. It will be expected that students use sophisticated DTP presentation skills for all aspects of their work. This unit is internally set and marked by the centre and externally moderated.

Drama and Theatre Studies

Level: AS and A Level
Examination Board: Edexcel

Course Content:

Unit 1 – Exploration of Drama and Theatre

This unit introduces students to the content of plays written for the theatre. They will learn how to analyse plays in a variety of ways so that they become familiar with the way written plays can be interpreted for realisation in performance. This internally assessed unit requires students to explore two contrasting play texts, chosen by the centre, in a practical and active way. At least one of the plays must be explored in the light of a recognised theatrical practitioner. Students are also required to experience a live theatre performance and submit an evaluation.

Unit 2 – Theatre Text in Performance

This unit offers students the chance to demonstrate skills in a performance environment. The knowledge and understanding gained during the study of two plays in Unit 1 can now be applied with a view to delivering a performance to an audience. This is an externally assessed unit. The first section requires students to offer either a monologue or duologue. The second section requires students to contribute to a performance of a professionally published play by a known writer.

Unit 3 – Exploration of Dramatic Performance

This unit requires the creation of a unique and original piece of theatre. The knowledge and understanding gained in the AS units can now be applied to a created production. Students will be assessed on both the process of creation and the finished product in the form of a performance to an invited audience. Students will be assessed on the research and development of their work as well as the final performance in front of an identified audience. They are also required to complete an evaluation on both the process and performance of their work.

Unit 4 – Theatre Text in Context

This externally examined written unit requires the detailed study of one set play text and one prescribed historical period of theatrical development. This externally assessed unit takes the form of a 2 hour and 30 minute written paper in three sections. Section A and B require students to explore one play, from a choice of three set play texts, from the point of view of a director in both an academic and practical way. In Section C a selection must be made of one from a choice of three historic periods of theatre history. A live performance of a play from the chosen period must be experienced and evaluated and a comparison made with the original staging conditions of the play.

Economics

Level: AS and A Level
Examination Board: Edexcel

Course Content:

Unit 1: Competitive Markets – how they work and why they fail

(50% of the total AS marks - 25% of the total A2 marks)

This unit provides an introduction to the nature of economics and examines how the price mechanism allocates resources in markets. It analyses the nature of market failure, its causes and possible policy remedies. Students are also introduced to supply and demand analysis and its application to real-world situations.

Assessment is through one examination of 1 hour 30 minutes, consisting of supported multiple-choice questions and one data response question out of a choice of two questions.

Unit 2: Managing the Economy

(50% of the total AS marks - 25% of the total A level marks)

This unit introduces the key measures of economic performance and the main objectives and instruments of economic policy. Students will use diagrams to understand the policies used to manage the economy. Students will explore the reasons behind current economic performance and evaluate the success of potential policy measures.

Assessment is through one examination of 1 hour 30 minutes, consisting of one data response question out of a choice of two questions.

Unit 3: Business Economics and Economic Efficiency

(40% of total A2 marks - 20% of the total A level marks)

This unit develops knowledge taught in Unit 1 and examines how competition, the size of markets and interdependency between firms affects the price we pay at the counter. Students will be able to assess the output and pricing decisions of firms, and the type and appropriateness of Government intervention. Assessment is through a 1 hour and 30 minute exam.

Unit 4: The Global Economy

(60% of total A2 marks - 30% of total A level marks)

This unit develops the skills and knowledge learnt in Unit 2, applying the theory to a global context. Students will apply, analyse and evaluate a number of economic models against real world scenarios, suggesting appropriate policies to deal with economic problems. A knowledge of global events over the past 10 years is essential. Assessment is through a 2 hour exam.

English Language

Level: AS and A Level
Examination Board: AQA

Course Content: Year 12 AS Level

Unit 1 Language Today

In this unit students will focus on varieties of contemporary language.

They will investigate texts (spoken, written and electronic) and consider the influence of mode, tenor, field and function.

Examination Paper:

Section A: Questions will be short and based on small quantities of data.

Section B: A longer answer based on additional data.

Unit 2 Exploring the Writing Process

In this unit students will demonstrate their skills as writers. They will explore the techniques of a variety of genres in order to produce effective texts for specific genres, audiences and purposes. They will reflect upon their work in accompanying commentaries which explain the techniques used to convey the desired effects. The commentaries should be of no more than 500 words for each piece.

Coursework folder:

2000–2500 WORDS MAXIMUM, excluding commentaries

TASK 1 Text for a reading audience
JOURNALISM INTERVIEW

TASK 2 Text for a listening audience
DRAMATIC MONOLOGUE

Course Content: Year 13 A2 Level

Unit 3 Language Diversity and Children's Language Development

Examination Paper:

Students will answer one question from Section A and one question from Section B.

Section A
Language diversity over time and in global contexts.

Section B
The development of children's spoken and written language.

Unit 4 Investigation and Presentation

Students will identify an aspect of language suitable for a research investigation and firstly will demonstrate that they can explain the concepts that underlie their investigation to an informed but non-

specialist audience. Secondly, students will decide on the focus of their investigation, collect data, analyse it and draw relevant conclusions relating to the focus of the investigation.

Coursework folder:

2500-3000 WORDS MAXIMUM

TASK 1

Students will write a short article, talk or presentation about their area of study for the investigation, produced for an informed, but non-specialist audience.

TASK 2

Students will present an investigation on a topic of their own choice, utilising a methodology they have selected.

English Literature

Level: AS and A Level
Examination Board: AQA

Course Content:

Unit 1 – Aspects of Narrative

There are four texts for study: 2 novels (at least one post 1990) and 2 pieces of poetry (1800-1945).

Assessment is through a 2 hour Open Book exam which accounts for 60% of the AS mark.

Unit 2 – Dramatic Genres (Coursework)

A minimum of 2 texts for study within dramatic genre of Tragedy.

Assessment is through a portfolio of 2 pieces of written coursework, one may be re-creative, which accounts for 40% of the AS mark.

Unit 3 – Texts and Genres

A minimum of 3 texts for study including at least one 1300-1800.

Two topics for examination

- 1 Elements of the Gothic
- 2 Elements of the Pastoral

Assessment is through a 2 hour exam which accounts for 30% of the A level mark.

Unit 4 – Further and Independent Reading (Coursework)

A minimum of 3 texts for study including one pre-released Anthology of critical material.

Assessment is through a portfolio of 2 pieces of written coursework which accounts for 20% of total A level mark.

French

Level: AS and A Level
Examination Board: AQA

Course Content:

AS - Unit 1 Listening, Reading and Writing

- Listening and understanding
- Reading and understanding
- Writing task

Unit 2 Speaking Test in French

- Discussion of a stimulus card (5 mins)
- Conversation (10 mins)

A2 - Unit 3 Listening, Reading and Writing

- Listening and understanding
- Reading and understanding
- Writing task

Unit 4 Speaking Test in French

- Discussion of a stimulus card (5 mins)
- Conversation (10 mins)

Most lessons will be given in French. You will need to develop greater grammatical accuracy and a wide vocabulary. The course book will develop all the topic areas required for AS/A level. The topic areas are as follows:

AS

- **Media** (Television, Advertising and New Technology)
- **Popular Culture** (Cinema, Music and Fashion)
- **Healthy Living/Lifestyle** (Sport/Exercise, Health and Well-being and Holidays)
- **Family/Relationships** (Family, Friendships, Relationships)

A2

- **Environment** (Pollution, Energy and Protecting the Planet)
- **The Multicultural Society** (Immigration, Integration and Racism)
- **Contemporary Social Issues** (Wealth and Poverty, Law and Order and Impact of scientific and technological progress)
- **Cultural Topic** (A comprehensive list of topics)



General Studies

Level: AS and A Level
Examination Board: AQA

Course Content:

The AS course consists of two units,

Unit 1: Culture & Society

Unit 2: Science & Society

The assessment for these units will be through two examination papers, each 1 hour and 30 minutes.

The full A level qualification is made up of the two AS units plus 2 further units.

Unit 3: Culture & Society

Unit 4: Science & Society

The assessment for these units will be through two examination papers, each 2 hours. Unit 4 Section A: will have short answer questions assessing a pre-release Case Study and unseen extracts contained in the examination paper.

All students will continue to the full A level qualification

AS outline

At AS, the specification will build upon a base of knowledge acquired through studying a broad range of subjects at GCSE. Students will discuss the nature of knowledge, truth and belief; analyse data; information, ideas, opinions and argument; and examine questions, form values, make judgements and draw conclusions.

A2 outline

At A2, the specification asks candidates to further develop themes and concepts studied at AS. Candidates will be expected to make informed judgements and reach justified conclusions. Students will demonstrate understanding of how values can influence judgements.

It is envisaged that all Year 12 students will take AS General Studies. They will develop a wide range of transferable skills during the course. These include integrating knowledge from a range of disciplines and developing critical awareness. These skills are in demand by employers and universities and, are valuable in their own right. The course will add breadth to the programme of study in the 6th form. General Studies also provides ideal opportunities for Key Skills portfolio evidence.

Geography

Level: AS and A Level
Examination Board: AQA

Course Content:

AS Examination

- **Unit 1: Physical and Human Geography Core**
2 hours (70% of AS marks and 35% of the total A level marks).
- **Unit 2: Geographical Skills**
1 hour (30% of AS marks and 15% of the total A level marks).

A2 Examination

- **Unit 3: Geog3. Contemporary Geographical Issues**
2.5 hours (30% of the total A level marks)
- **Unit 4A: Geography Fieldwork Investigation**
1.5 hours (20% of the total A level marks)

The new specification allows for specialisation and progression to higher education and employment. There is a more natural progression from GCSE to GCE. Students will be given opportunities to develop fieldwork skills and study geographical issues and impacts. Fieldwork is compulsory and will include day trips or a residential trip to a UK location. Previous destinations have been North Wales, Norfolk, The Yorkshire Dales and The Lake District. Fieldwork will be used to generate ideas and collect primary data which will prepare students for Units 2 & 4A.

The new specification balances traditional geography with contemporary and engaging geographical subject content. Key themes are management of change and sustainability. It encourages students to reflect on why they think the way they do about an issue, as well as how others think, skills that are vital for citizens in the 21st Century.



Geology

Level: AS and A Level
Examination Board: WJEC

Course Content:

The units studied in the first year are: Foundation Geology, Investigative Geology, Geology and the Human Environment. Students are expected to do 3 days fieldwork, although this is not assessed.

In the second year the units studied are: Interpreting the Geological Record, Geological Themes, and Geological Investigations. Assessment of candidates' Laboratory / Field Skills work is made by the teacher (as fieldwork) and moderated externally.

Geology is the branch of science concerned with the structure, evolution and dynamics of the Earth and with the exploitation of the mineral and energy resources that it contains. Geology is ideally suited to fulfil the educational purpose of demonstrating the relevance of science to society. Geology applies physical, chemical and biological principles to the investigation of the Earth, but also involves a distinctive scientific methodology, involving internal and external Earth processes to explain the evolution of the planet. The application of geology to human activities and needs is widely addressed in the specification, providing for relevance and the development of a broad range of key skills.

The AS course includes a 3 day residential fieldtrip. The A2 specification extends the work on rocks to include practical identification of a range of rocks and minerals. It requires a higher level of understanding of the complex igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic processes, which form the rocks and minerals. The practical theme continues with a unit on palaeontology, which requires the recognition of fossils from drawings and photographs. The evolution and morphology of fossil groups requires that fossils are used to interpret conditions in the geological past (palaeoenvironments) and as one of the methods of dating. The identification of rocks, minerals and fossils in the field and laboratory will demonstrate a range of practical skills. The A2 course also involves residential fieldwork.



Home Economics

(Food, Nutrition & Health)

Level: AS and A2 Level

Examination Board: Edexcel

Course Content:

This new OCR specification allows candidates to develop an understanding of issues relating to society and health, resource management, nutrition and food production.

What are the benefits to me and my students of delivering this OCR specification?

- Cuts the assessment burden on students with four units instead of six.
- This new specification is an excellent preparation for students wishing to pursue careers in nutrition, food science, sports science, food technology and consumer protection.
- Simple, straightforward assessment. At AS level both units are externally assessed. At A2 level one unit is externally assessed, one is a 3,000 word assignment.
- External assessment is 1hr 30mins for each paper.
- Emphasis on the practical aspects of home economics.

AS Level

Unit 1 Society & Health

Candidates gain an understanding of demography, family and society, environmental, social issues and health.

Unit 2 Resource Management

Candidates acquire a thorough knowledge of resources, food provision, selection and purchase of food and household goods, food preparation and cooking equipment, food safety and hygiene.

A2 Level

Unit 3 Coursework Study

In this unit candidates select their own content and develop their own task.

Unit 4 Nutrition & Food Production

Candidates study nutrients and energy; nutritional and dietary needs of different groups of people; properties of food; design, development and production of food; advances in the food industry.

History

Level: AS and A Level

Examination Board: Edexcel

Course Content:

There are 2 separate History courses and students will choose 1 of the following:

Societies in Change or Societies in Conflict

1) Societies in Change

In Year 12 the following 2 units will be studied:

1. War of the Roses and Henry VII
2. Great Britain? The experience of People in Victorian Britain.

Each unit will be assessed by exams, demonstrating either source or essay based skills.

In Year 13 the following 2 units will be studied.

1. Kings, People, Emperor and back again: Challenges to French Authority 1786-1830
This will be assessed by an exam which will focus on controversies.
2. Crime and Punishment in Britain in the C19th and C20th.
This will be the coursework component.

or

2) History in Conflict: C20th Europe

In Year 12 the following 2 units will be studied:

1. Autocracy and Dictatorship: Russia in Revolution and Stalin's Russia
2. Experience of Warfare in Britain in the Modern era
Each unit will be assessed by exams, demonstrating either source or essay based skills.

In Year 13 the following 2 units will be studied.

1. Victory against fascism, but at what cost?: Britain's response to the growth of Fascism 1925-1960
This will be assessed by an exam which will focus on controversies.
2. Drudgery to Dior: Did women achieve a new look? Changes in women's lives 1850-1950
This will be the coursework component.

Mathematics

Level: AS and A Level
Examination Board: Edexcel

Course Content:

In the first year students study Core 1, Core 2 and Statistics. The Statistics element contains questions on probability and data handling. Core 1 will be examined in January, all the others will be examined at the end of year.

In the second year students will be taught using the same structure as the first year but the statistics unit is replaced. The content of the second year is Core 3, Core 4 and Mechanics.

Core 1, Core 2, Core 3 and Core 4 contain questions on proof, algebra, trigonometry, differentiation and integration.

For students who are gifted mathematicians and who are really interested they then could choose Further Maths. Further Maths is a complete second A level, thus during two years of study 6 further modules will need to be studied, 3 in Yr.12 and 3 in Yr.13. Further Maths can also be completed as an AS level by sitting only 3 additional modules.

The students taking A level Further Maths will most likely take 2 further Pure Maths modules, 1 more Mechanics modules, 1 more statistics module and a decision maths module.

Media Studies

Level: AS and A Level
Examination Board: AQA

Course Content:

In the first year, one end of unit exam will be taken in June. In addition, students will submit a piece of coursework in the form of 2 linked production pieces. The unit exam accounts for 50% of the AS grade, the coursework 50%.

The second year consists of one end of unit exam taken in June. In addition, students will submit a piece of coursework in the form of a critical investigation and a linked production piece. The unit exams account for 25% of the final A level grade and the coursework 25%.

The course is based around a study of key media concepts and media platforms, and the important questions and debates they raise, proving the essential tools for any critical reading of media texts. Investigations of contemporary media texts, research based critical investigations, and practical production projects will be underpinned by these key concepts and platforms.

Music

Level: AS and A Level
Examination Board: Edexcel

Course Content:

Unit 1: Performing Music

- Perform music in any style for a 5-6 minute assessed performance.

Unit 2: Composing

- Compose a 3 minute piece in response to a chosen brief.
- Write a CD sleeve note to describe the composition.

Unit 3: Developing Musical Understanding (2 hour examination)

- Listen to familiar music to understand how it works.
- Investigate Musical styles.
- Complete a short passage of harmony.

Unit 4: Extended Performance

- Extend performance skills through a 12-15 minute assessed performance.

Unit 5: Composition and Technical Study

- Compose a 3 minute piece in response to a chosen brief.
- Complete a technical study in harmony or
- Choose one of the above headings and complete 2 examples of it.

Unit 6: Further Musical Understandings (2 hour examination)

- Aural analysis.
- Music in Context.
- Continuity and Change in instrumental music.



Physical Education

Level: AS and A Level
Examination Board: OCR

Course Content:

The scheme of assessment for a student doing the A level is 60% theory and 40% practical. There are two units of work covered in Year 12 and two Units in Year 13.

Year 12

- **Unit G451** – An introduction to Physical Education, which has 3 sections,
Section A – Anatomy and Physiology
Section B – Acquiring Movement Skills
Section C – Socio-cultural Studies relating to participation in physical activity.

There is one examination paper of two hours for the above Sections worth 90 marks. This unit is worth 60% of the total AS mark.

- **Unit G452** – Acquiring, developing and evaluating practical skills in PE
Students are assessed in their ability to:
 - Perform two sporting activities, or
 - Perform one chosen activity and officiate in another chosen activity with evaluating and planning for the improvement of performance.

This unit is marked out of 80 marks and is worth 40% of the total AS mark.

Year 13

- **Unit G453** – Principles and concepts across different areas of PE
Section A – Historical Studies
Section B – Sports Psychology and Exercise and Sport Physiology
There is one examination paper of two and half hours for the above sections worth 105 marks and is worth 35% of the total A level mark.
- **Unit G454** – The improvement of effective performance and the critical evaluation of practical activities in PE
Students are assessed in their ability to:
 - Perform one chosen activity and the evaluation, appreciation and improvement of performance, or
 - Coach/lead one chosen activity and the evaluation, appreciation and improvement of performance.

This unit is marked out of 60 marks and is worth 15% of the total A level mark.

Level 2 in Community Sports Leadership

FIVE CORE VALUES;

- Personal development
- Developing leadership
- A stepping-stone to employment
- Volunteering within the community
- Reducing youth crime

EIGHT UNITS;

- 1) Organisation skills
- 2) Safety in sport
- 3) Fitness sessions
- 4) Games and activity experience
- 5) 10 hours voluntary leadership within the community
- 6) Improvising and adapting games
- 7) The structure of sport at local, regional and national level
- 8) Plan a sporting event

BTEC National Award in Sport

Level: BTEC National (equivalent to one A level)
Examination Board: Edexcel

Course Content:

A 6 unit BTEC National certificate provides a specialist work-related programme of study that covers the key knowledge and practical skills required in the sector. There are no examinations during the course; assessment is through student assignments.

Core Units

- The Body in Action
- Health and Safety
- Training and Fitness

Specialist Units

- Sports Coaching
- Sports Development
- Practical Sports

Assessment

At the start of the course students are given their assessment tasks and the dates for completion. Work is graded according to the grading criteria Pass, Merit and Distinction. Points are awarded to assignments and these are totalled to provide a final points score and overall grade.

Philosophy and Ethics

Level: AS and A Level
Examination Board: OCR

Course Content:

Unit 1: AS Philosophy (1 hour exam)

- Ancient Greek influences on philosophy of religion
- Judaeo-Christian influences on philosophy of religion
- Traditional arguments for the existence of God
- Challenges to religious belief

Unit 2: AS Ethics (1 hour exam)

- Ethical theories
- Applied ethics topics

Unit 3: A2 Philosophy (1 hour 30 minutes exam)

- Religious language
- Experience and religion
- Nature of God
- Life and death
- Miracle

Unit 4: A2 ethics (1 hour 30 minutes exam)

- Meta-Ethics
- Free will and determinism
- Conscience
- Virtue Ethics
- Applied Ethics topics

Physics

Level: AS and A Level
Examination Board: Edexcel

Course Content:

Incorporating aspects of Sports Science, Medical Physics and Music Technology this course is designed to bring the science that surrounds us into a more everyday context. This course also provides an excellent opportunity for students to study a range of issues, such as the Physics of the Food Industry and the techniques used in archaeological surveys and “digs”.

The course is delivered in 3 modules. The third of which is a coursework based module which encompasses experimental skills and a research project, which account for 20% of the AS grade.

The course is supported by the eLearning network which fully utilises multimedia resources. The eLearning facility enables students to access all the work via the college network.

Product Design - Textiles

Level: AS and A Level
Examination Board: AQA

Course Content:

Unit 1: Materials, Components and Application (50% of the total AS marks - 25% of the total A level marks)

A two hour written paper primarily based on Materials and Components. Students will have the opportunity to study and work with a variety of textile materials to enable them to understand the working characteristics, physical properties, cost and availability which influence the choice of materials in design situations.

Unit 2: Learning Through Designing and Making (50% of the total AS marks - 25% of the total A level marks)

This is a design and make unit where students apply their knowledge to the designing and making of their own project. The coursework may take a number of forms, a single design and make project, two smaller projects or a portfolio of work. This work may be fashion or interior related depending on the students' preferences.

Unit 3: Design and Manufacture (25% of the total A Level marks)

A two hour written paper based primarily on design and manufacture. Students will further their knowledge and understanding of materials and components, design and market influences and processes and manufacture.

Unit 4: Designing and Making Practice (25% of the total A Level marks)

This is a design and make unit, where knowledge of the AS and A2 subject content is applied to the manufacture of candidates' own projects. Students are encouraged to develop and sustain their creativity and innovative practice in their chosen area of textiles to produce a single, substantial design and make portfolio and product.

Candidates can progress to a wide variety of careers using this A level – many go on to Art Foundation courses, Degree courses in all aspects of design including, textiles, fashion, interior design, buying, technology, merchandising, retail, sales and marketing.

Psychology

Level: AS and A Level
Examination Board: AQA

Course Content:

AS Unit 1

- Cognitive psychology, including memory and eyewitness testimony.
- Developmental psychology, including early social development, attachment and the effects of day care.
- Research methods, in the context of the topic areas including: Experimental method (laboratory, field and natural experiments); Studies using correlational analysis; Observational techniques; Self-report techniques including questionnaire and interview; Case studies
- Data analysis and presentation of qualitative and quantitative data.

AS Unit 2

- Biological psychology, including stress, factors affecting stress, coping with stress and managing stress.
- Social psychology, including conformity, obedience and independent behaviour.
- Individual differences, including definitions of abnormality, approaches and therapies.

A2 Unit 3

- Biological rhythms and sleep
- Relationships
- Eating behaviour

A2 Unit 4

- Psychopathology – knowledge and understanding of models, classification, diagnosis and therapies in relation to one disorder (TBC) chosen from:
 - o Schizophrenia
 - o Depression
 - o Anxiety disorder
- Psychology in Action – one contemporary issue (TBC) chosen from:
 - o Media psychology
 - o The psychology of addictive behaviour
 - o Anomalistic psychology
- Psychological Research and Scientific Method

Sociology

Level: AS and A Level
Examination Board: AQA

Course Content:

Sociology is recognised as a valuable foundation for a variety of higher education courses, especially those related to the Social Sciences. It is also valued by a range of employers including: business, the police, social work and nursing. Many graduates in Sociology enter a wide range of professions and it is a strong foundation for an excellent career.

As part of the course, students will identify contemporary social processes and social changes within society and examine theoretical explanations as to why these social processes and social changes have occurred. In addition to this, they will also explore the impact of these things upon the lives and experiences of members of today's society.

The course covers a range of sociological topics and is broken down into four modules, two of which are studied at AS and two of which are studied at A level.

AS Modules:

- **Module 1: Families and Households**
- **Module 2: Education and Sociological Research Methods**

A level Modules:

- **Module 3: Beliefs in Society**
- **Module 4: Crime and Deviance and Theory and Methods**

Both the AS and A level courses are 100% assessed through formal, written examinations in either January or June.

The AS course is assessed through one 1 hour examination (January) and one 2 hour examination (June). The A level course is assessed through one 1 hour 30 minute examination (January) and one 2 hour examination (June). The AS grade accounts for 50% of the final A level grade.



Spanish

Level: AS and A Level
Examination Board: AQA

Course Content:

AS - Unit 1 Listening, Reading and Writing

- Listening and understanding
- Reading and understanding
- Writing task

Unit 2 Speaking Test in Spanish

- Discussion of a stimulus card (5 mins)
- Conversation (10 mins)

A2 - Unit 3 Listening, Reading and Writing

- Listening and understanding
- Reading and understanding
- Writing task

Unit 4 speaking Test in Spanish

- Discussion of a stimulus card (5 mins)
- Conversation (10 mins)

Most lessons will be given in Spanish. You will need to develop greater grammatical accuracy and a wide vocabulary. The course book will develop all the topic areas required for AS/A level. The topic areas are as follows:

AS

- **Media** (Television, Advertising and New Technology)
- **Popular Culture** (Cinema, Music and Fashion)
- **Healthy Living/Lifestyle** (Sport/Exercise, Health and Well-being and Holidays)
- **Family/Relationships** (Family, Friendships, Relationships)

A2

- **Environment** (Pollution, Energy and Protecting the Planet)
- **The Multicultural Society** (Immigration, Integration and Racism)
- **Contemporary Social Issues** (Wealth and Poverty, Law and Order and Impact of scientific and technological progress)
- **Cultural Topic** (The region of Cataluña, the Spanish Civil War and the work of a film director)



Level 2 Provision

Course Content:

This is a one year programme with a package of qualifications allowing students to achieve the equivalent of 6 GCSEs grades A* to C.

The programme's structure is shown below:

BTEC First Diploma in Sport

(Exercise and Fitness)
(Equivalent to 4 GCSEs A* to C)

Core Units

The Body in Sport
Health, Safety and Injury in Sport
+ 4 additional specialist units

AND

BTEC First Diploma in Travel and Tourism

(Equivalent to 2 GCSEs A* to C)

Core Units

The UK Travel and Tourism Industry
Exploring Customer Service in Travel and Tourism
UK Travel and Tourism Destinations

Assessment:

Each qualification is assessed separately. Points are awarded to assignments and these are totalled to provide a final points score and overall grade. There are no examinations. Work is assessed according to the grading criteria Pass, Merit and Distinction.

Entry Qualifications:

The programme is aimed at students who have not achieved 5 A* to C grades at GCSE but who would like to continue their studies in one of the specific areas. A grade 'D' in English Language and a grade 'D' in Mathematics would be an advantage but are not essential.

Our level 2 provision is under review, so if you are considering a level 2 course, please contact the school to register your interest.

Important Notice

The information in this booklet is accurate at the time of printing, but specific courses offered in September 2010 are subject to change.