

SIXTH FORM SUBJECTS GUIDE



MAIDA VALE SCHOOL



SIXTH FORM SUBJECTS

- * Art and Design
- * Biology
- * Business
- * Chemistry
- * Classical Civilisation
- * Computer Science
- * Creative Digital Media Production
- * Design and Technology
- * Drama and Theatre Studies
- * Economics
- * English Literature
- * EPQ
- * French
- * Geography
- * Government and Politics
- * History
- * Hospitality
- * Italian
- * Latin
- * Maths and Further Maths
- * Music
- * Performing Arts
- * Photography
- * Physical Education
- * Physics
- * Psychology
- * Spanish

INTRODUCTION

Maida Vale School Sixth Form is a two-year programme which will motivate, inspire and equip our students for life beyond the classroom. Our holistic approach remains in place. Rigorous academic challenge, supportive pastoral care and varied co-curricular endeavours continue to be central to our approach but in the Sixth Form, this is extended and developed by leadership opportunities, in-depth career guidance and university and/or vocational application processes. Students will narrow down their study, specialising in subjects which they find exhilarating and have a particular passion for.

First class facilities allow Sixth Formers to study and grow in

the most inspiring of teaching spaces; the dedicated Sixth Form Independent Learning Centre is where both students and staff plan, prepare, and collaborate. Other Sixth Form privileges include a café area and freedom to utilise the lively local areas of Queen's Park and Maida Vale for lunch. Also close to Notting Hill and St John's Wood, our Sixth Formers are involved in their local community through charity fundraisers, work experience and volunteering programmes.

Sixth Form-specific Personal Tutor Groups, led by Personal Tutors who are trained in UCAS, North American and European university applications, ensure that, on a daily basis, our Sixth Formers are cared

for by staff whose primary focus is preparing them for the next stages of their education or career. While many students will choose three A Level subjects and an EPQ (Extended Project Qualification), some will choose a combination of A Level and/or BTEC subjects. Our aim is to ensure that all students are well guided and well supported in choosing the right options for them, so that their unique potential can be realised and their individual aspirations can be achieved.

The Individuals in Society Programme – Maida Vale School's interconnected curriculum of Religious Studies, Relationship and Sex Education, and PSHE – is broadened in Sixth Form,

and encapsulates five strands: Enterprise, Perspectives, Wellbeing, Community, and Creativity.

A highly supportive, inclusive and vibrant environment, Maida Vale School Sixth Form is where students develop their sense of self, carving out their young-adult identities against the backdrop of exciting new subjects, challenges, relationships, opportunities and achievements.

Dena Deedat,
Head of Sixth Form



DIRECTORY

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CO-CURRICULAR

Model United Nations (MUN)

At MUN you learn to view global problems through the eyes of a particular country, digesting key data quickly and developing advocacy skills as well as the softer skills of negotiation and compromise.

During the club and in your own time you prepare for a conference e.g. you could represent France in the Security Council and discuss nuclear weapons. If you sign up to MUN, you should be prepared to attend weekend conferences which are great fun and a good way to meet people from other schools across London, the UK and even from abroad.

Peer Mentoring Scheme

If you apply to become a Peer Mentor, you will receive training so that you know how to support younger students in the school community. You could be a pastoral or academic mentor. Each mentor is assigned a younger student who will get to know you and can approach you for help or guidance. The issues younger pupils bring to you will vary, from school to home life, but all need to be approached seriously and sensitively. This is a commitment but it is rewarding too.

Music

We offer a full range of music lessons, so if you'd like to learn an instrument or are already learning an instrument, you will be able to have instrumental music lessons in school. Lessons take place during the school day and are scheduled so students don't miss the same lessons every week. Lessons are half an hour long and are charged at the

discretion of the peripatetic teacher. You can also volunteer to take part in or assist lead choirs and bands. If you are not musical but would still like to be involved, you can volunteer to be a runner at concerts. Email our Director of Music Matthew Salter, (matthew.salter@maidavaleschool.com) for more information.

Games

Every Sixth Former takes part in Games on Wednesday afternoons. These sessions offer the opportunity for enjoyable and healthy exercise. Students with particular skills can expect to be part of a training squad and to be chosen to represent the school in fixtures and competitions.

In Sixth Form, students can opt for team sports including football and netball, racquet sports or become part of our gym rotation.

The timetable structure means that fixtures will usually be during a Games afternoon, occasionally after school, and some Saturday mornings. Students will need to inform their parents of the arrangements for any matches they are playing in during the week. Team lists are posted on the Games noticeboard and on MySchoolPortal. School matches take priority over other arrangements, and most of the fixtures are published in the school calendar which is updated regularly on the school website.

School Council

The School Council meets each half-term to discuss ideas suggested by students in the school, and then works with Senior Staff to implement these suggestions. The School Council is made up of one representative from each PT group in the school. Students that wish to be considered must make a short speech to their PT about why they would make a good representative, and then the PT group democratically elects their preferred candidate. They are an integral part of student leadership at Maida Vale School and have played a significant role in a range of initiatives.

CO-CURRICULAR

School Trips

Sixth Form life is enriched by a busy programme of visits and experiences. This year alone, students participated in more than 30 trips, ranging from university visits and professional workshops to theatre productions, exhibitions, and academic conferences. These included:

- Exploring Hardy's Wessex, a day trip to Dorset (English Literature)
- Politics lectures at Gresham College (Politics)
- Tracy Emin at Tate Modern (Art)
- CERN Geneva (Physics)
- Taste of London Festival (Hospitality)
- Street Photography photoshoot (Photography)
- Imperial College Bioengineering Conference (Biology & Chemistry)

In February 2026, we ran a life-changing, 10-day expedition to Zanzibar with the aim of making a lasting difference by fundraising and then volunteering in a local school, (photo opposite). If you are interested in joining the team for 2028, please email dena.deedat@maidavaleschool.com

Duke of Edinburgh Award

The Duke of Edinburgh Award is the world's leading youth achievement award - it aims to help young people gain new skills, confidence and resilience. The Duke of Edinburgh Award demonstrates your hard work, commitment and team work.

There are three Duke of Edinburgh Award levels (Bronze, Silver and

Gold) and all students entering Y12 for the academic year have the option of signing up for the Gold Award.

The award is comprised of four sections: Skills, Physical, Volunteering and an Expedition. For each of the first three sections, you will choose a goal that you will work towards over six months.

If you would like to participate in Duke of Edinburgh, please let Ms Rogers know (riot.rogers@maidavaleschool.com)



CO-CURRICULAR

Volunteering

Volunteering is a way of giving something back to society and making a difference to the lives of other. You will feel valued, gain confidence and develop new skills. It is expected that every member of Year 12 undertakes some volunteering over the course of the year, hopefully many Year 13s opt to continue their voluntary service for the rest of their Sixth Form. There are designated times throughout the school week at which you can volunteer, typically in place of your Supervised Study period. But you can also volunteer after school or at the weekend.

We currently have strong links with the following groups and if you would like to find out more you should contact Miss Pocock (millie.pocock@maidavaleschool.com).

Creative Futures - Runs community art sessions for early years, SEN, looked after children. (13 minute walk from school)

Girls Allowed- Sports and activities for girls who wouldn't normally participate; underprivileged, looked after, SEN etc. (10 minute walk)

Laurence's Larder - Community food bank, also runs art sessions, community lunches (20 minutes with bus)

Venture Centre - Runs variety of activities - young, old, BAME, etc. (23 minute walk, 19 minute with bus)

Salisbury World - Charity supporting refugee charities (15 minute walk)

Prefects

Prefects are appointed in the Spring/Summer Term by all staff and all members of the Y12. Helping in your House is an excellent way to gain the responsibility required for these roles as well as leading your own clubs and societies.



ART AND DESIGN

WHY STUDY A LEVEL ART?

If students are creative, committed and imaginative, then Art and Design A Level is for them. Building on the skills, knowledge and understanding acquired at GCSE, A Level Art and Design is an opportunity to provide a creative outlet to students' thoughts and feelings while being experimental and allowing them to push boundaries.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I GAIN STUDYING A LEVEL ART?

As well as creating powerful and imaginative projects, images and objects, students will learn how to shrewdly evaluate their own, and others', work. Independence, thoughtfulness, resilience and critical-thinking will be developed and honed throughout the course, culminating in confident and articulate artists, designers and critics. Students will work in the areas of painting and drawing, printmaking, SPFX, illustration, Editorial Illustration, installation, sculpture, photography and computer aided design to help as a research tool. Students will learn how to use a DSLR camera, Adobe Photoshop and the differences between Commercial and Fine Art Photography.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

AQA: Art and Design

7201/C Component 1. Personal Investigation (coursework): Having identified a particular interest, you will formulate a project you will investigate.

- 60% of A Level

7201/X Component 2. Externally set assignment (exam):

You will choose from a selection of pre-released titles and conduct research, formulate written evaluation, and produce artwork before the production of your final piece. Preparatory period (8 weeks) + 15 hours supervised time

- 40% of A Level

Students will experiment and specialise in at least one of the following: fine art; graphic communication; textile design; three-dimensional design; photography.

WHERE CAN A LEVEL ART AND DESIGN LEAD?

Typically, students pursue further qualifications or careers in Art, Graphic Design, Product Design, Marketing, Advertising, Film, and Music. Careers in Engineering and Architecture are also very common.

BIOLOGY

WHY STUDY A LEVEL BIOLOGY?

Biology is a subject at the cutting edge of society and industry, as well as shaping our day to day lives with immense impact. The study of the living world, of which we are just a small part, will give you an insight and understanding of how the human body and natural world work. Biology A Level is both an academic and practical course. The academic aspect of the course covers traditional biological concepts such as biochemistry, zoology and anatomy alongside the extremely modern and current areas of DNA, genetics and medical development. There is also strong consideration of the impact of Biology, with ethical considerations particularly surrounding Genetic Screening and Sustainability. The practical side of the course allows students to conduct experiments relating to all parts of the academic course.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I GAIN STUDYING A LEVEL BIOLOGY?

Biology A Level is a highly rigorous course. The ability to apply, analyse, interpret and evaluate are fundamental to the subject. These skills will develop through the academic side of the course and the ability to plan, assess, work systematically and think logically will develop through the practical side. The course will also develop non-routine problem solving, systems thinking, critical thinking and communication. These are all strong life skills that have a broad range and will become second nature through studying Biology A Level. You will also develop a new viewpoint and understanding of the world around you as you develop a greater insight and knowledge of how and why things work.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

PAPER	TOPIC	ASSESSED BY	WEIGHTING
Paper 1	Biochemistry, Microbiology, Exchange systems and Genetics.	2 hour exam	35%
Paper 2	Energy transfers, Homeostasis and response, Evolution and Gene expression	2 hour exam	35%
Paper 3	All content from papers 1 and 2, including practical skills.	2 hour exam including an essay	30%

WHERE CAN A LEVEL BIOLOGY LEAD?

Biology A Level is a remarkably useful and versatile A Level. The wide range of skills that you will develop during the course, alongside it's rigorous nature, can lead into the clinical world with Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science as well as research in biological sciences and pharmaceuticals. The A Level also contributes positively to students who wish to go on to careers in law, accounting, computing, sport, engineering, emergency services and banking.

BUSINESS

WHY STUDY A LEVEL BUSINESS?

We live in a mixed economy where much of our income and wealth is generated by businesses producing goods and services in response to the needs and wants of families. Students of Business A Level will study the activities of firms in a variety of contexts, reviewing the operations of large multinational corporations and small local enterprises in both the manufacturing and service sectors. Much of the focus will be upon business decision-making using quantitative methods, business theory and the experience and expertise of managers and specialists. Students will become aware of the environment in which business operates and the key influences on business success, growth and profitability.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I GAIN STUDYING A LEVEL BUSINESS?

The key areas covered in Business are: Finance, Marketing, Human Resources, Resource Management, External influences (economics), Strategies for growth, Globalisation

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

NO COURSEWORK	% of A Level
Paper 1 - Marketing, HR and global businesses	30%
Paper 2 - Finance, Operations and Strategies	30%
Paper 3 - Investigating business in a competitive environment	40%

WHERE CAN A LEVEL BUSINESS LEAD?

Business A Level has many transferable skills which can be used in a wide range of interesting, stimulating and challenging careers including: Marketing, Human Resources, Accounting, Management, Public Administration, Civil Service, Banking, Finance, Politics, Journalism, Broadcasting, Teaching, Research, Law. The knowledge, analytical techniques and methods of evaluation you learn in Business A Level will give you the skills, confidence and versatility to excel in most subjects at university and in the ever-changing world of work.

CHEMISTRY

WHY STUDY A LEVEL CHEMISTRY?

Chemistry seeks to understand the composition and properties of matter. As a chemist you will predict reactions, explain observations and create new substances. Chemistry is often called the central science as it links heavily to biology, physics, mathematics and geography, leading the way in finding solutions to modern day problems.

Chemistry A Level is an academic and practical course which is separated into three disciplines: Physical, Inorganic and Organic Chemistry. Physical chemistry uses mathematical relationships to explain theory in topics such as kinetics and energetics. Inorganic chemistry focuses on understanding the arrangement and trends in the periodic table. Organic chemistry is the study of carbon, where students learn about the reactions of different functional groups and consider the role of these in biological and environmental contexts.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I GAIN LEARNING A LEVEL CHEMISTRY?

Chemistry is both a theoretical and practical subject. Students will develop critical thinking skills as they evaluate, contrast and apply ideas. Students will also gain excellent numeracy skills as they manipulate many equations. Students will build resilience as they are challenged by the new concepts that they learn, developing the ability to explain the unobservable. Students will build the ability to pay close attention to detail and will be able to think logically and solve complex problems. Students will develop practically through the program of core practicals. They

will be able to research, plan and write methods for experiments, consider and reduce risk of experiments and analyse the data they collect. In addition to this, students will develop teamwork and communication skills as they will work together to efficiently and safely manage experiments, learning to collaborate ideas and agree how is best to produce accurate data.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

PAPER	TOPIC	ASSESSED BY	WEIGHTING
Paper 1	Physical and Inorganic Chemistry	2 hour exam	35%
Paper 2	Physical and Organic Chemistry	2 hour exam	35%
Paper 3	All content from papers 1 and 2, including practical skills.	2 hour exam including multiple choice	30%

WHERE CAN A LEVEL CHEMISTRY LEAD?

Chemistry A Level is essential to study chemistry, medicine, dentistry, veterinary, pharmacology, chemical engineering and geochemistry at university, as well as being highly beneficial for a broad range of science degrees. Many people who study chemistry at university go on to work in fields such as research and development, environmental science, education, finance and pharmacy.

CLASSICAL CIVILISATION

WHY STUDY A LEVEL CLASSICAL CIVILISATION?

A Level Classical Civilisation* is a wide-ranging subject involving the study of literature and culture, artefacts and sources, thought and ideas; all set in an ancient context – that of Ancient Greece and Rome. All material is studied in translation, i.e. not in Latin or Ancient Greek.

*No prior knowledge or GCSE Classical Civilisation required.

Interested in travelling back in time to explore the great civilisations of the Ancient Greeks and Romans? Interested in discovering the epic stories that inspired the likes of Shakespeare and Renaissance artists? Interested in mythology, drama, philosophy, literature, art? A Level Classical Civilisation encompasses them all! The issues studied are still relevant to the modern-day and help us to understand our own world.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I GAIN LEARNING A LEVEL CLASSICAL CIVILISATION?

A Level Classical Civilisation will equip you with transferrable skills to apply not only to your other subjects, but also to life beyond school. Due to A Level Classical Civilisation's inter-disciplinary nature, you will develop your analytical, critical, communication, problem-solving skills, as well as your creativity and literacy.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

OCR

Component 1: The World of the Hero (40%)

Component 2: Culture & the Arts (30%)

Component 3: Beliefs & Ideas (30%)

WHERE CAN A LEVEL CLASSICAL CIVILISATION LEAD?

A Level Classical Civilisation can lead to further study of the classical world, but the skills and awareness A Level Classical Civilisation helps to develop suit many career paths and the world of work; careers such as journalism, academia, advertising and publishing to name a few. From the proven ability to write a well-structured extended response to the acknowledgement of the views of others and a culturally sensitive approach to these, A Level Classical Civilisation puts you in an excellent position to seek employment opportunities.

"Studying Mediterranean antiquity superbly equips individuals to think socio-politically and to persuade other people orally, visually and in writing. It hones transferable skills like source criticism and culturally relativist analysis. It's a perfect A Level to do with any other subject because the Greeks invented all academic disciplines including Medicine and Material Science. It gets school-leavers and graduates great jobs and gives them nourishing and beautiful brain-food for non-working hours for life" Edith Hall, Classics Professor at Kings College London.

COMPUTER SCIENCE

WHY STUDY A LEVEL COMPUTER SCIENCE?

A good grade in Computer Science at an A Level is valued by universities and employers since it requires the development of analytical thinking and problem-solving skills. This course also lays an appropriate foundation for further study of Computer Science, Engineering, Physics or related subjects in higher education. Many problems in the sciences, engineering, health care, business, and other areas can be solved effectively with computers, but finding a solution requires both computer science expertise and knowledge of the particular application domain. Thus, computer scientists often become proficient in other subjects.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I GAIN LEARNING A LEVEL COMPUTER SCIENCE?

Computer Science is a discipline that requires thinking both in abstract and concrete terms. On a higher level, computer science is concerned with problem-solving: modelling and analysing problems, designing solutions, and implementing them. Problem-solving requires precision, creativity, and careful reasoning. In AS and A Level Computer Science, students learn the principles of computation and algorithms, computer programming, machine data representation, computer systems (hardware and software), computer organisation and architecture, communications and networking, databases, and the consequences of using computing.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

We follow the OCR Computer Science Specification

Computer Systems	40%
Algorithms and programming	40%
Programming project	20%

WHERE CAN A LEVEL COMPUTER SCIENCE LEAD?

Computer Science at A Level can lead to a number of different higher education courses (e.g. Games developer, Data scientist, Software engineer), and apprenticeships.

CREATIVE DIGITAL MEDIA PRODUCTION

WHY STUDY BTEC CREATIVE DIGITAL MEDIA PRODUCTION & WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

The BTEC Extended Diploma in Media Production is a two-year qualification that has been designed to provide students with the knowledge, skills and understanding necessary to access and progress to degree level study and employment in the media sector. It provides an opportunity for those who have an interest in media to explore, develop and test their creativity in our industry-standard facilities and within a qualification structure which is stimulating and demanding and provides a supportive transition from general to more specialised study.

The course explores our state-of-the-art television, radio and design studios where you will develop an understanding of the industry. Your lecturers are industry professionals who will help you to develop the practical skills you need, as well as showing you how to develop the research and planning aspects of any production. Throughout the course you will develop practical skills across multiple disciplines.

YOU CAN EXPECT TO STUDY:

- Film and TV Production
- Editing Techniques
- Radio Production

- Journalism
- Photography
- Animation and VFX
- Digital Design and Page Layout
- Media Theory
- You will undertake a final end-of-year project that will allow you to utilise the various skills acquired throughout the course.
- It is a complete programme and is therefore not taken with any other course. Having an understanding and interest in different types of media production will benefit you personally and professionally.

WHERE CAN CREATIVE DIGITAL MEDIA PRODUCTION TAKE YOU?

Progress to university, further study, a higher level apprenticeship or employment.

Successful completion of this course can lead to the study of higher education creative and media courses and university degrees, such as Broadcasting, Journalism or Editing and Post Production, among others. The course develops a wide range of transferrable skills in problem-solving, presentations and team working, which are beneficial for creative careers or any employment. It also enables students to develop the confidence, knowledge and skills needed to go directly to work in the multimedia and creative media production industries, which have seen rapid growth and are increasingly attractive to young people. Many students progress to exciting degree courses, vocational apprenticeships or trainee roles and then on to careers in the TV and Film industry.

DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

WHY STUDY A LEVEL DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY?

This creative and thought-provoking qualification gives students the practical skills, theoretical knowledge and confidence to succeed in a number of careers. Especially those in the creative industries. They will investigate historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic influences on design and technology, whilst enjoying opportunities to put their learning in to practice by producing prototypes of their choice. Students will gain a real understanding of what it means to be a designer, alongside the knowledge and skills sought by higher education and employers.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I GAIN LEARNING A LEVEL DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY?

Students will develop the ability to draw on and apply a range of skills and knowledge from other subject areas to inform their decisions in design and the application or development of technology. There are clear links between aspects of the specification content and other subject areas such as Computer Science ('The use of computer systems' and 'Digital design and manufacture'); Business Studies ('Enterprise'); Art and Design ('Design communication' and 'Design Theory').

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Students are required to- demonstrate:

- technical principles
- designing and making principles.

AQA

Paper 1: 30%

Paper 2: 20%

Non-examined assessment: 50%

WHERE CAN A LEVEL DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY LEAD?

Design and technology can set you up for a career in a wide variety of industries such as fashion, engineering, architecture, information technology, careers in hospitality, and even education and business/enterprise. Popular careers for people with design and technology qualifications include: fashion designer, product designer, architect, software engineer, civil engineer.

DRAMA AND THEATRE STUDIES

WHY STUDY A LEVEL DRAMA AND THEATRE STUDIES?

A Level Drama & Theatre Studies provides Students with a solid understanding of how to analyse theatre and make theatre from the perspective of a performer, director, designer or a combination of all three.

The skills learnt on the course are transferable to almost every subject and industry and develop creativity, collaboration, analytical thinking and an approach to research including critical analysis of set texts and live performance.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I GAIN LEARNING A LEVEL DRAMA AND THEATRE STUDIES?

Students are encouraged to find their own unique voice, communicating to a wide range of audiences and developing their higher-level transferable skills in reading, writing, speaking and analysing.

They are introduced to a wide range of theatrical styles and contexts as they explore plays practically, devise and work on performance

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

The course is assessed in three key areas:

1. Drama & Theatre - The study of two set texts - Written (40%)
2. Creating Original Drama - Devising your own theatre and writing about the process - Practical (30%)
3. Making Theatre - A practical exploration of three extracts and theatre practitioners - Practical (30%).

WHERE CAN A LEVEL DRAMA AND THEATRE STUDIES LEAD?

Many industries value the skills needed to achieve A Level Drama & Theatre Studies. Students go on to study related fields at universities, drama schools and apprenticeships.

As the qualification is theoretical as well as practical, all essay based subjects at university view Drama as a good A Level subject and the skills developed in critical theory and analysis will enable Students to improve their writing and communication skills applicable to many subjects.

Some of the jobs Drama students go on to have are as follows:

Actor, Broadcast Presenter, Dramatherapist, Runner (broadcasting/film/video), Theatre Director, Casting Director, Stage Manager, Theatre Manager, Arts Administrator, Producer, Lawyer

ECONOMICS

WHY STUDY A LEVEL ECONOMICS?

Economics is often described as 'the dismal science' with the core problem being focused around unlimited wants with scarce resources. A Level Economics aims to help students understand how economies work and how economic agents interact. The course will introduce both macroeconomics and microeconomics, covering topics such as inflation, supply and demand, poverty and inequality and government intervention. Studying Economics A Level allows students to develop a true understanding of current economic issues and will give them the skills to evaluate real-world issues and the limitations on theory. Students must have a genuine interest in current affairs

WHAT SKILLS WILL I GAIN LEARNING A LEVEL ECONOMICS?

Economics strongly develops critical thinking and relies on using economic theory and knowledge to construct viable arguments. Economics often uses Mathematical understanding and problem-solving skills and, therefore, a strong grade at GCSE Mathematics is required. Students will also develop their essay writing and debating skills. Students do not have to have studied Economics at GCSE to complete the course.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Course: Economics A Pearson Edexcel (9EC0)

The course is split into four key themes.: the nature of economics and markets; economic performance measures; business behaviour; international economics. The exam papers are made up of multiple-choice questions, shorter answers and longer essays.

Topics Assessed by Weighting

Paper 1 Markets and Business behaviour 2-hour paper 35%

Paper 2 The national and global economy 2-hour paper 35%

Paper 3 Microeconomics and Macroeconomics 2-hour paper 30%

WHERE CAN A LEVEL ECONOMICS LEAD?

A Level Economics is highly regarded by universities and in industry. Economics is often an excellent subject if you enjoy both the arts and sciences and equips you with skills associated with both paths. Economics opens the doors to many careers, however, is often associated with finance, consultancy, advising the government as an economist, and even marketing.

ENGLISH LITERATURE

WHY STUDY A LEVEL ENGLISH LITERATURE?

English Literature is a highly academic qualification and complements subjects across the curriculum at A Level. Whether you are taking essay-based subjects such as History and Philosophy and Ethics, or STEAM subjects, all require the ability to communicate and articulate effectively – this is what English Literature enables you to do! As such, it is considered a facilitating subject for Russell Group Universities. An A Level in English Literature allows you to study a breadth of exciting and engaging texts from the past and present, all with opportunity for group collaboration, discussion and independent study. The classroom environment of an English lesson will build your confidence and aptitude when discussing these works of literature. We will also go on Theatre Trips and other excursions to continue your learning and enrichment beyond the classroom.

WHAT SKILLS A LEVEL ENGLISH LITERATURE GAIN?

First and foremost, English Literature will help you become an excellent communicator, both verbally and on paper. You will read not only the set texts, but around the topic, analysing critics, context (historical, social and political) and literary theory. Importantly, you will learn how to construct an argument, a thesis – writing with sophisticated academic register and sensitively about a range of topics, conveying your passion and personal opinions in a subtly persuasive manner.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Course Specification – Edexcel

Exam Texts

Drama: King Lear, A Streetcar Named Desire 30%

Poetry: Poems of the Decade, and Metaphysical Poetry, John Donne 30%

Prose: Tess of the D'Urbervilles, Mrs Dalloway 20%

Coursework: The Crucible 20%

WHERE CAN A LEVEL ENGLISH LITERATURE LEAD?

Study of English forms the foundation of all subjects and careers, opening doors for any path you choose! At university, no matter what course you select, you will be obligated to write essays, and an A Level in Literature equips you with the skills to write effectively and in a sophisticated fashion. English also creates a natural pathway for courses such as Law, Journalism, Publishing, Media, Marketing and Advertising, in addition to the Performing Arts and Social Sciences, such as Psychology and Sociology.
Extended Project Qualification

EXTENDED PROJECT QUALIFICATION - EPQ

WHY DO AN EPQ?

The Extended Project Qualification allows students to choose an area of interest to research and craft a project around. This allows them the chance to develop a range of skills such as researching, project management and writing that will prepare them for life after Sixth Form, either in the world of work, as an apprentice, or at university.

WHAT SKILLS DO I GAIN DOING AN EPQ?

By doing an EPQ, you can improve key skills that are useful for your careers and further studies, such as:

- Project management
- Organisation and time management
- Essay writing
- Independent research
- Utilising resources

HOW IS AN EPQ ASSESSED?

Students will choose from one of the four options available for their projects:

Unit 1: Dissertation – a theoretical written project on any topic presenting an argument, e.g. research into a biological, historical or environmental issue

Unit 2: Investigation/Field Study – a practical investigatory project involving the collection of data, e.g. a scientific investigation, a geographical study of erosion, a biological study of pollution, a statistical survey

Unit 3: Performance – development of practical skills resulting in a performance, e.g. performing music, drama, sport

Unit 4: Artefact – for example, making a painting or sculpture, designing a piece of furniture or a garment, creating a website, solving an engineering/construction problem, producing a piece of graphic design.

Students are assessed by their mentor on a range of skills such as: the management of their project; their use of resources; The development of their project and decision-making skills; and their ability to review and reflect on the process throughout.

WHERE CAN AN EPQ LEAD?

The skills developed through the EPQ are valued in any workplace, or in any degree course, as they show an ability to manage your own work and time, as well as demonstrating your passion. The development of skills such as researching, writing analytically, reviewing literature, and referencing. Universities highly value the EPQ will sometimes tailor their offers to include the EPQ as it carries UCAS points.

FRENCH

WHY DO AN A LEVEL FRENCH?

Do you hope to one day work abroad, travel the world or speak a language fluently? Are you interested in an academically challenging course which builds exceptional communication and interpersonal skills? If so, then studying a Modern Language like French to A Level is an excellent choice for you. The French course will develop your language skills, your cultural and international understanding and your analytical and research skills which can be applied at work or for leisure purposes.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I GAIN DOING A LEVEL FRENCH?

You will improve all the four language skills of listening, speaking, reading, writing and translation. Classes will be taught through the medium of French using a variety of classroom-based and independent learning activities, whilst also developing a thorough understanding of the grammar of the language. You will put into practice your speaking skills in real-life scenarios and role plays.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED ?

There are 4 core topic areas at A Level. They are focussed on aspects of the French-speaking society:

1. Current trends
2. Artistic culture
3. Current issues
4. Aspects of political life

In addition, you will study the book *No et Moi* and the film *La Haine*

How will I be assessed?

- Paper 1: listening, reading & translation into both English & French. Weighted 50%
- Paper 2: writing - literature, films and essays. Weighted 20%
- Paper 3: speaking. Weighted 30%

WHERE CAN AN A LEVEL FRENCH LEAD?

Many Students choose to continue their language learning with a joint honours degree at university. This usually involves learning two languages alongside literature and/or linguistics. It could also be split with many other complementary subjects such as French and Law, Business, Marketing, History and Engineering. Language graduates are in high demand by employers in the UK and abroad and will have an advantage over monolingualists.

GEOGRAPHY

WHY STUDY GEOGRAPHY?

Geographers are excited about the world in which they live and develop a valuable understanding of the physical and human processes which shape our planet. If you want to answer questions such as 'what are the issues caused by unequal flows of international trade?', 'how will the world cope with a projected population of 10 billion?', or 'how would a supervolcano eruption affect our planet?' then Geography is for you.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I GAIN?

You will develop a knowledge of social, economic and physical processes and be able to plan, research, develop and test hypotheses and write reports. Geographers are numerate, literate and good team workers. You will learn to think analytically, critically, and will develop valuable computer skills. You will also practice a variety of fieldwork skills with the range of trips we offer which have included Iceland and Zanzibar.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

A LEVEL MODULE 1	A LEVEL MODULE 2	A LEVEL MODULE 3
Physical Geography	Human Geography	Independent Investigation
-Water and carbon cycles -Coastal systems and landscapes -Ecosystems and processes	- Global systems and global governance - Changing places - Population and the environment	- Physical and human fieldwork - 4 days There will be an additional charge for this trip but it will be in the UK so costs will be kept to a minimum - Independent investigation which may be human or physical or a combination of both.
Exam weighted 40%	Exam weighted 40%	Written 3,000-4,000 word weighted 20%

WHERE CAN GEOGRAPHY LEAD?

Skills learnt in Geography are becoming increasingly valuable such as GIS (Geographical Information Systems) which is an industry worth £1 billion. The broad range of skills learnt through Geography makes you highly employable in practically every field. Not only is Geography a vital subject in its own right but it is unique in providing a bridge between the sciences and the arts. A Level geographers read a huge range of subjects at university, from Medicine to Law and Engineering to English.

GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

WHY STUDY GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS?

Our rights, responsibilities, and freedoms are defined by government policies; their decisions affect our education, employment opportunities, health, relationships, and much more. Therefore, Government and Politics is an essential course for students who are interested in learning about our society, political system and culture. Students will understand how political ideologies, particularly conservatism, liberalism, socialism and feminism have shaped our society.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I GAIN?

By the end of this course, all students will develop critical thinking skills which are required for any degree and employment. Moreover, the course is designed to develop one's ability to communicate, plan, organise, research, analyse and evaluate. Students will become confident leaders, particularly when delivering presentations, as well as strengthen their social skills by working with others. Politics will enable students to become responsible citizens who are able to listen and speak objectively and thoughtfully using logic in debates.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Exam Board: Edexcel (9PL0)

Module 1	Module 2	Module 3
UK Politics	UK Government	Comparative Politics
* Democracy	* Constitution	* US Constitution and federalism
* Political parties	* Parliament	* Congress
* Electoral systems	* Prime Minister	* Presidency
* Media	* Political ideologies (feminism)	* Supreme Court
* Political ideologies (conservatism, liberalism, socialism)	2 hour written examination	* Civil rights
2 hour written examination		* Comparative theories
		2 hour written examination

WHERE CAN GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS LEAD?

Students have a wealth of career opportunities open to them after studying Government and Politics including but not limited to the Media, Law, Government and Civil Service, Police, Armed Force, Business, Healthcare, Advertising and Marketing, Finance.

HISTORY

WHY STUDY HISTORY A LEVEL?

A Level History will take students on an intriguing journey into the past, where they will learn how peoples' ideas, values, and actions have influenced our world in the present, as well as how these are shaping our future. Students who are intrigued by past mistakes and who have a desire to affect change in the future will truly enjoy delving deep into this subject, evaluating how and why events occurred as they did. Not only will you chronicle the past in terms of events; you will also seek connections between the economics, geography, literature, art and science of the times in questions, weaving together the inter-related aspects of some of the most impactful events in the world.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I GAIN?

Students will develop their critical thinking skills; communication; organisation; research, analytical and evaluative techniques. Students will become confident leaders, particularly when delivering presentations, and will strengthen their social skills by working with others. History will enable students to become responsible citizens who are able to listen and speak objectively and thoughtfully using logic. The course encourages creativity too, be it in relation to problem-solving or producing work that draws on a students' artistic talents.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Course: OCR (H505)

Assessment

1 - British period and enquiry study

The Early Stuarts and the Origins of the Civil War 1603-1660
(Enquiry topic: The Execution on of Charles I and the Interregnum 1646-1660)

Written exam 1 hour 30 minutes 50 marks, 25%	Written exam 1 hour 30 marks, 15%	Written exam 2 hours 30 minutes 80 marks, 40%
2 - Non-British period study The Cold War in Europe, 1941-1995	3 - Thematic Study and Historical Interpretations Study Civil Rights in the USA, 1865-1992	4 - Coursework 3,000-4,000 word essay 20%

WHERE CAN A LEVEL HISTORY LEAD?

A well-respected discipline, History's emphasis on logically structured arguments and evaluations, ensures it is a valuable subject for a variety of university courses and careers. Typically, A Level historians may choose to study History, English, Law, Economics, Geography, or History of Art but, also, A Level History can be viewed as a complimentary subject when choosing to pursue scientific degrees such as Medicine, Biomedical Sciences, Physiotherapy, Pharmacy etc. When considering career pathways, A Level History will undoubtedly have prepared students for any number of different options such as Banking, Finance, Advertising, Marketing, Politics, and much more.

HOSPITALITY

WHY STUDY HOSPITALITY?

The Hospitality industry is diverse, ever evolving and dynamic. One in ten people in the UK work in hospitality (5.2 million). The industry is facing a huge skills shortage and so trained, skilled staff are highly valued.

This Hospitality course offers experience of many areas including event management, customer service, financial planning, and Asian and European cuisines.

The Pearson BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma in Hospitality consists of three mandatory units plus optional units that provide for a combined total of 60 credits for the completed qualification. It is the equivalent of one A Level and is widely accepted and welcomed by universities, apprenticeships and employers alike. A Distinction is equivalent to an 'A' grade at A Level and is welcomed by most universities including those in the Russell Group.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

The course covers a range of units including some practical units. These are:

- The Hospitality industry
- Principles of Supervising Customer Service Performance in Hospitality, Leisure, Travel and Tourism
- Providing Customer Service in Hospitality
- Planning and Managing a Hospitality event
- Food and drinks service
- European food
- Asian food

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

This is a 100% Coursework assessed qualification. For each unit there are several assignments. These assignments cover the Pass, Merit and Distinction criteria for the unit and at the end of each unit you will be given an overall award.

FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES & CAREERS

The course is designed to promote the personal, learning and thinking skills for independent enquiry, team work, reflective learning, effective participation, creative thinking and self management and will prepare learners well for further study and the world of work in general as well as for a variety of careers within the hospitality industry. For example event manager, wedding planner, hotel or restaurant owner or manager, chef, hotel marketer and many more.

The industry is multi layered, multinational and offers every type and level of employment opportunity. The course would also be a good basis for anyone wanting to study Hospitality, Business or Event Management at University.

ITALIAN

WHY STUDY A LEVEL ITALIAN & WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

If you enjoy meeting and talking to people from other countries, finding out about their cultures and learning how language works, then studying A level Italian is an excellent choice for you! A level Italian helps you explore a wide range of topics, which will add to your understanding of the language and country. The book and film you study will link to the topics, giving you further insight into Italian culture. You will also learn new grammar and vocabulary and you will be able to translate into and out of Italian. You will develop your critical thinking, creativity, independence and analytical skills. You will also develop the skills that will enable to learn other languages.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I GAIN?

You will improve all the four language skills of listening, speaking, reading, writing and translation. Classes will be taught through the medium of Italian using a variety of classroom-based and independent learning activities, whilst also developing a thorough understanding of the grammar of the language.

We will cover four themes:

- evolving society in Italy;
- political and artistic culture in Italian-speaking countries;
- immigration and multiculturalism in Italy;
- from fascism to the present day.

We will also study the play "Sei personaggi in cerca d'autore" by Pirandello and the Oscar-winning movie "La vita è bella" by Roberto Benigni. Furthermore, you will engage in an independent research project on a topic of your choice.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

We will follow the Edexcel A Level specification. You will take three exams. You will be given a certificate with a grade between E and A* with A* being the highest.

PAPER	TOPIC	ASSESSED BY	WEIGHTING
Paper 1	Listening, reading and translation (ITA>EN) on Themes 1, 2, 3 and 4 2 hours written exam	Exam	40%
Paper 2	Written response to works and translation (EN>ITA) on the Literary work and movie. 2 hours and 40 minutes written exam	Exam	30%
Paper 3	Speaking, covering independent research and themes 1, 2, 3 and 4 21-12 minutes speaking exam, including 5 minutes' preparation time.	Teacher/ examiner	30%

Papers 1 and 2 are externally-examined papers assessing listening, reading and writing, while the speaking assessment is externally set and conducted by a teacher-examiner. All assessments are marked by Pearson. You will complete your speaking assessment during a timetabled assessment window in April/May and all other assessments in May/June in year 13.

WHERE CAN A LEVEL ITALIAN LEAD?

People with language skills and knowledge usually have an advantage over people without them.

They stand out as talented and successful people, with broad and exciting horizons.

Success at A level Italian means you will:

- Add an extra international dimension to your personal skills profile which will impress people who read your CV
- Be in a stronger position to get a job in companies with international links
- Be able to work or study in an Italian-speaking country in later life
- Progress to study a degree in Italian, or Italian and another subject, to further your knowledge of the language and culture
- Find it easier to learn other languages later if you want to
- Add a useful skill if your main subjects are not languages: languages support careers in a range of areas including management, business, science and tourism

LATIN

WHY STUDY LATIN A LEVEL?

A Level Latin builds on the GCSE*, introducing you to a greater range of vocabulary, accidence and syntax. This requires the detailed study of prose and verse literature, inspiring and motivating you to gain a deeper understanding of the life and culture of the ancient world.

*GCSE-equivalent qualification in Latin required.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I GAIN?

A Level Latin will equip you with transferable skills to apply not only to your other subjects, but also to life beyond school. Continuing to learn Latin language and grammar, builds your memory and helps you learn other languages. You will also have the opportunity to carry on improving your understanding of English grammar and vocabulary, making you a more sophisticated communicator – a great future job skill! As Latin is systematic and precise, it will help you become a more logical problem-solver and develop resilience and mental discipline.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Course: OCR

Component 1: Unseen Translation (33%)
Component 2: Prose Composition/Comprehension (17%)
Component 3: Prose Literature (25%)
Component 4: Verse Literature (25%)

WHERE CAN A LEVEL LATIN LEAD?

A Level Latin can lead to further study of the classical world or linguistics, but the skills and awareness A Level Latin helps to develop suit many career paths and the world of work. Latin provides many root words for the sciences, and is the language of law, politics, logic and theology. Students of Latin have highly developed analytical skills, are logical, and can structure and articulate arguments. As a result, Latin students will find themselves suited for a multitude of careers including Law, Accountancy, Business, the Civil Service, the media, and much more.

“... we know that those who have studied the ancient languages are never, in fact, short of job-offers. A top asset-manager recently told me that his firm always employed classicists: they sold more. If Richard Dawkins is right, that is because ‘what Classics has always done is just teach people how to think.’ Peter Jones, Taking The Long View

MATHS

WHY STUDY MATHS A LEVEL?

Maths is a widely regarded A Level qualification that develops Students' analytical and problem-solving skills and makes individuals highly desirable when applying to University and industry. Those wishing to study Maths should have a genuine interest in the subject and will most likely thrive in other related disciplines. The course will build on GCSE content, yet push Students to think independently. Maths develops Students' minds to think methodically and build resilience through challenging questioning.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I GAIN?

Throughout the A Level course, Students will develop their Mathematical skills and knowledge, while simultaneously strengthening many other transferable skills. For example, decision making; problem-solving; independent thinking, and working under pressure. Students will also use mathematical theory and arguments to prove challenging concepts. An important aspect of A Level Maths is also understanding the connection between Maths and its application to the world outside of the classroom.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Course: Edexcel

TITLE	TOPICS	WEIGHTING
PAPER 1	Pure Mathematics 1 2 hour paper	33.33%
PAPER 2	Pure Mathematics 2 2 hour paper	33.33%
PAPER 3	Statistics and Mechanics 2 hour paper	33.33%

Course: Pearson Edexcel Level 3
Advanced GCE in Mathematics (9MA0)

The Maths A Level is broken down into: Pure Maths; Statistics; Mechanics. Pure Maths involves extending topics covered at GCSE such as algebra, trigonometry and introducing topics such as Calculus. Statistics is focused on data handling and data representation, along with statistical hypothesis testing. Mechanics on the other hand, links quite closely to Physics, by focusing on forces and movement.

WHERE CAN A LEVEL MATHS LEAD?

Many Students who study A Level may wish to Study Maths at university however Maths is also known as being very complementary to a variety of other subjects and career pathways. Multiple degrees require an A Level in Maths as a prerequisite. These subjects may include Physics, Medicine, Engineering, Economics and Computer Science . A Level Maths can also be useful for those who wish to go straight into industry and/or do an apprenticeship. The skills associated with Maths are highly desirable and transferable. Some career paths might include Accountancy, Civil Service, Financial Services, Banking, Management Consultancy.

FURTHER MATHEMATICS

WHY STUDY FURTHER MATHEMATICS?

Further Mathematics is a popular subject for keen and gifted mathematicians. Students should consider Further Mathematics if they wish to apply to competitive academic universities to study a STEM-based course. Once at university, those who have studied Further Mathematics often find the transition to these courses smoother, having had prior exposure to the more advanced concepts covered in Further Mathematics. Challenging and stimulating, this course is for those who are passionate about Mathematics.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I GAIN THROUGH FURTHER MATHEMATICS?

Further Mathematics can only be studied by students who have also chosen A Level Mathematics. Therefore, core skills will be developed around analytical thinking and problem-solving. The course is designed to push the most able Mathematicians and, consequently, requires dedication and commitment combined with a love for subject.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Course: Pearson Edexcel Advanced GCE Further Mathematics (9FM0)
Further Mathematics pushes beyond A Level Mathematics and is broken down into: Advanced Pure; Advanced Statistics; Advanced Mechanics. Some topics studied include: complex numbers; matrices; advanced probability; elasticity and momentum.

TITLE	TOPICS	WEIGHTING
PAPER 1	Advanced Pure 90-minute paper	25%
PAPER 2	Advanced Pure 90-minute paper	25%
PAPER 3	Advanced Mechanics or Advanced Statistics 90-minute paper	25%
PAPER 4	Advanced Mechanics or Advanced Statistics 90-minute paper	25%

* Paper 1 and Paper 2 are mandatory. Papers 3 and 4 are more flexible, and will depend on an individual student's skill set.

WHERE CAN FURTHER MATHEMATICS LEAD?

Further Mathematics is a requirement at many of the most prestigious universities, when wishing to study Mathematics and other STEM courses. Further Mathematics may also be beneficial to those wishing to study Economics. Some career paths might include being an Actuary, Statistician or Engineer, or heading into Financial Services, Banking, or Management Consultancy.

MUSIC

WHY STUDY MUSIC A LEVEL?

If you love music and are keen to evolve your skills in performing and creating music, this is the course for you. Music is a vital form of communication that brings humans together and creates joy and comfort in our lives. The study of music is rightly associated with high cognitive skills and dedication as it embraces so many areas of academic study: history, mathematics, English and other languages, creativity, and analysis. Music is a subject where students feel passionate about what they are learning and often find it shapes their identities in a wonderful and positive way. Future employers respect the teamwork, empathy and dedication that is shared by musicians working at a high level.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

The course allows you to develop your practical skills in performance and composition alongside the academic study of a range of musical styles. There are ample opportunities to take part in live music-making and an enticing array of concerts and other events.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

In addition to practical music-making, you will explore a broad range of set works, from popular music to film, fusions to works written in the western classical tradition. Fifty percent of the course allows you to work in your preferred musical styles; you will also build your aural, analytical and essay writing skills through collaborative lessons on set works. Performance is a key part of the course so you must have regular lessons with a suitably qualified professional on your main instrument or voice. You will be expected to take part in the extra-curricular music programme.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

TITLE	TOPICS	WEIGHTING
PAPER 1	Recital (performance)	35%
PAPER 2	Composition Portfolio	25%
PAPER 3	Listening and Appraising Written Examination	40%

WHERE CAN MUSIC A LEVEL LEAD?

Students will be able to progress to study degrees in Music, Popular Music, Music Technology and Music Education at University, or to specialise in Performance or Composition at a Music Conservatoire. Equally, many A Level Music students pursue different subjects at university but continue music as a future hobby.

PERFORMING ARTS

WHY STUDY PERFORMING ARTS?

For students with their sights set on a career in the performance industry, Performing Arts is a great choice. The practice-based courses aim to provide students with the relevant skills and knowledge that employers value, as well as the confidence to progress into a fulfilling, exciting career in a creative industry.

Whether you are a performer, technician or a creative mind, there's an exciting future in the performance production arts ahead.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I GAIN?

There are three pathways for the BTEC Performing Arts course: Acting, Dance and Musical Theatre. The content of this qualification includes practical skills and techniques in a range of performing arts disciplines and critical analysis skills and contextual understanding of practitioners' work. Learners will gain a taste and an appreciation of performing arts, through knowledge and experience of the performance process. Learners will also have the opportunity to develop a range of skills, techniques and personal attributes which will be valuable across all areas of future study and work.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

You will be assessed on three mandatory units and will also have the freedom to choose optional units. The three mandatory units focus on:

- * Research, critical analysis and extended writing skills
- * Practical skills and techniques in various performance disciplines such as acting, dance, musical theatre and physical theatre
- * Group performance, where learners will develop the essential psychomotor and affective skills essential for the performing arts.

Examples of the optional units include:

- Unit 8: Classical Ballet Technique
- Unit 11: Street Dance Technique
- Unit 19: Acting Styles
- Unit 20: Developing the Voice for Performance
- Unit 28: Variety Performance
- Unit 28: Variety Performance

WHERE CAN PERFORMING ARTS LEAD?

A Distinction is equivalent to an 'A' at A Level and opens the door to most courses at most universities, including those in the Russell Group. In addition to the performing arts sector-specific content, this qualification provides learners with the opportunity to develop all-round performance skills and transferable skills such as self-confidence, self-presentation, personal discipline, time management and organisational skills which are highly regarded by higher education and employers.

PHOTOGRAPHY

WHY STUDY A LEVEL PHOTOGRAPHY?

If you are creative, persistent and can use your initiative, A Level Photography is a practical course that can open doors for you in a range of creative careers. You will be introduced to a variety of experiences that explore a range of traditional photographic methods as well as digital techniques. You will learn the camera functions and visual techniques that are needed to become a professional photographer.

Photography can be studied to give breadth to other subjects or to continue for higher education opportunities. Photography can be taken with the intention of gaining an A Level for entry to Arts, Media, Architecture or other creative degree courses at university or it may be your pathway to a wide range of courses, providing you with the essential portfolio of work to share with potential employers and higher education courses.

WHERE CAN A LEVEL PHOTOGRAPHY LEAD?

A Level Photography can lead to a variety of careers in the creative field as will it give you a range of skills that are essential in the modern workplace.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

AQA

Component 1:

Personal Investigation Students are required to work in one or more area(s) of photography, such as those listed below. They may explore overlapping areas and combinations of areas:

No time limit

- 96 marks
- 60% of A Level

Component 2:

Externally set assignment must show evidence of areas of study drawn from one or more of the endorsed titles listed below.

Preparatory period + 15 hours supervised time

- 96 marks
- 40% of A Level

WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

Students will have the opportunity to produce practical and critical/contextual work in a range of areas of study including portraiture, landscape photography, still life photography, documentary photography, photojournalism, fashion photography, experimental imagery, multimedia, photographic installation and moving image (video, film, animation).

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

WHY STUDY A LEVEL PHYSICAL EDUCATION?

Studying A Level Physical Education provides students with a fantastic insight into the amazing world of sport. Students will develop a deeper understanding of topics such as why some people run faster than others, how an ice skater uses angular velocity to spin at speed, and why some performers use performance-enhancing drugs. They will also explore a range of fascinating topics, including how sport has changed since the Industrial Revolution and how personality and attitudes are formed.

Students will also have the opportunity to demonstrate their ability as either a performer or a coach in a sport of their choice, as well as deliver a verbal presentation analysing the strengths and weaknesses of a peer's sporting performance and suggests ways to improve.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I GAIN THROUGH A LEVEL PHYSICAL EDUCATION?

The course develops transferable skills including: decision making, psychological understanding of people, independent thinking, problem solving and analytical skills as well as thinking and acting under pressure. Due to the practical nature of the qualification it is essential that each student who studies A Level Physical Education takes an active role in the extracurricular sporting opportunities offered at MVS.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Pupils will follow the OCR A Level Specification

COMPONENT	TOPICS	ASSESSMENT
PAPER 1	Applied Anatomy and Physiology Exercise Physiology Biomechanics	30% 2-hour written exam
PAPER 2	Skill Acquisition Sports Psychology	20% 1-hour written exam
PAPER 3	Sport and Society Contemporary Issues in Physical Activity and Sport	20% 1-hour written exam
NEA	Practical Performance Evaluation and Analysis of Performance for Improvement (verbal presentation)	30% (split equally: 15% Practical Performance and 15% EAPI)

WHERE CAN A LEVEL PHYSICAL EDUCATION LEAD?

An A Level in Physical Education is an excellent preparation for a university degree in Sports Science, Sports Management, Healthcare, or Exercise and Health. Physical Education can also complement further study in Biology, Human Biology, Physics, Psychology, Nutrition, Sociology and many other academic disciplines. A Level Physical Education can open up a range of career opportunities including: sports development, sports coaching, physiotherapy, personal training or becoming one of the next generation of PE teachers. The transferable skills learnt through studying Physical Education, such as decision making, team skills and independent thinking, are also useful in any career path.

PHYSICS

WHY STUDY A LEVEL PHYSICS?

Students who study A Level Physics constantly question the world around them in a quest to better understand how things work. They enjoy doing this both theoretically and experimentally. They have strong numerical skills and relish the opportunity to solve very tough problems. Their resilience enables them to apply their knowledge in new situations.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I GAIN BY STUDYING A LEVEL PHYSICS?

Students who study Physics learn about the nature of the universe, from the microscopic building blocks of matter to the macroscopic movement of interstellar objects. You will build on a variety of practical, mathematical and problem-solving skills, and develop an understanding of how Physics contributes to solving global issues including climate change and the success of society.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Students will primarily be assessed via 3 exams at the end of Y13. In addition, students must demonstrate that they can meet all the required core practical skills by the end of Y13 to achieve the practical endorsement.

PAPER	TOPIC	ASSESSED BY	WEIGHTING
Paper 1	Measurements and their errors, Particles and Radiation, Waves, Mechanics and Materials, Electricity, Further Mechanics.	2 hour exam including multiple choice.	34%
Paper 2	Thermal Physics, Fields and their Consequences, Nuclear Physics, Engineering Physics.	2 hour exam including multiple choice.	34%
Paper 3	All content from papers 1 and 2, including practical skills.	2 hour exam	32%

WHERE CAN A LEVEL PHYSICS LEAD ME?

Physics opens doors and keeps post-18 options open to you. Students could go on to pursue careers in engineering, academia, research, medicine, robotics, finance, law and more. The strong problem-solving and numerical skills you will develop will enable you to work in the vast majority of STEM careers.

PSYCHOLOGY

WHAT SKILLS WILL I GAIN?

Students who study Psychology learn about the scientific study of the mind and behaviour, exploring topics such as memory, social influence, attachment and mental health. You will build a range of research, analytical and critical thinking skills, and develop an understanding of how Psychology can be applied to real-world issues including education, mental health awareness, crime reduction and the wellbeing of society.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

TITLE	TOPICS	WEIGHTING
PAPER 1 Written Paper	Social Influence Memory Attachment Psychopathology	33.3% of Total A Level 2 hours 90 marks
PAPER 2 Written Paper	Approaches in Psychology Biopsychology Research Methods	33.3% 2 hours
PAPER 3 Written Paper	Issues & Debates in Psychology Optional Topics (e.g. Relationships, Schizophrenia, Forensic Psychology)	33.3% of Total A Level 2 hours 60 marks

WHY STUDY A LEVEL PSYCHOLOGY LEAD?

A well-regarded subject, Psychology's focus on research, analysis and understanding human behaviour makes it a valuable choice for a wide range of degree pathways and careers. Many A Level Psychology students go on to study Psychology itself at university, or related subjects such as Criminology, Sociology, Education, Nursing, or Law. It also complements science-based degrees including Medicine, Biomedical Sciences and Sports Science. In terms of career options, Psychology provides an excellent foundation for roles in clinical and educational psychology, counselling, healthcare, social work, human resources, business, marketing, and many more.

SPANISH

WHY STUDY SPANISH?

Do you hope to one day work abroad, travel the world or speak a language fluently? Are you interested in an academically challenging course which builds exceptional communication and interpersonal skills? If so, then studying a Modern Language like Spanish to A Level is an excellent choice for you. The Spanish course will develop your language skills, your cultural and international understanding and your analytical and research skills. These can be applied at work or for leisure purposes.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I GAIN?

You will improve all the four language skills of listening, speaking, reading, writing and translation. Classes will be taught through the medium of Spanish using a variety of classroom-based and independent learning activities, whilst also developing a thorough understanding of the grammar of the language. You will put into practice your speaking skills in real-life scenarios and role plays.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

There are 4 core topic areas at A Level. They are all focussed on aspects of Spanish-speaking society:

1. Current trends
2. Artistic culture
3. Current issues
4. Aspects of political life

In addition, you will study the book *La Casa de Bernarda Alba* and the film *Ocho Apellidos Vascos*

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

- Paper 1: listening, reading & translation into both English & Spanish. Weighted 50%
- Paper 2: writing - literature, film and essays. Weighted 20%
- Paper 3: speaking. Weighted 30%

WHAT CAN I DO WITH SPANISH AFTER A LEVEL?

Many Students choose to continue their language learning with a joint honours degree at university. This usually involves learning two languages alongside literature and/or linguistics. It could also be shared with many other complementary subjects such as Spanish and Law, Business, Marketing, History and Engineering. Language graduates are in high demand by employers in the UK and abroad and will have an advantage over monolingualists.



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