



SINCE 1487

STOCKPORT

GRAMMAR SCHOOL



SIXTH FORM HANDBOOK

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New A Level Course Launching September 2026 – Media Studies

Dear Parents,

We are delighted to inform you that, from September 2026, we will be launching A Level Media Studies as part of our Sixth Form curriculum. This is a subject that many pupils have expressed a strong interest in, and we are very pleased to be able to offer it in response to this demand.

Media Studies is a vital subject for understanding the significance and power of the media in today's world. As young people navigate an increasingly media-saturated society, the ability to analyse, evaluate and communicate effectively across a range of platforms is more important than ever.

As Professor Sonia Livingstone OBE of the London School of Economics and Political Science states: "In our media-saturated age, it's vital that young people can evaluate competing sources of information and communicate effectively within a fast-changing digital environment. This isn't just a matter of easy-to-learn skills. They need critical knowledge of media texts, audiences and digital culture, and of the complex political economy and technology which underpin them."

Our close proximity to MediaCityUK in Salford, home to the BBC, ITV and a wide range of creative and digital organisations, provides an exciting and relevant local context for the study of Media Studies and supports progression into further study and careers within the creative industries.

The course will be delivered by our experienced English Department, ensuring strong academic rigour and a clear focus on analytical and evaluative skills.

Please find more details about the course on [page 22](#) and we would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards,
Ian Kendrick
Deputy Head: Academic

Our priority in the Sixth Form at SGS is providing the right environment for our pupils to be happy and thrive and providing the right programme for them to be able to succeed. SGS inspires pupils to go beyond their potential and helps to prepare them for the next stage of their life.

We offer the opportunity for pupils to choose three A Level subjects for Sixth Form, with these subjects being complemented by one of the plus-one options shared in the table below. Further information about all of the plus-one options can be found in our prospectus.

Three A Level subjects is the normal programme of study for Sixth Form students and meeting offers in three subjects will be the requirement set by most universities and all degree or higher apprenticeship providers.

For some pupils, it is appropriate to study four A Level subjects. Students hoping to study STEM subjects at Oxbridge or other elite universities may wish to choose a combination of 4 A Level subjects that include Further Maths or a science subject. Our plus-one options allow us to offer meaningful choice to every student so that the right decisions can be made to support them as they look ahead to the future. They will support pupil's broader education and prepare them for their chosen next step.

A Level	A Level	A Level	Plus One
AL Art & Design; Biology; Business; Chemistry; Classical Civilisation; Computer Science; Design & Technology; Drama & Theatre; Economics; English Literature; French; Further Maths; Geography; German; History; Latin; Mathematics; Media Studies; Music; Philosophy; Physical Education; Physics; Politics; Psychology; Religious Studies; Spanish; Textiles			Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)
			AS Core Maths
			AL Further Maths
			AL Chemistry
			SGS Personal Development Course (PDC)



Pupils initially have a free choice of the A Level subjects listed above and in the handbook.

For many pupils, undertaking the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) is an excellent way of developing the skills of independent working that universities value highly as well as focusing on an area of research that is relevant to a particular university course.

For some pupils, following the Core Maths AS Level course may support them in one or more of their A Level subjects or it may be a good alternative for pupils who would like to continue their study of Maths but haven't met the entry requirements for Maths A Level.

Our SGS Personal Development Course will help pupils prepare for life beyond school in developing their IT skills, their health and wellbeing and their culinary skills.

Some pupils may also wish to choose A Level Chemistry, Further Maths (also has to be one of their three choices) or Psychology as a fourth A Level subject.

Details about all A Level courses, AS Core Maths, the SGS Personal Development Course (PDC) and the EPQ are contained within the Sixth Form Prospectus.

“Inspired by the school’s aim for them to be academically ambitious, pupils are interested and motivated in their learning.”

ISI Report 2023

“To us it seemed worth its weight in educational gold.”

Good Schools Guide
Review 2024


THE SUNDAY TIMES

**SCHOOLS GUIDE
2026**

**TOP 10
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL FOR
ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE
NORTH WEST**

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Course Overview

At A Level, we offer two endorsements: Art, Craft and Design, and Textiles Design. Pupils engage in a variety of experiences using a range of media and techniques appropriate to their area of study. Knowledge is developed through research and the development of ideas supported by references made to appropriate contextual and other sources, leading to practical outcomes that are personal and often highly ambitious. The AQA syllabus encourages exploration and investigation, and pupils may study both endorsements if pursuing Art and Design at university.

Key Topics

- Practical investigation into ideas, issues, concepts or themes
- Development of personal responses and final outcomes
- Influence of artists, designers, and secondary sources
- Expansion of techniques and principles from GCSE
- Historical and contextual understanding of Art and Design

Assessment

The course consists of two components:

- Component 1 (60%): A practical investigation supported by written material, leading to resolved outcomes.
- Component 2 (40%): An Externally Set Assignment completed in the Upper Sixth, including 15 hours of supervised work.

Both components are assessed using the same criteria.

Enrichment Opportunities

- Drawing days at off-site locations
- Visits to local and national galleries
- Optional residential trip (UK or abroad) in Lower Sixth
- Life-drawing sessions
- Art Matters art history forum
- Opportunities to exhibit work in formal gallery settings

Entry Requirements

A strong commitment to the subject is essential. Pupils should have a foundation in Art and Design from GCSE and be prepared to engage in both practical and theoretical aspects of the course.

Progression Routes

Art and Design A Level supports a wide range of university courses and careers. Many pupils pursue degrees in Art, Design, or Architecture. It is by no means the case that only pupils wishing to follow a course in Art and Design at university should consider studying the subject at A Level. The subject also complements other academic disciplines due to its balance of practical, analytical, and creative skills. The department has a strong reputation for producing technically skilled and conceptually aware candidates.

Further Information

For more information contact Mr Davies, or visit the [AQA website](#).



Course Overview

A Level Biology at SGS provides a strong foundation for further study and careers in science, medicine, veterinary science, and dentistry. It develops analytical, practical, and communication skills, and follows the AQA specification. This is a two-year linear course with final exams at the end of the Upper Sixth year. Pupils are taught by two teachers and study two strands of content simultaneously.

Key Topics

The course covers the following topics:

- Biological molecules
- Cells
- Exchange of substances
- Genetics and variation
- Energy transfers
- Responses to stimuli
- Evolution and ecosystems
- Gene expression

Assessment

Assessment is through three 2-hour exams at the end of the course. There is no coursework, but practical skills are assessed throughout the course. 15% of the exam marks are based on practical work, and 10% assess higher-tier GCSE maths skills.

Enrichment Opportunities

Pupils participate in a range of practical activities including microscopy, microbial growth, animal behaviour, and dissection. A compulsory four-day residential field course in the Upper Sixth supports the ecology component and develops field research skills. The course costs approximately £300.

Entry Requirements

Strong GCSEs in Biology and Maths are essential. Good written communication skills are also important for success in A Level Biology.

Progression Routes

A Level Biology supports a wide range of degree options including Biology, Medicine, Psychology, Sport Science, Pharmacy, Chemistry, Anatomy, Physiology, and Pharmacology. Career paths include doctor, dentist, geneticist, conservationist, teacher, and research scientist.

Further Information

For more information contact Mrs Bowden, or visit the [AQA website](#).



Course Overview

A Level Business is a rich and diverse course that equips pupils with essential skills and theories for success in the business world. The course covers entrepreneurship, marketing, finance, strategy, and international business, exploring businesses from start-ups to global corporations. Pupils also examine how external factors such as the global economy, politics, and technology influence business operations. Change management is a key theme, focusing on how businesses adapt in an uncertain 21st-century environment.

Key Topics

The course is structured around four themes:

- Theme 1: Marketing and People
- Theme 2: Managing Business Activities
- Theme 3: Business Objectives and Strategy
- Theme 4: Global Business

Themes 1 and 2 are covered in Year 1, and Themes 3 and 4 in Year 2.

Assessment

Assessment is through three two-hour exams at the end of the two-year course:

- Paper 1: Marketing, People, and Global Business
- Paper 2: Managing Business Activity and Business Strategy
- Paper 3: A pre-seen case study focusing on a competitive market environment

Enrichment Opportunities

Pupils are encouraged to develop as independent learners and critical thinkers. Lessons incorporate IT, group work, discussion, debate, and research. The department hosts guest speakers from real businesses and offers overseas study tours, with past trips to China and Prague.

Entry Requirements

Good written communication skills are essential, particularly for analytical writing using business theories. Strong numeracy skills are also important for the finance and accounting components of the course.

Progression Routes

A Level Business is highly valued by employers and supports a wide range of career paths including accountancy, law, finance, retail, and management. It is also beneficial for pupils considering starting their own business or pursuing further study in business-related fields.

Further Information

For more information contact Mr Buxton-Cope or Mrs Burslem-Curl, or visit the [Pearson Website](#).



Course Overview

Chemistry is an exciting and challenging A Level subject that develops problem-solving and thinking skills. The course emphasises understanding general principles and patterns that underpin chemical behaviour, supported by integrated practical work. We follow the OCR A Level syllabus, which includes three exams at the end of the Upper Sixth year. There is no coursework; practical skills are assessed by the teacher and reported separately from the A Level grade.

Key Topics

Topics covered in the Lower Sixth Year include:

- Atoms and Reactions
- Alcohols, Haloalkanes and Analysis
- Amount of Substance
- Energy
- Electrons, Bonding and Structure
- Kinetics
- The Periodic Table
- Equilibria

Topics covered in the Upper Sixth Year include:

- Polymers and Synthetic pathways
- Kinetics and Equilibria
- Acid base equilibrium
- Analysis and Spectroscopy
- Thermodynamics and entropy
- Transition Elements

Assessment

Assessment is through three exams at the end of the Upper Sixth year. There is no coursework, but practical skills are assessed independently by the teacher.

Enrichment Opportunities

Pupils participate in integrated practical activities such as:

- Quantitative analysis using volumetric equipment
- Organic reactions under reflux or distillation using quickfit glassware
- Thin Layer Chromatography (TLC) and recrystallisation

The department enters pupils into competitions including the Royal Society of Chemistry's Schools Analyst Competition, the RSC Chemistry Olympiad, and the Cambridge Chemistry Challenge. Extension sessions and external lectures provide further opportunities to deepen understanding.

Entry Requirements

A Level Chemistry builds on GCSE Chemistry and requires competency in mathematics. While A Level Mathematics is not essential, good numeracy skills are important.

Progression Routes

Chemistry is vital for degrees like Medicine and Veterinary Science. It leads to careers in healthcare, energy, and environmental science. The subject builds analytical and problem-solving skills that are highly valued across a wide range of industries.

Further Information

For more information contact Mrs Britton, or visit the [OCR website](#).



Course Overview

This course is open to all, with no prior study or language skills required. It explores Greek culture through texts and topics in English, offering insight into ancient and modern civilisations. It complements humanities and language subjects and is a strong foundation for university study. Oxbridge applicants for Classics are advised to take both Latin and Classical Civilisation. University pathways include Literature, History, Philosophy, Art, and Archaeology. Classicists develop analytical and communication skills valued across many careers.

Key Topics

Topics studied in the Lower Sixth:

- Homer's Iliad: A study of one of the greatest works of Western literature, focusing on the psychology of war and key characters such as Achilles, Helen, Hector, and Odysseus.
- Invention of the Barbarian: Studies the rise of the Persian Empire and the development of the idea of 'barbarians', through a study of Persian and Greek literature, art and warfare.

Topics studied in the Upper Sixth:

- Virgil's Aeneid: Analysis of Roman literature's greatest work, examining themes of heroism, propaganda, and self-sacrifice.
- Greek Religion: Exploration of ancient religious practices, beliefs, and their influence on politics, including studies of Olympia and Delphi.

Assessment

We follow the OCR syllabus. There is no coursework in this subject. Assessment is based entirely on final examinations at the end of the course.

Enrichment Opportunities

Pupils benefit from engaging discussions, critical analysis, and opportunities to explore classical texts and themes in depth. The subject encourages independent thought and provides a strong foundation for further academic study.

Entry Requirements

No prior study of Classical Civilisation or Latin is required. An interest in ancient cultures and strong analytical and communication skills are beneficial.

Progression Routes

Classical Civilisation can be continued at university with or without an ancient language. It supports careers in education, law, publishing, archaeology, museum work, and more. The subject's emphasis on analysis and expression makes it highly regarded across many fields.

Further Information

For more information contact Mrs Jones, or visit the [OCR website](#).



Course Overview

Computing and the field of Computer Science is one of the fastest moving, most exciting and challenging fields of human achievement. This course introduces pupils to the principles of Computational Thinking and Software Engineering, enabling them to explore software development and prepare for careers in the Digital Age.

Course Structure

A Level Computer Science is divided into two complementary sections: programming and theory.

- Programming: Pupils learn Python and cover programming fundamentals, data structures, algorithms, and object-oriented design.
- Theory: Covers data representation, computer architecture, binary systems, and networking.

Assessment

The course is assessed through two written papers and a non-exam assessment:

Paper 1

Tests programming skills and theoretical knowledge:

- Fundamentals of programming
- Fundamentals of data structures
- Systematic approach to problem solving
- Theory of computation

Paper 2

Short and extended-answer questions on theoretical topics:

- Fundamentals of data representation
- Fundamentals of computer systems
- Fundamentals of computer organisation and architecture
- Consequences of uses of computing

Non-exam Assessment

A programming project where pupils solve a realistic problem or conduct an investigation. Pupils can choose any programming language and environment to develop their solution.

Entry Requirements

A GCSE Grade 6 in Computer Science is expected. Due to the mathematical content, a Grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics is also recommended.

Enrichment Opportunities

Pupils are encouraged to participate in taster days, competitions, and trips. Activities include the Bebras Computing Challenge, ISAACC Computer Science Platform and hands-on experience with BBC Micro Bits, robots, and electronic kits.

Progression Routes

A Level Computer Science is ideal for pupils pursuing Computer Science at university. It is also beneficial for degrees in software engineering, information technology, and information systems. The subject develops problem-solving and analytical skills valuable in many career paths.

Further Information

For more information contact Mrs Wood, or visit the [AQA Website](#).



Course Overview

A Level Design & Technology (Product Design) builds on GCSE experience, developing creative and practical design skills. It focuses on identifying real-world needs and understanding how global issues and technology shape design today. Pupils engage in innovative problem-solving through designing and making products or systems. The course emphasises iterative design, encouraging pupils to test, evaluate, and refine their ideas. It provides a strong foundation for further study or careers in design, engineering, architecture, and related fields.

Key Topics

Component 1: Design and Technology in the 21st Century

- Technical Principles
- Designing and Making Principles
- Analysing and evaluating wider issues in Design and Technology

Component 2: Design and Make Project (NEA)

- Identify, investigate and outline design possibilities
- Design and make prototypes
- Analyse and evaluate design decisions and outcomes

Assessment Structure

Component 1: Written Examination (3 hours) – 50% of A Level

Assesses technical principles, designing and making principles, and wider issues in design.

Component 2: NEA – 50% of A Level

A sustained design and make project based on a brief developed by the student. Includes a folder of written work, a sketchbook of design ideas, and a final functional prototype. Assessed internally and moderated externally.

Enrichment Opportunities

Pupils can participate in the Industrial Cadets Gold Award and the Wild-Life Haven competition in Lower Sixth. Additional support sessions are available at lunchtimes and after school. Teacher and technician support is provided throughout the NEA.

Entry Requirements

The course is time demanding with strict NEA deadlines. Pupils must manage their time effectively and demonstrate practical workshop skills and sketching ability.

Progression Routes

Design and Technology opens doors to careers in design, IT, fashion, construction, manufacturing, and healthcare. Roles include Graphic Designer, Games Developer, Product Designer, Fashion Stylist, Architect, Manufacturing Engineer, and Prosthetics Designer.

Further Information

For more information contact Mrs Crosby, or visit the [Eduqas website](#).



Course Overview

A Level Drama and Theatre combines practical and theoretical study, focusing on performance, direction, and design. Following the Pearson specification, students develop creativity, communication, and teamwork through written and practical components, supporting further study and diverse career paths.

Key Topics

Component 1: Devising (40% - non-examined assessment)

- Devise and perform original theatre using a text and practitioner as inspiration.
- Submit a 2,500–3,000 word portfolio analysing and evaluating the process.

Component 2: Text in Performance (20% - non-examined assessment)

- Group performance or design of a key text extract.
- Monologue or duologue performance or design from a different text.
- Marked by a visiting external examiner.

Component 3: Theatre Makers in Practice (40% - 2½ hour written exam)

- Section A: Live Theatre Evaluation – analysis and evaluation of a live theatre performance.
- Section B: Page to Stage – interpreting a performance text as both performer and designer.
- Section C: Interpreting a Performance Text – reimagined production using a practitioner and original staging.

Assessment

Assessment is divided into three components:

1. Devising (40%) – practical performance and written portfolio.
2. Text in Performance (20%) – group and individual performances.
3. Theatre Makers in Practice (40%) – written exam.

Enrichment Opportunities

SGS offers outstanding Drama opportunities, including theatre trips, clubs, workshops, Arts Award, and LAMDA. Pupils can join annual productions on stage or behind the scenes. In 2023, SGS received the highest possible rating from Arts Council England with a Platinum Artsmark Award.

Entry Requirements

There are no specific subject requirements, but pupils should have a strong interest in drama and performance.

Progression Routes

A Level Drama and Theatre supports university study in Drama or Creative Writing and careers in the arts, law, journalism, and public-facing roles. It also broadens academic and science pathways.

Further Information

For more information contact Mr King-Sayce, or visit the [Pearson Website](#).



Course Overview

Economics explores how individuals and societies allocate scarce resources. It addresses issues from local to global, including inflation, trade, and financial crises. While highly practical, it also involves theoretical models of markets and national economies, developing analytical skills valuable across many sectors.

Key Topics

The Economics course is split into two main areas:

- Microeconomics: Focuses on the behaviour of individuals and firms, including topics such as Labour Markets, Market Failures, and Market Structures.
- Macroeconomics: Explores the economy as a whole, including national income, inflation, unemployment, fiscal and monetary policy, and international trade.

Sample questions explored in the course include:

- Should the government be cutting its spending?
- Should the government tax unhealthy foods?
- Should university pupils pay tuition fees of £9,000 per year?
- What should economists do about traffic congestion?
- Should commercial banks ever be allowed to go bankrupt?

Assessment Structure

Assessment is at the end of the two-year course and consists of three two-hour exams:

- Paper 1: Microeconomics
- Paper 2: Macroeconomics
- Paper 3: Themes in Economics

There is no coursework component.

Enrichment Opportunities

The department offers a range of co-curricular activities including:

- Royal Economic Society Essay Competition
- Royal Economic Society Lectures
- Talks from visiting speakers to enhance real-world application of the subject

Entry Requirements

Economics requires pupils to analyse data and manipulate diagrams, making it suitable for those who think logically and scientifically. A Grade 7 or above in GCSE Mathematics is recommended.

Progression Routes

Economics complements a wide range of subjects and is highly regarded by universities and employers. It is particularly useful for careers in business, finance, public policy, law, and data analysis.

Further Information

For more information contact Mr Buxton-Cope or Mrs Burslem-Curl, or visit [the OCR website](#).



Course Overview

Our aim is to support each student in exploring novels, plays, and poetry in depth. A Level English Literature encourages debate, performance, and critical thinking. Pupils read widely, consider different perspectives, and develop independent responses. Studying imaginative works builds transferable skills and helps pupils reflect on life, preparing them for a wide range of future opportunities.

Key Topics

Pupils study prose, poetry, and drama in depth, including Shakespeare and a post-2000 text. They respond to unseen material and make connections between texts. Most set texts can be brought into the exams.

Assessment Structure

We follow the AQA Specification, which consists of three components:

Component 1: Love Through the Ages (40%)

- Three hour exam (closed book for Othello only)
- Texts: Othello, The Great Gatsby, and a poetry anthology
- Includes comparison of two 'unseen' love poems
- Themes: jealousy, betrayal, sexual politics, gender roles

Component 2: Modern Times: Literature from 1945 to the Present Day (40%)

- Two and a half hour exam (open book)
- Texts: The Handmaid's Tale, Owen Sheers' poetry, A Streetcar Named Desire
- Includes an unseen extract
- Themes: race, war, post-apocalyptic fears, controversial issues

Component 3: Texts Across Time (20%)

- Non-exam assessment (coursework)
- Two linked texts, one pre-1900, by different writers
- 2,500 word essay with student-chosen title
- Examples: A Clockwork Orange, The Bloody Chamber, American Psycho, The Picture of Dorian Gray

Enrichment Opportunities

Regular theatre visits support the course and enhance pupils' understanding of drama. The department also organises a residential study visit to Stratford-upon-Avon to see Royal Shakespeare Company productions.

Entry Requirements

English Literature A Level demands analytical and essay-writing skills. Pupils should enjoy reading and be able to read with understanding and a feeling for style, tone and purpose. They will also need to argue a case clearly and concisely.

Progression Routes

This course is a great stepping stone for studying literature at university and is well respected by top universities. It helps you build strong communication and thinking skills that are useful in many careers and further study.

Further Information

For more information contact Mrs Cope or visit the [AQA website](#).

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Course Overview

A Level French is designed for pupils interested in French language and culture, regardless of whether they have studied French at GCSE. All topics and texts are studied in English, and there is no language requirement beyond GCSE. The course explores French culture, society, politics, and literature, and includes the study of two major French films.

Key Topics

Lower Sixth topics include:

- Family
- The 'cyber-society'
- French culture, music and cinema
- Film: Intouchables

Upper Sixth topics include:

- Multiculturalism
- Immigration
- Politics
- Film: La Haine
- Literature: L'Étranger by Camus

Assessment Structure

Pupils follow the AQA A Level French specification. Assessment is through three final exams:

- Paper 1: Listening, Reading and Writing
- Paper 2: Two essays on the film and text studied in Upper Sixth
- Paper 3: Oral exam including a discussion on a topic researched independently

Progress is assessed internally throughout the course. Classes are small, allowing for regular oral practice and individual support.

Enrichment Opportunities

Pupils participate in a work experience trip to France, staying with host families and working in local businesses. This immersive experience enhances language skills and cultural understanding. Regular oral practice sessions with a native French Assistant are also provided.

Entry Requirements

A strong performance in GCSE French is recommended. Pupils should enjoy reading, discussing current affairs, and expressing opinions. An interest in French culture and a willingness to engage with literature are important for success.

Progression Routes

A Level French is highly regarded by universities and complements both Science and Arts subjects. It can be combined with many disciplines at degree level and supports careers in languages, international relations, journalism, and more. Studying literature in French develops critical thinking and communication skills valued in a wide range of professions.

Further Information

For more information contact Miss Gibson or visit the [AQA website](#).



Course Overview

A Level Geography develops an appreciation of the subject's dynamic nature. Pupils gain knowledge and understanding of physical and human processes, their interactions, and outcomes across space and time through studying places and environments. The course explores key themes central to understanding our changing world. It maintains a broad division between physical and human geography, with each area taught by subject specialists.

Key Topics

Lower Sixth Topics:

- Tectonics: causes, distribution, impact and management of tectonic hazards
- Coastal Environments: processes, landforms, erosion, sea level changes and management
- Globalisation: drivers and effects on people and places
- Regenerating Places: demographic and socio-economic variation, redevelopment and regeneration

Upper Sixth Topics:

- Water Cycle and Water Insecurity: natural systems, distribution and management
- Carbon Cycle and Energy Insecurity: mechanics, human consumption and climate change
- Superpowers: global, political, economic and environmental impacts
- Migration, Identity and Sovereignty

Assessment Structure

The Pearson A Level Geography course is linear and assessed at the end of two years through three final exams:

- Paper 1: Physical Geography (30%)
- Paper 2: Human Geography (30%)
- Paper 3: Synoptic Paper combining physical and human geography (20%)
- Independent Geographical Investigation (20%)

Enrichment Opportunities

Pupils complete physical and human fieldwork for their independent investigation, often focusing on coastal or regeneration topics. Bi-yearly foreign trips include Iceland and the Azores, with UK visits to Yorkshire, and Manchester. Pupils are encouraged to join the Manchester Geographical Association and attend university lectures.

Entry Requirements

There are no specific entry requirements, but pupils should be interested in geography and willing to engage in fieldwork and investigation.

Progression Routes

A Level Geography builds skills for careers and further study in geography, planning, development, and environmental-related fields.

Further Information

For more information contact Mr Cooke or visit the [Pearson website](#).

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Course Overview

A Level German is a linear specification. It builds on GCSE knowledge, exploring topics in greater breadth and depth. Areas of study include family, marriage, relationships, the digital world, German culture, multiculturalism, politics, and German reunification. The course also includes the study of German literature and film, with a focus on cultural and historical contexts.

Key Topics

- Family, marriage and relationships
- The digital world
- German culture: festivals, art, and Berlin
- Multiculturalism and politics
- German reunification
- Literature: Der Besuch der alten Dame, Die Verwandlung
- Films: Das Leben der Anderen, Goodbye Lenin

Assessment Structure

Pupils will be assessed through three final examinations:

- Paper 1: Comprehension – Listening, reading, and translation into English
- Paper 2: Writing – Two essays on the studied film and novel
- Paper 3: Oral – Discussion of an independent research project and another topic

Progress is assessed internally throughout the course, with mock exams and regular feedback.

Enrichment Opportunities

Pupils participate in weekly oral practice sessions with a native German assistant to enhance fluency and spontaneity. An annual cultural visit to Berlin provides immersive language practice and cultural enrichment, supporting the study of Berlin-based films and topics.

Entry Requirements

A strong performance at GCSE German is recommended. Pupils should have an interest in German culture, current affairs, and a willingness to engage in discussion and debate. The course is suitable for pupils who enjoy expressing ideas and opinions and are considering careers involving languages or international work.

Progression Routes

A Level German is highly regarded by top universities and complements both Arts and Science subjects. It can lead to degrees in languages, international relations, business, and more. Career paths include translation, diplomacy, journalism, teaching, and roles in multinational companies.

Further Information

For more information contact Miss Gibson, or visit the [AQA website](#).



Course Overview

A Level History is a two-year linear course with final exams, allowing in-depth study of a 200-year span. Students explore historical change and individual impact using diverse materials. No prior knowledge is needed, and it pairs well with any other subject.

Key Topics

The AQA course is divided into two main parts, each assessed by an essay and source or extract-based paper:

Breadth Study: Tsarist and Communist Russia (1855–1964)

- The reigns of Tsars Alexander II, Alexander III, and Nicholas II
- Political, social, and economic developments including industrialisation and the impact of WWI
- Khrushchev's rule and the state of the Soviet Union in 1964

Depth Study: The English Revolution (1625–1660)

- Reign of James I and Charles I, divine right of kings, and rule without parliament
- Origins and events of the English Civil War
- Trial and execution of Charles I
- Rule of Oliver Cromwell and the restoration of the monarchy

Historical Investigation (NEA):

- Independent study on a contentious historical question
- Focus on The American Revolution and the founding of the United States and American Civil Rights (1865–1980)
- Essay of approximately 4,000 words

Assessment Structure

The A Level is fully linear with exams at the end of the two-year course:

- Two written exams (Breadth and Depth Studies)
- One non-examined assessment (NEA) based on independent research

All components are assessed by AQA and contribute to the final A Level grade.

Enrichment Opportunities

The History department, based in the Woodsmoor Building, offers interactive classrooms and hosts university academics. Pupils enjoy an annual trip to the Houses of Parliament and have previously visited America, linking to the Civil Rights module. Enrichment opportunities are a key feature.

Entry Requirements

No prior knowledge of History is needed, but an interest in analysis, critical thinking, essay writing, and strong English skills are beneficial.

Progression Routes

A Level History is respected by universities and employers, offering strong preparation for degrees and careers requiring analytical, research, and communication skills, including law, politics, journalism, and education.

Further Information

For more information contact Mr Leng or visit the [AQA website](#).

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Course Overview

Open to GCSE Latin students, this course develops skills in reading and analysing original texts while exploring Roman culture. Highly regarded by universities and employers, Latin pairs well with a range of subjects and supports Classics and Oxbridge applications. Enrichment opportunities enhance engagement, with many students continuing Classical studies at university.

Key Topics

The subject is divided into three key areas:

Translation from Latin to English:

Pupils build on their GCSE work, expanding vocabulary and deepening their understanding of grammar. Most key constructions needed for A Level are already covered at GCSE, providing a strong foundation for further study of Latin texts.

Translation from English to Latin:

This will be a relatively new skill to the pupils although it will build on the English to Latin work done lower down the school.

Analysis of Ancient Literature:

Pupils will develop the analytical skills gained in the GCSE course. They will learn to analyse critically the literary style, characterisation, argument and literary meaning of two chosen set texts:

- Prose: A selection from Tacitus
- Verse: The Aeneid by Virgil

Assessment Structure

We will be following the OCR syllabus. No coursework is set in this subject. Assessment is based on examinations at the end of the two-year course.

Enrichment Opportunities

Pupils are encouraged to explore the Classical World beyond the classroom. Opportunities may include trips to classical sites, university lectures, and participation in Classics-related competitions and events.

Entry Requirements

This subject is open to all who have studied Latin at GCSE. A strong foundation in Latin grammar and vocabulary is recommended.

Progression Routes

Latin can be continued at university as part of a Classics degree or in conjunction with a Modern Language. It is highly regarded by universities and employers for its intellectual rigour and analytical demands. It supports careers in law, education, publishing, archaeology, and more.

Further Information

For further information contact Miss Jones or visit the [OCR website](#).



Course Overview

A Level Mathematics consists of Pure Mathematics, Mechanics and Statistics. It is an interesting course in itself and also supports other subjects such as Physics, Economics, Geography, Biology, Chemistry, Psychology and Business Studies. A Level Further Mathematics includes Further Pure, Further Mechanics, Further Statistics, and Decision Mathematics. It extends the subject to greater depth and breadth, offering a strong foundation for mathematical and analytical disciplines.

Course Content

A Level Mathematics

- Two Pure Mathematics papers (2 hours each)
- One Applied Mathematics paper (2 hours)

A Level Further Mathematics

- Two Core Pure Mathematics papers (1 hour 30 minutes each)
- Two optional papers (1 hour 30 minutes each) from Further Pure, Further Mechanics, Further Statistics, or Decision Mathematics

Entry Requirements

For A Level Mathematics, pupils should have a strong Grade 7 or above at GCSE with solid algebraic skills. For Further Mathematics, a Grade 8 or higher is strongly recommended, along with consistent high performance in Mathematics. Prior study of GCSE Further Mathematics or GCSE Statistics is beneficial but not essential.

Assessment

Assessment for both A Level Mathematics and Further Mathematics is through final written examinations. There is no coursework component.

Enrichment Opportunities

Pupils can participate in a variety of competitions such as the UKMT individual and team challenges, MEM Challenge, and the Ritangle Competition. They also attend Maths Inspiration lectures and problem-solving trips like Breakout Rooms. An extension programme supports university entrance exams and interview preparation, with weekly study sessions.

Progression Routes

Mathematics and Further Mathematics are excellent preparation for university courses in Mathematics, Economics, Natural Sciences, ICT, Engineering, Law, Philosophy, and Management. Further Mathematics is particularly beneficial for competitive courses and universities. Mathematics is a highly respected subject that develops logical thinking and problem-solving skills, making pupils attractive to employers in business and industry.

Further Information

For further information contact Mrs Collard or visit the [Pearson website](#).



Course Overview

Media Studies pupils will analyse how media products use language and representations to create meaning. Pupils will investigate media audiences and will consider how different people respond to products. Media Studies aids pupils to develop transferrable skills such as critical thinking, analysis, research, creativity and time management.

Key Topics

Pupils will study many different media forms such as:

- Television
- Online Media
- Advertising & Marketing
- Film Marketing
- Magazines
- Newspapers
- Social & Participatory Media
- Music Video
- Radio
- Video Games

Assessment

- Component 1 accounts for 35% of the overall mark.
- Component 2 accounts for 35% of the overall mark.
- Component 3 accounts for 30% of the overall mark.

Entry Requirements

An interest in current affairs and forms of media are expected. No specific GCSE subjects are required, but strong literacy and analytical skills are beneficial.

Progression Routes

There are a large array of career opportunities in the growing media industry. Careers such as TV and film production, advertising, journalism, interactive media and digital marketing benefit from qualifications in Media Studies.

Further Information

For more information contact Mrs Cope or visit the [Eduqas website](#).

Course Overview

The Pearson A Level Music syllabus is followed. Aspiring A Level musicians require a good ear, sound practical skills and an inquisitive musical mind reflected in wide performance and listening experience outside lessons.

Key Topics

Component 1: Performing (30%)	Component 2: Composing (30%)	Component 3: Appraising (40%)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A recital performance of one or more pieces • Performance can be performed in many different styles • Total performance time of eight minutes • Approximate standard requirement is Grade 7 although lower grades of performance are possible 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two compositions • One composition must be from a list of briefs assessing compositional techniques • Total time across both compositions of at least six minutes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A written paper • Contains listening and analytical and comparative questions • Set works are taken from the following areas of study: Vocal Music, Instrumental Music, Music for Film, Popular Music and Jazz, Fusions and New Directions

Assessment Structure

Assessment is divided into three components:

- Performing (30%)
- Composing (30%)
- Appraising (40%)

Each component is assessed through a combination of practical performance, composition submission, and a written examination.

Enrichment Opportunities

Students flourish in a vibrant musical culture enriched by exceptional staff and inclusive values. From choirs and bands to orchestras, pupils achieve Grade 8+, perform with elite ensembles, and progress to renowned institutions including Oxbridge and top conservatoires. Beginners are warmly welcomed, with clear pathways to music careers.

Entry Requirements

Pupils should have a good ear, sound practical skills, and a strong interest in music. A performance standard of approximately Grade 7 is expected for the recital component, although lower grades are possible.

Progression Routes

Highly respected by universities and conservatoires, it builds a solid foundation for music studies and careers. Students gain valuable transferable skills and often progress to top institutions.

Further Information

For more information contact Mr Dow, or visit the [Pearson website](#).



Course Overview

Philosophy means the love of wisdom. It is an attempt to understand the world and our place in it through critical analysis of fundamental assumptions and concepts. The course explores abstract questions in metaphysics, epistemology, and axiology, with practical implications for belief and action. Pupils examine the ideas of great thinkers such as Aristotle, Descartes, Hume, Kant, Wittgenstein, Foot, and Zagzebski.

Key Topics

The AQA Philosophy syllabus includes four topic areas studied over two years:

- Epistemology
- Moral Philosophy
- Metaphysics of God
- Metaphysics of Mind

Topics include questions such as: How do we know anything? Can we prove the existence of God? What is the nature of consciousness? What makes actions morally right or wrong?

Assessment Structure

The course is assessed through written examinations at the end of the two-year course. Pupils are expected to engage with primary philosophical texts and produce a range of written responses, including essays.

Enrichment Opportunities

The department offers a wide range of co-curricular opportunities including a trip to Andalusia, academic conferences, guest speakers, and a weekly Philosophy and Religious Studies Society. Pupils can also enter essay competitions and the annual Oxford UEHIRO Video competition.

Entry Requirements

No specific GCSE subjects are required, and no prior knowledge of Philosophy is necessary. However, pupils should be prepared for a rigorous academic course involving reading and writing about complex ideas.

Progression Routes

Philosophy develops critical thinking, logical reasoning, and analytical skills. It is highly respected by universities and employers and combines well with many academic disciplines. It provides a foundation for further study in Philosophy, Politics, Theology, Law, Sociology, Psychology, Physics, and more. Career paths include teaching, law, politics, civil service, journalism, marketing, and publishing.

Further Information

For further information contact Mr Swann or visit the [AQA website](#).



Course Overview

Studying A Level Physical Education blends practical performance with academic insight. It's both challenging and rewarding, following the OCR specification to deepen understanding and improve performance. Perfect for aspiring athletes and coaches.

Key Topics

A Level Physical Education includes the compulsory study of:

- Applied anatomy & physiology
- Exercise physiology
- Biomechanical movement
- Skill acquisition

Assessment Structure

Component 1 - Physiological Factors Affecting Performance (30%)

- 2 hours written examination
- Examination covers human body systems involved in movement and exercise

Component 2 - Psychological Factors Affecting Performance (20%)

- 1 hour written Examination.
- This section examines psychological factors in sport, including learning theories, training and feedback methods, individual differences, group dynamics, leadership impact, and how stress influences athletic performance

Component 3 - Socio-cultural and Contemporary Issues (20%)

- 1 hour written Examination
- Explores how sociological and contemporary factors shape sport

Component 4 - NEA (30%)

- Part 1: Performance/coaching of one sport or activity from the approved DfE list
- Part 2: The Evaluation and Analysis of Performance for Improvement (EAPI) of a sport or activity from the approved DfE list

Entry Requirements

A strong interest in physical activity and sport, as well as a willingness to engage in performance and analysis, is essential.

Enrichment Opportunities

The course provides opportunities to explore the ethical considerations behind the use of drugs and the influence of modern technology on physical activity and sport.

Progression Routes

It is particularly relevant for careers in sports science, coaching, physiotherapy, teaching, and other roles in the sports and health industries.

Further information

For further information, speak to Mr Marsh or visit the [OCR website](#).

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Course Overview

The Physics A Level course deepens pupils' understanding of core topics while building analytical, practical, and ICT skills. It fosters independent learning and curiosity, supported by well-equipped labs, engaging resources, and inspiring textbooks for practical and theoretical exploration.

Key Topics

The AQA A Level Physics course includes both traditional and contemporary areas of Physics:

- Quantum Physics – Including Photon model of light
- Nuclear Physics – Radioactive decay, nuclear energy, fission and fusion, and $E = mc^2$
- Particle Physics – Including antimatter
- Fields – Magnetic, electric, and gravitational
- Forces and Motion – Newton's laws, vectors, kinematics, circular motion, momentum
- Material Science
- Waves and Optics
- States of Matter – Gas laws, kinetic theory, specific heat capacity

Assessment

Assessment is through AQA's A Level Physics examination structure, which includes:

- Three written exam papers at the end of Upper Sixth
- Practical endorsement based on 12 required practical activities assessed throughout the course

Enrichment Opportunities

- Annual Trip to CERN, Geneva – Explore the world's largest Physics experiment
- Kennedy Space Centre, Florida – Offered every three years to explore Physics in the context of NASA
- Extension Lessons – For Lower Sixth (Jan–May) and Upper Sixth (Autumn Term), including Engineering-focused sessions
- Revision Classes – From February to May for both year groups

Entry Requirements

Grade 7 or above in GCSE Physics. Grade 7 or above in GCSE Mathematics is strongly recommended.

Progression Routes

A Level Physics is highly regarded by universities and employers. It supports progression into:

- Physics, Engineering, and Mathematics degrees
- Medicine, Architecture, and Computer Science
- Careers in research, aerospace, energy, education, and more

Further Information

For more information contact Mrs Fenton or visit the [AQA website](#).



Course Overview

Studying Politics helps us understand how the world is shaped and connects well with subjects like History, Economics, and Psychology. It's respected by universities and employers for its academic rigour and relevance to current affairs. Politics develops key skills in analysis, argumentation, and communication, preparing students for careers in law, media, civil service, and more.

Key Topics

Politics A Level is split into three sections:

1. UK Government and Politics:

Includes topics such as:

- Democracy and participation in the United Kingdom – Is UK democracy in crisis?
- Political parties – How different are the Labour and Conservative parties?
- The Supreme Court and the impact that the EU has had on the UK – Has the Supreme Court gained power in recent years?

2. Political Ideologies:

- Core ideologies: liberalism, conservatism, socialism
- Optional ideology: chosen from feminism, nationalism, multiculturalism, environmentalism
- Focus on beliefs and key thinkers

3. US Politics:

- Comparative study of UK and US political systems
- Example: Compare the power of the US President and UK Prime Minister

Assessment

A Level Politics is a linear course. There are three exams in Upper Sixth. There is no coursework.

Enrichment Opportunities

There are opportunities to visit the UK Parliament, local and regional assemblies, as well as attend politics lectures and debates when they occur.

Entry Requirements

An interest in current affairs is expected. No specific GCSE subjects are required, but strong literacy and analytical skills are beneficial.

Progression Routes

Pupils have progressed to degrees and careers in Law, Accountancy, Administration, Civil Service, Health Service, Police, Teaching, Politics, Media, Journalism, and Medicine.

Further Information

For more information contact Mr Leng or visit the [Pearson website](#).

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Course Overview

Psychology is the scientific study of the mind and behaviour, or more simply, the science of people. As such, it is not only a fascinating subject in which we can learn a great deal about ourselves, but it is also an incredibly broad subject with links to everything including biology, maths, business, sport, crime, and education.

Key Topics

First Year of the Course:

- Clinical Psychology and Mental Health - Diagnosis, explanations and treatments
- Memory – Models of memory, forgetting, and eyewitness testimony.
- Social Influence – Conformity, obedience, and social psychological theories.
- Attachment – Bonds formed in early childhood and their impact.
- Approaches in Psychology – Behavioural, cognitive, and biological theories.
- Research Methods – Designing and analysing psychological experiments.

Second Year of the Course:

- Biopsychology – Brain and body structures and their influence on behaviour.
- Aggression – Explanations for aggression and media influence.
- Schizophrenia – Characteristics, causes, and treatments.
- Relationships – Formation, maintenance, and breakdown of relationships.
- Issues and Debates – Broad debates across Psychology and science.

Assessment

A Level Psychology is a linear course assessed through three written exams at the end of the second year. There is no coursework component.

Enrichment Opportunities

Pupils are offered the opportunity to attend A Level Psychology Conferences and talks from Psychologists working in different fields.

Entry Requirements

It is expected that pupils will have a strong interest in current affairs and a curiosity about human behaviour. A good foundation in science and mathematics is beneficial.

Progression Routes

Psychology is a valuable subject for a wide range of university courses and careers. It develops skills in analysis, critical thinking, and scientific reasoning, which are highly regarded by higher education institutions and employers.

Further Information

For more information contact Mr Buxton-Cope or visit the [AQA website](#).



Course Overview

Religious Studies is a rigorous subject exploring religion, belief, and their impact on society. Pupils critically examine religious, philosophical, and ethical theories, developing reflective thinking and analytical skills. The course encourages an enquiring approach to understanding diverse perspectives and personal values, preparing students for thoughtful engagement with the world around them.

Key Topics:

Component 1: Philosophy of Religion & Ethics

- Section A: Philosophy of Religion
- Section B: Ethics and Religion

Component 2: Study of Religion

- Section A: Study of Religion
- Section B: The dialogue between philosophy of religion and religion
- Section C: The dialogue between ethical studies and religion

Assessment

Assessment is based on the AQA A Level Religious Studies specification. Pupils will be assessed through written examinations covering both components of the course.

Enrichment Opportunities

The department offers a wide range of co-curricular opportunities including a trip to Andalucia, visits to academic conferences, guest speakers and a weekly Philosophy and Religious Studies Society, where pupils can present and debate a wide range of philosophical and religious issues and problems. The department also offers pupils the opportunity to enter essay competitions and the annual Oxford UEHIRO Video competition.

Entry Requirements

Whilst a GCSE in Religious Studies is beneficial, pupils do not need to have studied RS in order to take this A Level course. Equally, religious belief is not a pre-requisite; pupils may successfully study this subject coming from any religious background or none. What pupils do require in order to achieve in this subject is an enquiring mind, the ability to analyse and debate complex theories and the ability to offer alternative perspectives.

Progression Routes

Religious Studies is relevant to many careers, including teaching, law, politics, medicine, and social work. It develops critical thinking and complements both arts and sciences. A Level Religious Studies provides a strong foundation for further study in Theology, Philosophy, Politics, Law, and Medicine, offering valuable insights into complex issues across diverse fields.

Further Information

For more information contact Mr Swann or visit the [AQA website](#).



Course Overview

Spanish proficiency allows global communication and access to Spain's rich culture. It's increasingly valuable in business across the Americas. A Level topics build on GCSE, covering family, cyber-society, traditions, music, cinema, multiculturalism, politics, and history. Students also explore Spanish literature and film.

Key Topics

Topics covered include:

- Family and the 'cyber-society'
- Spanish culture: traditions, food, regional languages
- Music and cinema
- Multiculturalism: racism, immigration, integration
- Politics and Spanish history
- Literature and film: El Laberinto del Fauno (Guillermo Del Toro), La Casa de Bernarda Alba (Federico García Lorca)

Assessment

Progress is assessed throughout the course with mock examinations starting in January of Lower Sixth. Final assessment includes:

- Paper 1: Comprehension (listening, reading, translation)
- Paper 2: Writing (essays on the film and novel)
- Paper 3: Oral test (discussion of a research project and another topic)

Enrichment Opportunities

Pupils are encouraged to:

- Attend weekly oral practice sessions with the Spanish Assistant
- Participate in trips to Spanish regions such as Andalucia and Madrid
- Explore work experience opportunities in Spain through independent providers

Entry Requirements

A good foundation from GCSE Spanish is beneficial. Pupils should be interested in Hispanic culture, current affairs, and be performing well in Spanish. The subject suits those considering careers involving languages or international work.

Progression Routes

Spanish A Level can be combined with many other disciplines at degree level and supports careers in international business, translation and interpretation, education, tourism, and journalism.

Further Information

For more information contact Mrs Psaila-Harris or visit the [AQA website](#).



Course Overview

Textiles Technology is offered as part of the A Level Art & Design course, following the AQA syllabus. Pupils explore a range of media and techniques, developing work through research, idea development, and making. Building on GCSE skills, students expand their knowledge and can focus on fashion or textiles art. Classes are small, with teaching shared between two staff members. Emphasis is placed on personal response, with increasing influence from artists, designers, and secondary sources. The course encourages creativity, independence, and commitment, offering a rewarding experience through thorough exploration and investigation of the subject.

Key Topics

Pupils are required to complete two components over the two years of the course:

- Component 1: A practical investigation into an idea, issue, concept or theme, supported by written material. This must lead to a series of related finished outcomes and demonstrate a sustained line of reasoning.
- Component 2: An Externally Set Assignment completed in the second half of the Upper Sixth Year, including 15 hours of allocated time following a preparatory period to produce a final piece or pieces.

Assessment

Both components are marked using the same criteria:

- Component 1 accounts for 60% of the overall mark.
- Component 2 accounts for 40% of the overall mark.

Enrichment Opportunities

Visits to galleries are made periodically and pupils are encouraged to make use of both local and national gallery collections. A residential trip, either in the UK or abroad, may be offered during the Lower Sixth Year. Opportunities exist for pupils' work to be displayed in formal gallery environments throughout the year.

Entry Requirements

It is not necessary to pursue a university course in Textiles or Fashion to benefit from A Level Textiles Technology. The subject balances practical, academic, and analytical skills, making it suitable for pupils with a wide range of interests. A strong commitment and interest in the subject are essential.

Progression Routes

Many pupils go on to specialist Fashion or Design courses. The department has a strong reputation for producing candidates with a thorough understanding of the design process and a high level of technical skill. The subject also complements other academic disciplines and supports applications to a wide range of university courses.

Further Information

For more information contact Mrs Crosby or visit the [AQA website](#).



Course Overview

The AQA Level 3 Mathematical Studies qualification is graded and certificated on a five-grade scale from A to E and attracts up to 20 UCAS points. Studying Core Maths helps students develop their quantitative and problem-solving skills giving them confidence in understanding the mathematical content in other courses they are taking. It helps them become better informed citizens, able to make sense of the information they will be presented with in employment, further study or later life.

Key Topics

Topics covered include:

- Analysis of data
- Maths for personal finance
- Estimation
- Critical analysis
- The normal distribution
- Probabilities and estimation
- Expectation, correlation and regression

Assessment

The qualification is assessed over two external papers, each 1hr 30min sat at the end of Upper Sixth. Preliminary material will be available in advance of both papers.

Enrichment Opportunities

Pupils can participate in a variety of competitions such as the UKMT individual and team challenges. They also attend Maths Inspiration lectures and problem-solving trips like Breakout Rooms. An extension programme supports university entrance exams and interview preparation, with weekly study sessions.

Entry Requirements

Pupils require a Grade 5 in GCSE Maths to study the AQA Level 3 Mathematical Studies qualification.

Progression Routes

This subject supports courses requiring basic maths, like social sciences, but not advanced techniques needed for Engineering. Some degrees expect mathematical competency, which the Level 3 Qualification can help develop. Increasingly, universities offer alternative entry routes, lowering one grade if students achieve a grade B or above in a level 3 maths qualification alongside meeting standard course requirements.

Further Information

For more information contact Mrs Collard or visit the [AQA website](#).



Course Overview

The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) helps bridge the gap between A Levels and university by developing independent research and project management skills. It allows you to explore a subject you're passionate about, work at your own pace, and gain valuable experience. While supported by a supervisor, the project is your own, encouraging academic independence.

Key Topics

Over the past few years, we have seen projects that look at: The Israel-Palestine Conflict; The Holodomor Genocide; Props in Marvel films; A musical score to the Bayeux Tapestry; The impact of selective breeding on dogs; Wittgenstein's philosophy of language; Mental health in film; to name but a few.

The Process

- Autumn Term Lower Sixth: Taught Skills; Planning Phase; Proposals agreed
- Spring Term Lower Sixth: Taught Skills; Research Phase
- Summer Term Lower Sixth: Taught Skills; Research Phase; Mid-Project Review
- Summer Holidays: Complete draft of product/essay
- Autumn Term Upper Sixth: Presentations; Reflections; Submission (early December)

Assessment

An EPQ can take two forms:

- A 5,000 word written report on your topic of choice
- An artefact plus a 1,000 word commentary (The artefact can be almost anything; a piece of clothing, a computer program, a song or even a performance.)

It is recommended that candidates dedicate 120 hours to the project: 90 hours of independent study plus 30 hours of guided study, which will include a number of taught, skills-based classes. The main requirement is that it is not covered by your other qualifications.

Why do an EPQ?

An EPQ will help prepare you for university by allowing you to develop your independent research skills, including planning, analysis, evaluation and presentation. It encourages you to become a more critical, reflective and independent learner by developing your decision making and problem-solving skills. The presentation will help you prepare for university tutorials and seminars as well as boosting your confidence.

Progression Routes

The EPQ is awarded UCAS points worth half an A Level (28 UCAS points) and is recognised by universities and employers; some universities may make alternative offers to those undertaking EPQ.

Further Information

For more information contact Mr Swann.



Course Overview

The aim of the SGS Professional Development Course (PDC) is to provide a form of enrichment to ensure that students have the opportunity to develop skills in the Sixth Form beyond their core A Level subjects. This comes without the additional pressures associated with AS or A Level assessment.

Key Topics

Course 1: Cooking for Life

- Teaches essential cooking skills for university life
- Covers knife skills, nutrition, and food waste reduction
- Includes hands-on practice with popular student meals
- Builds confidence in preparing simple, tasty dishes
- Students earn a food hygiene certificate
- Improves kitchen safety awareness and job readiness
- Supports healthier eating and independent living

Course 2: Essential Digital Skills for Work

- Develops essential digital skills for education and work
- Covers communication, data handling, transactions, problem solving, and online safety
- Uses tools like Outlook, Teams, Excel, Forms, and OneDrive
- Encourages collaboration via Stream, Loop, Planner, and Slack
- Explores ethical use of AI
- Teaches digital safety and laws like the Data Protection Act

Course 3: Health and Wellbeing

- Enhances health, wellbeing, and leadership skills
- Combines practical and classroom-based activities
- Covers training methods, nutrition, and sport leadership
- Focuses on communication, organisation, and officiating
- Promotes active, healthy lifestyles and personal welfare
- Encourages pupils to inspire others to engage in sport

Assessment

This option may be suitable for pupils who are committed to studying three A Levels and who are interested in developing additional skills which could be seen as being aligned with Enrichment and helpful to them as they move on into life beyond school.

Entry Requirements

This option will be taught in four lessons per fortnightly cycle in the Lower Sixth form only, with each of the courses lasting for one term. During the Lower Sixth year, students will take part in all three courses.

Progression Routes

Some of the elements in each of the courses may have elements that lead to external accreditation and certification.

Further Information

For more information contact Mr Kershaw for Cooking for Life, Mrs O'Brien for Essential Digital Skills for Work, and Mr Marsh for Health and Wellbeing.





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