

ISLEWORTH & SYON SCHOOL

Sixth Form Course Guide
2017-18



Contents

About Us

A Message from the Sixth Form Leader	1
Expectations.....	2
Entry Policy for Post-16 Courses.....	3
Specific Entry Requirements for GCE Courses	4
Additional Guidance: Progression Pathways.....	6
Average GCSE Points Scores.....	7

A Level

Art & Design A Level	8
Biology A Level.....	9
Business A Level.....	10
Chemistry A Level	11
Design Technology - Design Engineering A Level.....	12
Drama and Theatre A Level.....	13
Economics A Level.....	15
Electronics A Level.....	16
English Language & Literature A Level	17
English Literature A Level.....	18
EPQ.....	19
French A Level	20
Geography A Level.....	22
Government and Politics A Level.....	23
History A Level	24
Mathematics A Level	25
Further Mathematics A Level.....	27
Media Studies A Level.....	29
Music A Level	30
Music Technology A Level.....	31
Photography (Lens & Light-Based Media) A Level.....	33
Physical Education A Level	34
Physics A Level	36
Psychology A Level.....	37
Spanish A Level.....	38

BTEC

Level 3 National Diploma in Business BTEC	40
Level 3 Diploma in Information Technology BTEC	41
Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Information Technology BTEC.....	42
Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Performing Arts BTEC.....	43
Level 3 Cambridge Technical Extended Diploma in Sport and Physical Activity BTEC.....	44
Level 3 Cambridge Technical Diploma in Sport and Physical Activity BTEC.....	45
Level 3 Cambridge Technical Extended Certificate in Sport & Physical Activity BTEC	46
Level 2 First Award in Sport BTEC	47
Level 2 First Award in Public Services BTEC	48
Level 2 First Award in Travel & Tourism BTEC	49

A Message from the Sixth Form Leader

This subject guide is an essential source of information to assist with important choices that Year 11 students will need to begin making. This year will be the third and final year of government reforms to A Level courses, and this will involve the introduction of new linear A Levels in remaining subject areas. With these changes, it is even more essential that you carefully read about the subject areas that are of interest to you, as some A Level subjects will be assessed in different ways.

You should read to check that your chosen courses are suitable and fit with your preferred learning style and ability. More information with regards to how each subject is assessed can be found on the subject pages of this guide. Further information on government reforms are available at www.gov.uk (AS- and A Level reform).

You were advised in Year 9 to choose GCSE subjects that interested you and which you enjoyed. At Key Stage 5, this advice is just as relevant, along with other factors. You will need to have considered long-term career aspirations and university courses in which you are interested. Applying for university is more competitive now than ever, and applicants need to be aware of the subject combinations needed to secure course placements before you embark on your Sixth Form studies.

Using this guide marks the beginning of a process of support that is ongoing throughout Year 11. Students at Isleworth & Syon will be interviewed at key points during the academic year to check on your progress and your original choices. After you have read this booklet, we advise that you speak with subject teachers and Curriculum Leaders to clarify any questions that you have related to the courses featured here. Students who are presently in Year 11 at other schools will also have two interview opportunities in the Summer Term. However, you are more than welcome to contact me via email (see below) with any questions that you may have.

Students are also advised to check the Sixth Form webpage on the school's website (www.isleworthsyon.org/sixth-form), which gives a valuable insight into life in the Sixth Form. The 'Curriculum' section of the website contains dedicated pages for each subject; you can find a full list of curriculum areas at www.isleworthsyon.org/subjects.

If you have any other queries about applying to the Sixth Form, please feel free to contact me at the following email address: jdoyle@isleworthsyon.org.



Mr John Doyle
Assistant Headteacher: Sixth Form Leader

Expectations

As a Sixth Former, you will be treated as a young adult. Senior students in school have a responsibility to be role models for younger students. Therefore, we have certain expectations of you that reflect the fact that you are part of a wider community. Our expectations also reflect the school's drive to be 'outstanding in every respect'. This means that Year 12 students will be expected to be in school studying, for the full working day.

Basic Expectations

YOU ARE EXPECTED TO ATTEND EVERY DAY

Casual absence is totally unacceptable, just as it would be for staff! You must register with your tutor in the mornings and attend individual academic mentor meetings in the afternoon. If you are absent, a phone call from a parent/carer is expected on the day of absence and all subsequent days of absence. All contact relating to absence must be with the Sixth Form Study Support & Attendance Officer.

YOU ARE EXPECTED TO BE PUNCTUAL

You cannot be at your best if you are rushing to be on time. It is, of course, discourteous and unacceptable to be late.

YOU MUST USE YOUR TIME EFFECTIVELY

You will find that you have 'study' periods where you will not be in formal lessons. These study periods will need to be used to extend your learning and to help you meet deadlines. You will be expected to complete supervised study sessions in the Sixth Form Study Room.

YOU MUST SIGN THE SIXTH FORM CODE OF CONDUCT

This document outlines what you can expect from us as a school and what we expect from you as students. You need to be happy with all aspects of the agreement before starting at Isleworth & Syon.

YOU MUST BE PRESENTABLE

Sixth Formers are part of the wider school community. Therefore, it is important that you are role models for young students. There is a Sixth Form dress code based on 'business dress' which is strictly adhered to.

YOU MUST NOT STRETCH YOUR TIME OUTSIDE SCHOOL

A part-time job is acceptable (up to 15 hours), but students are required to make sure that the hours are not excessive, as this will inhibit your progress. You should not undertake any outside work during school hours.

YOU MUST JOIN IN!

We want you to get the very most out of your time and in order to do that, we expect you to throw yourself into school life in a positive way! We expect every member of the Sixth Form to get involved in some form of community service.

If you agree to meet these expectations, we are confident you will have a happy and ultimately successful Sixth Form experience - please join us!

Entry Policy for Post-16 Courses

Places at Isleworth & Syon School Sixth Form are available to students from other schools. Applications are therefore welcome from suitably-qualified students. However, in the event of applications exceeding the number of places on a particular course, priority will be given to students who are currently at Isleworth & Syon School, where natural transition to the Sixth Form is an integral part of our 11-19 provision.

Isleworth & Syon is part of a wider consortium of schools in Hounslow. This enables us to offer a wide choice of post-16 options to students.

Exceptional Cases

Each application for a Sixth Form course will be treated on its own merits. There may be exceptional circumstances where the school may decide to let a student onto a course even though they have not met the minimum entry criteria. The school reserves the right to make the final decision on admission.

Class Sizes

Our intention is that there is a maximum class size of 22 in most A Level subjects (18 in some more practical courses). If a class becomes oversubscribed, priority will be given to students who have higher grades at GCSE in the chosen course and who applied early. Late applications may be unsuccessful. Mathematics and science subjects are particularly oversubscribed and therefore require a higher GCSE grade to secure a place on the course.

Application Deadline

All Sixth Form applications must be completed electronically. The online form will go live at **9.00pm on Thursday 3 November 2016**.

More details can be found at www.isleworthsyon.org/sixth-form-application. This page gives a complete guide to the application process, and contains a link to the online form.

The deadline for completing the online form is **9.00am on Friday 27 January 2017**. Applications after this date are received, but considered 'late', which means that it is not possible for us to guarantee course places. Please note that the completion deadline is after the Year 11 mock examinations, in order for students to make realistic and appropriate course applications.

Specific Entry Requirements for GCE Courses

Minimum Entry Requirements

LEVEL 3 COURSES (ADVANCED LEVEL)

General Conditions

- A minimum of a grade B or numerical equivalent* in the intended subject of study (if studied at GCSE) and a B-grade average across GCSE grades studied.
- A good record of attendance and punctuality for Year 11.
- Finally, a good report or reference from your Year 11 Pastoral Leader or Head of Year.

*English and mathematics only

Specific Subject Conditions

ART & DESIGN	Grade B in art.	BIOLOGY	Grade A in science AND Grade A in additional science or Grade A in biology (triple science).
BUSINESS	Grade B in business studies AND grade 6 English Language and mathematics.	CHEMISTRY	Grade A in science AND Grade A in additional science or Grade A in chemistry (due to high demand for places).
DESIGN ENGINEERING, ELECTRONICS	Grade B in design and technology.	DRAMA	Grade B in drama. If you have not taken drama at GCSE, a Grade 6 in English Literature.
ECONOMICS	A Grade 6 in mathematics or a B in economics.	ENGLISH LANGUAGE & LITERATURE	Grade 6 in English Language & Literature.
ENGLISH LITERATURE	Grade 6 in English Language & Literature.	FRENCH	Grade B in French.
FURTHER MATHEMATICS	Grade 7 at the Higher Tier - you must be taking AS Mathematics.	GEOGRAPHY	Grade B in geography.
GOVERNMENT & POLITICS	Grade B in history or Grade 6 in English Language is preferable.	HISTORY	Grade B in history or Grade 6 in English Language (if GCSE History not taken).
MATHEMATICS	Grade 7 in mathematics (due to high demand for places).	MEDIA STUDIES	Grade B in media studies or Grade 6 in English Language.
MUSIC	Grade B in music and grade 5 standard on an instrument.	MUSIC TECHNOLOGY	Performing experience is recommended. Grade B in GCSE Music and Grade C in GCSE Physics are advisable due to the nature of the course.
PHOTOGRAPHY	Grade B in art or photography.	PHYSICAL EDUCATION	Grade B or Merit in GCSE Physical Education or BTEC (Theory based grade) and a Grade B in science(s). See course for further requirements.

PHYSICS	Grade A in science and Grade A in additional science or Grade A in physics AND Grade 6 in mathematics on the Higher Tier paper (due to high demand for places).	PSYCHOLOGY	Grade 5 in English Literature and Language and Grade 6 in Additional Science/Triple Science
SPANISH	Grade B in Spanish.	BTEC LEVEL 3 COURSES	Five GCSE passes at C or above, Level 2 BTEC qualifications at Merit level or above and grade 4 or above in English Language. Specific courses may have additional requirements.

LEVEL 2 COURSES (INTERMEDIATE LEVEL)

To enrol on a Level 2 course, we require:

- A minimum of 5 GCSE passes at E or above;
- A good record of attendance and punctuality for Year 11;
- A good report or reference from your Year 11 Pastoral Leader or Head of Year.

Progression Requirements – Year 12 into 13

Students will take a minimum of three Advanced Level courses in Year 12 and are expected to continue three in Year 13. There are Minimum Entry Requirements for progression onto the second year of study. In general, this will include pass grades (D grade minimum) in the three courses that a student continues into Year 13. BTEC Level 3 students are expected to complete coursework to deadline and to target level.

Additional Guidance: Progression Pathways

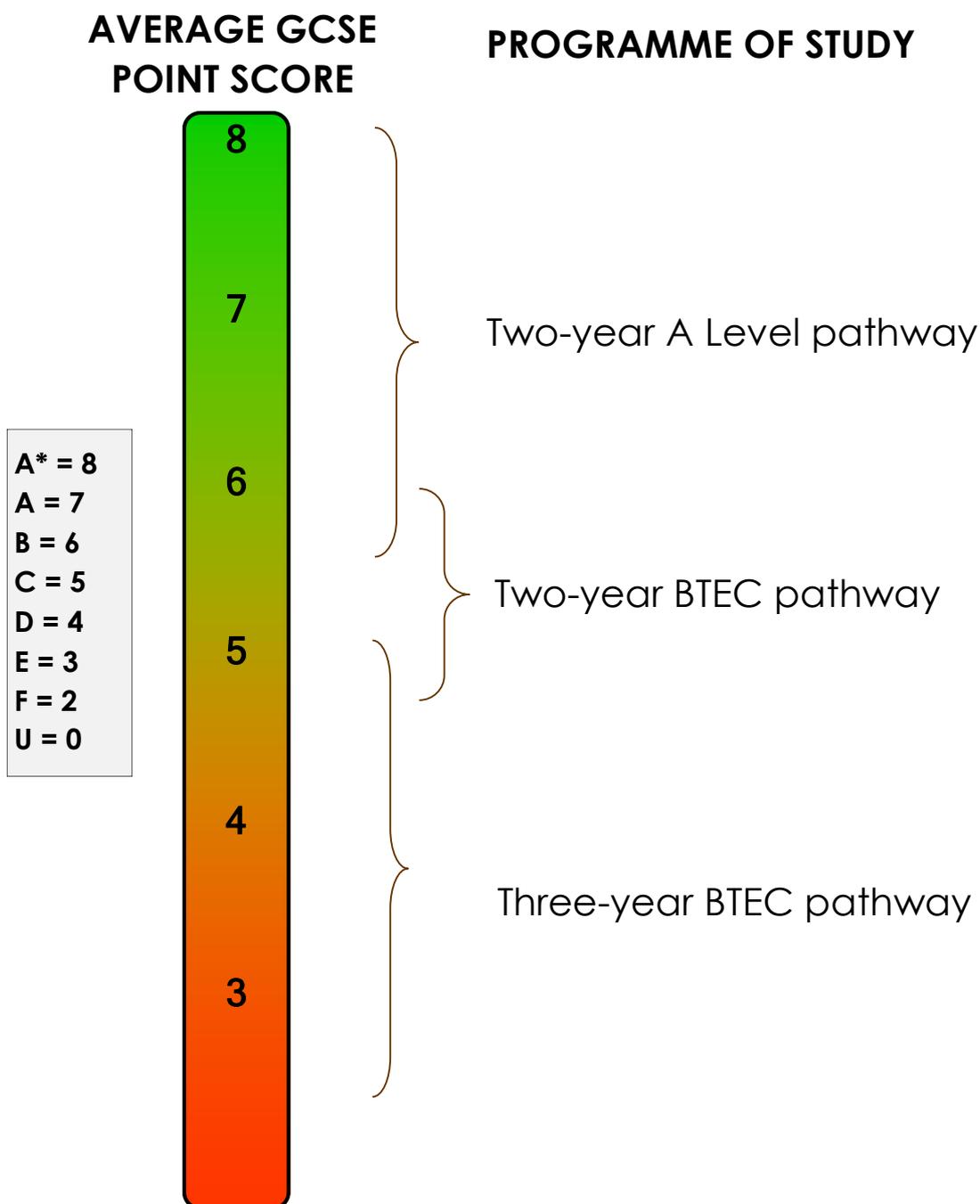
At Isleworth & Syon, we offer a number of progression pathways for post-16 studies. This includes a range of courses suitable for students with different GCSE profiles.

Alongside the traditional two-year A Level route there are BTEC Level 2 and 3 courses such as IT, business studies, performing arts and sport. The table below outlines suggested pathways and the student profile suited to each course or combination of courses.

PATHWAY	GCSE PROFILE	PATHWAY/ DESCRIPTION	SUBJECTS/ COMBINATIONS	QUALIFICATIONS
A	<p>5+ GCSE grades at A*-B</p> <p>Including English and mathematics at Grade 6 or above</p> <p>(B Grade average GCSE point score between 6-8)</p>	<p>2-year traditional A Level pathway</p>	<p>3 traditional A Level subjects taken across Year 12 and 13</p>	<p>3 A Level passes at A*-E</p>
B	<p>5+ GCSE grades at C, including BTEC Level 2 Merits</p> <p>Including English and mathematics at Grade 4 or above</p> <p>(Average GCSE point score between 5-6)</p>	<p>2-year BTEC/ Coursework pathway</p> <p>Level 3 Awards</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business (single/double) • IT (single/double) • Performing arts (single) • Sport (single/double) <p>Courses can be taken in combination.</p> <p>Single awards are equivalent to one A Level; double awards are equivalent to two.</p>	<p>3 A Level equivalent qualifications</p>
C	<p>5 GCSE grades at C - E</p> <p>(Average GCSE point score between 3-5)</p>	<p>3-year BTEC pathway</p> <p>Level 2 BTEC qualification progressing to Level 3 BTEC course after year 1 (students will be required to retake English and mathematics at GCSE if they do not have a grade 4)</p>	<p>Sport or Public Services and Travel and Tourism</p>	<p>4 GCSE grades A*-C</p> <p>Progressing to two or three A Level equivalents in year 3</p>

Average GCSE Points Scores

In addition to the general post-16 entry requirements, students' average GCSE point scores can be used to build a programme of study best suited to their ability, achievement and future aspirations. The table below outlines Average GCSE Point Scores and their linked Pathways. Each application for a Sixth Form course will be treated on its own merits. There may be exceptional circumstances where the school may decide to let a student on to a course even though they have not met the minimum entry criteria. The school reserves the right to make the final decision on admission.



The remainder of this course guide offers information on all of the courses that we offer in the Sixth Form.

A full list of courses is available through the application form.

Please note that all courses will only run if there is enough student interest. If you make a choice and the course does not run, a member of the Sixth Form team will contact you to arrange an alternative.

Art & Design A Level

AQA

Entry Requirements

Grade B in art.

About the Course

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

In art, craft and design, you will have the freedom to work in a wide range of 2D and 3D materials and techniques including: fine art (e.g. drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture, installation, land art, surface design, photography, and digital media), three-dimensional design (e.g. using wood, card, clay, found materials, recycled materials, interior/architectural design, ceramic, set design), and textile design (e.g. constructed-printed-dyed textiles).

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

There are four Assessment Objectives, which are very similar to GCSE Art & Design.

TITLE	ASSESSED BY	MARK BREAKDOWN
Unit 1	Coursework (Personal Investigation) Students produce a portfolio of work including a working journal with 1000-3000-word contextual study which will support the production of a final piece of work. Completed over two terms.	50% of A Level
Unit 2	Externally-set assignment Students respond to a chosen theme in the production of a working journal with supporting studies with a final piece of work completed over 15 hours.	50% of A Level

WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE THIS COURSE?

Art and design subjects allow you to:

- develop your creativity and independent thought;
- learn to express yourself visually;
- let your imagination go wild.

The creative industries generate over 10% of Britain's wealth, and this is increasing at a faster pace than any other sector. The government recognises this and is supporting opportunity like never before. It is one way our nation can out-compete others. Many students go on to take allied higher education courses, then aim to join the world of advertising as graphic designers, illustrators, or typographers, or become painters, sculptors, textile designers, fashion designers or photographers, to name just a few.

IS THERE ANY OTHER INFORMATION THAT I SHOULD KNOW?

The examination boards reward inventive, ground-breaking, mixed media and large-scale work in particular. Candidates choosing to concentrate on a narrow, particular skill (e.g. oil painting) should explore the techniques to a very strong level. You may take more than one art option if you are considering a career in the fine/expressive/fashion/photographic arts.

Biology A Level

AQA

Entry Requirements

Grade A in science **AND** Grade A in additional science **or** Grade A in biology (triple science).

About the Course

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Paper 1

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

Paper 2

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

Paper 3

- Biological Molecules
- Cells
- Organisms exchange substances with their environment
- Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms
- Energy transfers in and between organisms
- Organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments
- Genetics, Populations, evolution and ecosystems
- The control of gene expression

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

TITLE	ASSESSED BY	MARK BREAKDOWN
Paper 1	Written examination - 2 hours	35% of A Level
Paper 2	Written examination - 2 hours	35% of A Level
Paper 3	Written examination - 2 hours	30% of A Level

WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE THIS COURSE?

Students taking A Level Biology usually wish to build on their success at GCSE study, and often plan to study science-based subjects at university; it is a requirement for many university degree courses, including medicine, dentistry, biomedical sciences and physiotherapy. If you are unsure of your plans for university, but know that you simply enjoy this subject, you are equally welcome.

Business A Level

Edexcel

Entry Requirements

Grade B in business studies and Grade 6 English Language and mathematics.

About the Course

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

The A Level Business course offers students dynamic and engaging content that is relevant to today's business world. In addition, it provides students with the opportunity to develop real life skills. There is no coursework in this course. The specification covers:

Theme 1 - Marketing and People

- Meeting customer needs
- The market
- Marketing mix and strategy
- Managing people
- Entrepreneurs and leaders

Theme 2 - Managing Business Activities

- Raising finance
- Financial planning
- Managing finance
- Resource management
- External influences

Theme 3 - Business Decisions and Strategy

- Business objectives and strategy
- Business growth
- Decision-making techniques
- Influences on business decisions
- Assessing competitiveness
- Managing change

Theme 4 - Global Business

- Globalisation
- Global markets and business expansion
- Global marketing
- Global industries and companies

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

TITLE	ASSESSED BY	MARK BREAKDOWN
Paper 1 - Marketing, People and Global Businesses	Written examination - 2 hours	35% of A Level
Paper 2 - Business Activities, Decisions and Strategy	Written examination - 2 hours	35% of A Level
Paper 3 - Investigating Business in a Competitive Environment	Written examination - 2 hours	30% of A Level

WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE THIS COURSE?

Studying business allows you to develop a strong understanding of business organisations and provides you with subject-specific knowledge in areas such as marketing, finance, operations, communication and information technology, and business policy and strategy. Business will help to prepare any student for the world of work and enterprise, and is an excellent basis for a career or university degree course.

Chemistry A Level

AQA

Entry Requirements

Grade A in science **and** Grade A in additional science **or** Grade A in chemistry.

About the Course

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Paper 1 - Particles, Composition of the Nucleus, Isotopes, and Use of Mass Spectrometer

- Calculating the amount of substance
- Ionic, covalent and metallic bonding and intermolecular forces
- The construction of the periodic table
- Organic chemistry
- Alkanes from crude oil

Paper 2 - Collision Theory and Effect

- Definitions of oxidation and reduction
- Redox properties of halogens and halide ions
- The extraction of Metals
- Haloalkanes and alkenes

Paper 3

- Acids and bases
- Nomenclature and Isomerism in organic chemistry
- Compounds containing the carbonyl group
- Amines; base properties and nucleophilic properties
- Polymers
- Organic synthesis and analysis
- Thermodynamics
- Periodicity; reactions of Period 3 elements
- Redox equilibria
- General properties of transition metals

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

A Level Chemistry is assessed through terminal examinations after two years, at the end of Year 13.

TITLE	ASSESSED BY	MARK BREAKDOWN
Paper 1	Written examination - 2 hours	35% of A Level
Paper 2	Written examination - 2 hours	35% of A Level
Paper 3	Written examination - 2 hours	30% of A Level

WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE THIS COURSE?

Chemistry is a fundamental area of scientific enquiry in which you will significantly develop your numeracy and communication skills. It is also a hub subject which is required for a number of professions including veterinary science, medicine, materials science and chemical engineering. This is because of the valuable practical and analytical skills which the course develops.

Design Technology – Design Engineering A Level

WJEC

Entry Requirements

Grade B in design and technology.

About the Course

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Design and technology seeks to develop students' knowledge, understanding, skills and application for designing products. Product design encompasses a wide range of design disciplines but is firmly rooted in the skills required to design and to make high-quality products. Good design is vital to our world and economy; it is important, therefore, that we enthuse future designers with a passion for designing their futures. The design and technology: design engineering course encourages candidates to develop their capacity to design and make products, and to appreciate the complex relations between design, materials, manufacture and marketing. The course will provide you with the opportunity to develop a range of investigative, research, analytical, modelling, and designing and making skills that can be applied when solving problems. The emphasis of the course is on the application of knowledge.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

TITLE	ASSESSED BY	MARK BREAKDOWN
Component 1: Design & Technology in the 21 st Century	Written examination - 2 hours 30 minutes The examination includes a mix of short-answer, structured, and extended writing questions assessing learners' knowledge and understanding.	50% of A Level
Component 2: Design and Make Task	Non-examination assessment (NEA) - 80 hours A sustained design and make task, based on a contextual challenge. Students have the freedom to investigate and use the process of iteration before deciding upon a final design brief.	50% of A Level

WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE THIS COURSE?

As well as helping to develop literacy, numeracy and ICT skills, this course will appeal to those students who have an interest in solving problems. It will allow you to use your creativity and analytical skills in imaginative ways. You will also be able to investigate the rapidly changing ways in which products are designed and manufactured. This course will appeal to those students who have an interest in solving problems through the practical application of electronic, pneumatic and mechanical principles. It will allow you to use your creativity and analytical skills in imaginative ways. Students will also be able to investigate the rapidly changing ways in which products are designed and manufactured.

Drama and Theatre A Level

AQA

Entry Requirements

Grade B in drama. If you have not taken drama at GCSE, a Grade 6 in English Literature.

About the Course

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Students will gain a knowledge and understanding of theatre practice through their own practical exploration of style and form, study of key play texts and practitioners, and through informed analysis of live performance. You will develop performance and/or production skills appropriate to the creation and realisation of drama and theatre.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

TITLE	ASSESSED BY	MARK BREAKDOWN
Unit 1 - Drama & Theatre	Written examination - 3 hours <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section A: one question (from a choice) on one of the set plays representative of Drama through the ages (25 marks) Section B: one two-part question on a given extract from one of the set plays from the 20th and 21st century (25 marks) Section C: one question on the work of theatre-makers in a single live theatre production (30 marks) 	40% of A Level
Unit 2 - Creating Original Drama (Creating Devised Drama and Performing Devised Drama)	<i>Creating Devised Drama</i> Working notebook (2500-3000 words) Students create and develop original devised ideas for performance. Students must elect to work as a performer, lighting designer, sound designer, set designer, costume designer, puppet designer or director. <p style="text-align: center;"><u>AND</u></p> <i>Performing Devised Drama</i> Contribution to Final Performance Students contribute to devised drama in a live theatre context for an audience using elected role.	30% of A Level
Unit 3 - Creating Theatre (Performance of a Key Extract from a Play and Reflective Report)	<i>Performance of a Key Extract from a Play</i> Contribution to Final Performance Students contribute to a performance of a key extract from a play to an audience. Students must elect to work as a performer, lighting designer, sound designer, set designer, costume designer, puppet designer or director. <p style="text-align: center;"><u>AND</u></p> Reflective report (2500 - 3000 words) Students write a reflective report on exploratory work on three extracts from different plays.	30% of A Level

WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE THIS COURSE?

This course is dedicated to the pursuit of excellence in theatre and will allow students to develop and explore lots of performance styles. Britain is a world leader in the performing and creative arts and there are a high number of career options available to those with passion in this area of study.

You will be given the opportunity to experience the best live theatre performances and take advantage of living in one of the most important cities for theatre in the world.

The course allows students to explore all aspects of the arts industry including performance, stage management, costume design and lighting. Students will also deepen their knowledge of theatre and its influential playwrights and practitioners.

IS THERE ANY OTHER INFORMATION THAT I SHOULD KNOW?

- You will be expected to attend at least three theatre visits a year. These incur a cost of approximately £15-20 per visit.
- You are expected to rehearse outside of timetabled lessons.
- You must have excellent attendance and be present at all group rehearsals.

Economics A Level

Edexcel

Entry Requirements

A Grade 6 in mathematics or a B in economics.

About the Course

A Level Economics is designed to enable students to develop an interest in and enthusiasm for the subject. The course is assessed purely with examinations; there are no coursework assignments.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Theme 1: Introduction to Markets and Market Failure

- Nature of economics
- How markets work
- Market failure
- Government intervention

Theme 2: The UK Economy - Performance and Policies

- Measures of economic performance
- Aggregate demand
- Aggregate supply
- National income
- Economic growth
- Macroeconomic objectives and policy

Theme 3: Business Behaviour and the Labour Market

- Business growth and business objectives
- Revenues, costs and profit
- Market structures
- Labour market
- Government intervention

Theme 4: A Global Perspective

- International economics
- Poverty and inequality
- Emerging and developing economies
- The financial sector
- Role of the state in the macro-economy

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

TITLE	ASSESSED BY	MARK BREAKDOWN
Paper 1: Markets & Business Behaviour	Written examination - 2 hours <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Section A: multiple-choice and short-answer questions• Section B: One data response question• Section C: One extended open response question (choice of one from two)	35% of A Level
Paper 2: The National and Global Economy	Written examination - 2 hours Questions drawn from 'Theme 2' and 'Theme 4': <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Section A: multiple-choice and short-answer questions• Section B: one data response question• Section C: one extended open response question (choice of one from two)	35% of A Level
Paper 3: Microeconomics and Macroeconomics	Written examination - 2 hours Two data response questions broken down into a number of parts, each including one extended open response question (choice of one from two for extended open response questions).	30% of A Level

WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE THIS COURSE?

Studying this course will help students to appreciate the contribution of economics to the understanding of the wider economic and social environment. Economics relates to every aspect of our lives, from the decisions we make as individuals or families to the structures created by governments and firms. What determines the prices of goods and services on which we spend our money? How does education affect the lifetime earnings of people? Why do some people earn so much and others so little? How do firms operating in different marketing environments decide what quantities to produce of their products outputs, what prices to charge, and what quantities of labour to employ? By studying economics at A Level, you will gain insight and understanding into how our choices impact each other, the country and the world. Economics is essential to understanding the world in which we live and work.

Electronics A Level

WJEC

Entry Requirements

Grade B in design and technology.

About the Course

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

You will learn about amplifiers, digital systems and power supplies, infrared alarms, and a range of other systems. You will do a project that gives you the opportunity to design and build a circuit of your own choice. For example, popular projects include: MP3 Bass boost amplifiers, Metronomes, and car alarms. The course is supported by means of practical work in nearly every lesson, and computers using state-of-the-art circuit simulation software. This specification acquaints candidates with many of the key fundamentals of electronics, with new content on microcontrollers and video adding to the digital emphasis.

Ability and confidence in the subject are developed by having an emphasis on learning through doing, with straightforward practical work. Practical skills are internally-assessed through a practical project. Students are required to identify a problem, devise a specification for a solution, build and test the solution; and then at the end produce a full evaluation of the system.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

TITLE	ASSESSED BY	MARK BREAKDOWN
Component 1: Principles of Electronics	Written examination - 2 hours 45 minutes A mix of short answer and extended answer questions with some set in a practical context.	40% of A Level
Component 2: Application of Electronics	Written examination - 2 hours 45 minutes A mix of short answer and extended answer questions with some set in a practical context.	40% of A Level
Component 3: Extended System Design and Realisation Tasks	Non-examination assessment (NEA) <ul style="list-style-type: none">Task 1: A design and program task to create a microcontroller system programed in assembler language to solve an identified problem, need or opportunity.Task 2: A substantial integrated design and realisation task to create an electronic system to solve an identified problem, need or opportunity.	50% of A Level

WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE THIS COURSE?

The knowledge and skills acquired through the study of electronics form a sound base not only for taking the subject further, but also for employment in the scientific and technological professions. In addition, by studying this subject, students will encounter techniques and disciplines that are of value in many other subject areas.

The specification applies basic electronic principles and a systems approach in order to lift the lid on many modern electronic systems encountered in everyday life. It reflects up-to-date practice, encourages a safe approach to using electronic systems, and promotes an awareness of the social, economic and cultural impact of electronics.

English Language & Literature A Level

AQA

Entry Requirements

Grade 6 in English Language and Literature.

About the Course

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

The course offers the integrated study of language and literature and covers a wide range of literary and non-literary texts, including the study of the language of speech. Each student is encouraged to develop his or her own personal and critical voice, and is offered a range of opportunities for textual analysis, production and adaptation and creative writing. Comparative analysis is a key aspect of the work.

Paper 1: Telling Stories

- Remembered Places - the representation of place
- Imagined Worlds - point of view and genre in prose
- Poetic Voices - the forms and functions of poetic voice
- Methods of language analysis are integrated into the activities

Paper 2: Exploring Conflict

- Writing about Society - the role of the individual in society, and re-creative writing based on set texts
- Critical commentary - evaluating own writing
- Dramatic Encounters - conflict in drama
- Methods of language analysis are integrated into the activities

Non-Examination Assessment: Making Connections

- Making Connections - investigation on a chosen theme and texts
- Methods of language analysis are integrated into the activity

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Papers 1 and 2 at A Level are externally-assessed examinations. The 'non-examination assessment' is a piece of coursework which is initially marked by your teacher and then moderated by AQA.

TITLE	ASSESSED BY	MARK BREAKDOWN
Paper 1: Telling Stories	Written examination - 3 hours	40% of A Level
Paper 2: Exploring Conflict	Written examination - 2 hours 30 minutes	40% of A Level
Non-Examination Assessment: Making Connections	Personal Investigation task - 2500-3000 words	20% of A Level

WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE THIS COURSE?

Designed with a focus on the integration of language and literature, this specification enables students to see how linguistic and literary methods are related and to explore these links in their work. Offering clear skills progression from GCSE, these courses allow students to build on the skills and knowledge already gained and prepare for their next steps.

The variety of assessment styles used, such as re-creative writing, commentary writing, discursive essays and research-based investigative writing, allows students to develop a wide range of skills. These include the ability to read critically, analyse, evaluate, and undertake independent research, which are invaluable for both further study and future employment.

English Literature A Level

Eduqas

Entry Requirements

Grade 6 in English Language and Literature.

About the Course

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

The course offers the critical study of a range of literary texts including poetry, prose and drama texts from different periods and genres. Students are given some choice as to the text that they are required to study for the coursework unit.

Component 1 - Poetry

Section A: Poetry pre-1900 (open book, clean copy)

One two-part question based on the reading of one pre-1900 poetry text.

Section B: Poetry post-1900 (open book, clean copy)

One question from a choice of two based on the reading of the poetry of Ted Hughes and Sylvia Plath.

Component 2 - Drama

Section A: Shakespeare (closed-book)

One two-part question from a choice of two based on the reading of a Shakespeare play

Section B: Drama (closed-book)

One question from a choice of two based on the reading of a pair of plays: *The Duchess of Malfi* by John Webster and Tennessee Williams' *A Streetcar Named Desire*.

Component 3 - Unseen Texts

Section A: Unseen prose

One question from a choice of two, analysing an unseen passage of prose, taken from one of two prescribed periods for study.

Section B: Unseen poetry

One question from a choice of two, analyzing an unseen poem or poetry extract.

Component 4 - Prose Study

One 2500-3500-word assignment based on the reading of two prose texts from different periods, one pre-2000 and one post-2000.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Three units are assessed by external examinations.

The 'non-examination' assessment is a piece of coursework which is initially marked by your teacher and then moderated by Eduqas.

TITLE	ASSESSED BY	MARK BREAKDOWN
Component 1 - Poetry	Written examination - 2 hours	30% of A Level
Component 2 - Drama	Written examination - 2 hours	30% of A Level
Component 3 - Unseen Texts	Written examination - 2 hours	20% of A Level
Component 4 - Prose Study	Coursework - 2500-3000 words	20% of A Level

WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE THIS COURSE?

This course will appeal to those students who have an interest in reading a wide variety of literature from the past and present. Indeed, in order to prepare thoroughly for Component 3 of this course, candidates will be expected to be willing to read beyond the texts prescribed by the syllabus.

It is a subject that will also appeal to those who enjoy expressing their opinions and justifying their comments on texts. You might opt to study English Literature to keep their options open for further study; English Literature is a popular qualification for entry to a wide range of courses in higher education or for future careers.

Success in this course of study enables you to demonstrate the ability to respond to complex ideas. It is highly regarded by institutes of higher education.

Entry Requirements

B-grade average at GCSE.

About the Course

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

The EPQ is a stand-alone Level 3 qualification which is equivalent to an AS-Level.

You have to:

- Choose a topic to study.
- Complete a production log to document the project process.
- Plan, research and carry out their project.
- Prepare a presentation on the outcome.
- Complete either a 5000-word thesis or create a product accompanied by a 1500-word thesis.

Students at Isleworth & Syon have recently chosen topics and questions such as:

- Why have England only won the football World Cup once? (Sport)
- How close were we to World War Three during the Cuban missile crisis? (History)
- Is it possible to create a professional-style school app using free software? (Computer Science)

The chosen topic can be linked to a subject that students are interested in but should not be part of another syllabus that they are studying. Recently, students have chosen to create filmed documentaries on the rise and influence of Social Networking; a fully-functioning Android app used by the school; computer-animated music videos; and an architect's standard model of a building project as part of the process. As long as the chosen topic meets the assessment criteria, students can choose what they are interested in researching outside of the main curriculum.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

You will be assessed on your ability to manage your project (20%), use appropriate resources from research (20%), develop your product or thesis to completion (40%), and on your ability to review the process (20%).

WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE THIS COURSE?

The EPQ offers opportunities for learners to:

- Have a significant input into the choice and design of an extended project.
- Develop their own learning and performance as critical, reflective and independent learners.
- Develop and apply decision-making and, where appropriate, problem-solving skills.
- Extend their planning, research, critical thinking, analysis, synthesis, evaluation and presentation skills.
- Use their learning experiences to support their personal aspirations for higher education and career development.

The EPQ is highly regarded by many universities as it gives students their first experience of working on a thesis and develops skills needed to complete undergraduate courses.

French A Level

Edexcel

Entry Requirements

Grade B in French.

About this Course

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

This specification is designed to encourage candidates to:

- Develop the knowledge and skills acquired at GCSE level and use the language learned in a wide range of contexts;
- Gain a useful insight into another culture and reflect on aspects of contemporary society;
- Enhance their employment prospects, facilitate foreign travel, and experience the enjoyment and motivation of improving their linguistic level.

You will study the following four themes:

Theme 1: Changes in French Society

- Changes in familial structures (changes of attitudes towards marriage, couples and family)
- Education (the education system and the place of students in the French society)
- The world of work (work life in France and the attitude towards work; the right to strike; gender equality)

Theme 2: Artistic & Political Culture in French-Speaking Countries

- Music (changes and developments; the impact of music on the popular culture)
- Media (freedom of speech; written and online press; impact on society and politics)
- Festivals and traditions (festivals, celebrations, customs and traditions)
- The analysis of a French film or literary text

Theme 3: Immigration and the French Multi-Cultural Society

- Integration and multiculturalism (the origins of immigration from the 20th century onwards; the evolution of political strategies; the advantages and challenges of integration and multiculturalism).
- The rise of the far-right (the objectives of the Front National; the leaders of the Front National; the rise of the Front National; the public opinion)

Theme 4: The Occupation and the Resistance

- The Occupation (life during the Vichy Regime and the authority of the Maréchal Pétain; occupied France and the collaboration; anti-Semitism).
- The Resistance (the French Resistance; the importance of Jean Moulin and Charles de Gaulle).
- The analysis of a French movie and a literary text
- Completion of an Independent Research Project for the speaking examination. The theme of the project does not have to be linked to the themes studied. It should not be based on the literary text or the film studied but can focus on a wider exploration of the author or film-maker of those works studied.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

TITLE	ASSESSED BY	MARK BREAKDOWN
Paper 1: Listening, Reading and Translation	Written examination - 1 hour 50 minutes 64 marks (available in June)	40% of A Level
Paper 2: Written Response to Work, Grammar and Translation	Written examination - 2 hours 40 minutes 48 marks (available in June)	30% of A Level
Paper 3: Speaking	Speaking assessment - 21-23 minutes (inc. 15 minutes' preparation)	30% of A Level

TITLE	ASSESSED BY	MARK BREAKDOWN
	48 marks (available in June)	

WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE THIS COURSE?

Languages are all around us; they are used in so many situations whether at work, on holiday or just casually in day-to-day life given that we live in a multilingual global society. After A Level French, you can:

- Apply to university to study French;
- Combine French with another subject at university e.g. business;
- Take up another language ab-initio at university;
- Work for a company with international links;
- Improve your UCAS application for any subject;
- Feel more confident when travelling abroad for business or pleasure.

IS THERE ANY OTHER INFORMATION THAT I SHOULD KNOW?

Students will be offered the chance to take part in a week-long work experience in France in the industry of their choice. This is a great opportunity to gain experience and to be immersed in the language for an extended period of time.

Geography A Level

Edexcel

Entry Requirements

Grade B in geography.

About the Course

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

The aim of the course is to encourage students to engage critically with real world issues and places, apply their own geographical knowledge, understanding and skills to make sense of the world around them, and to help prepare them to succeed in their chosen pathway. The course addresses key ideas and debates in our world today, such as climate change, globalisation, urban regeneration and management of the world's resources. The focus is on understanding the links between people and their environments, and the questions and issues arising from these topics.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

TITLE	ASSESSED BY	MARK BREAKDOWN
Paper 1	Written examination - 2 hours <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Topic 1: Tectonic Processes and Hazards• Topic 2: Landscape Systems, Processes and Change• Topic 5: The Water Cycle and Water Insecurity• Topic 6: The Carbon Cycle and Energy Security• Topic 7: Climate Change Futures	30% of A Level
Paper 2	Written examination - 2 hours <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Topic 3: Globalisation• Topic 4: Shaping Places• Topic 8: Superpowers• Topic 9: Global Development and Connections	30% of A Level
Paper 3: Synoptic	Written examination - 1 hour 45 minutes <p>The specification contains three synoptic themes within the compulsory content areas: 'Players', 'Attitudes and actions' and 'Futures and uncertainties'.</p> <p>The synoptic investigation will be based on a geographical issue within a place-based context that links to the three synoptic themes and is rooted in two or more of the compulsory content areas.</p>	20% of A Level
Coursework	Written report - 3000-4000 words <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Learner-defined focus• Internally-assessed and externally-moderated	20% of A Level

WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE THIS COURSE?

Choosing geography at school can open the doors to a university degree, either specifically in geography or by combining geography with other A Levels to gain a place on a degree programme in another subject. An A Level in geography is recognised for its academic 'robustness' and, most importantly, it also helps young people into the world of work. We know that this is true because so many employers prize the knowledge and skills that studying geography can provide, be it knowing how the world works, planning research and report writing, working in a team, using new technologies and communication skills - and much more. You will find geographers working in a wide range of jobs - from the City to planning, working in the environment to travel and tourism, or in international charities or retail. Studying geography can help young people achieve careers that are professionally and financially rewarding and also enjoyable.

IS THERE ANY OTHER INFORMATION THAT I SHOULD KNOW?

You will take part in a residential field trip to undertake coursework and collect data. This may be a UK, European or international visit based on learners' coursework choices.

Government and Politics A Level

AQA

Entry Requirements

Grade B in history or Grade 6 in English Language is preferable.

About the Course

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

This course will be delivered by teachers within the humanities department. The A Level Government and Politics specification is designed to encourage students to develop their critical thinking skills and enhance their ability to interpret, evaluate and comment on the nature of politics.

Students acquire knowledge of the structures of authority and power within the political system of the United Kingdom and are encouraged to think and debate more widely about how other political systems may differ.

Modules include:

Unit 1 - People, Politics and Participation

This unit focuses on the theme of political behaviour in the UK. It explores how people's different patterns of participation can be explained and the forms of participation in a democracy. The importance of voting behaviour, the influence of electoral systems in communicating political opinion and the controversies surrounding the use of referendums are crucial topics for analysis.

Unit 2 - Governing Modern Britain

This unit focuses on the process of governing the UK, with power dispersed from local to European levels. The extent to which Britain's unique constitution regulates the process of government and maintains the balance between individual rights and the power of the state is explored. The role of Westminster in providing a democratic element in government is examined as well as the degree to which power rests in the hands of unelected bureaucrats.

Unit 3 - The Politics of the USA

This unit draws comparisons between the UK and the US democratic systems. Students will gain a deep understanding of the political infrastructure of the USA including the electoral process, political parties and voting behaviour amongst American citizens.

Unit 4 - The Government of the USA

This unit looks at the nature and significance of the US Constitution and the framework of government that it lays down. It also considers the powers and functions of the different branches of the US government including the Supreme Court and Congress.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Each module is assessed through a written examination lasting 1 hour 30 minutes. Each module carries 25% weighting.

WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE THIS COURSE?

A Level Government and Politics is a good choice for students considering a career in the professions, or those who simply want to understand how the world works. Politics goes well with economics, history, sociology and English.

Increasingly, art and drama students have enrolled to study government and politics, giving them a broader perspective on the world. This course would particularly suit you if you are considering a career in the media, journalism or law.

History A Level

OCR

Entry Requirements

Grade B in History or Grade 6 in English Language (if GCSE History not taken).

About the Course

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

The aim of this specification is to encourage students to have a broad understanding of the past in addition to being able to study particular historical periods in depth. The course also encourages greater independent historical investigation. In order for students to attain a full A Level, all examinations will be sat at the end of Year 13.

British Period Study

Students will study Britain from 1930-1997 with an in-depth study of Winston Churchill.

The Crusades

Students will look at the crusades and the crusader states in the period 1095-1192.

Thematic Study and historical interpretation

This topic discusses Civil Rights in the USA from 1864-1992.

Topic-based essay

An independently-researched assignment on a topic of each student's choosing.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

TITLE	ASSESSED BY	MARK BREAKDOWN
British Period Study	Written examination - 1 hour 30 minutes	25% of A Level
Non-British Period Study	Written examination - 1 hour	15% of A Level
Thematic Study and Historical Interpretation	Written examination - 2 hours 30 minutes	40% of A Level
Topic-based essay	Written essay - 3000-4000 words	20% of A Level

WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE THIS COURSE?

The intellectual rigour demanded of students studying history at A Level means that it remains one of the most respected subjects by universities. Russell Group universities have identified history as a 'facilitating subject'. This means that it is looked upon very favourably by universities regardless of the course that students are applying for. We therefore encourage students who are still undecided about their future career to strongly consider choosing A Level History.

A history student will be able to demonstrate excellent analytical skills and is adept at presenting ideas in a coherent manner. These are transferable attributes that are attractive to employers in a range of professions. Many history graduates move on to careers in law, journalism, politics and banking.

Mathematics A Level

Edexcel

Entry Requirements

Grade 7 in mathematics.

About the Course

Mathematics is divided into four branches:

Pure Mathematics

When studying Pure Mathematics at A Level, you will be extending your knowledge of such topics as algebra and trigonometry, as well as learning some brand new ideas such as calculus.

While many of the ideas you will meet in Pure Mathematics are interesting in their own right, they also serve as an important foundation for other branches of mathematics, especially mechanics and statistics.

Mechanics

Mechanics deals with the action of forces on objects. It is therefore concerned with many everyday situations; for example, the motion of cars, the flight of a cricket ball through the air, the stresses in bridges, or the motion of the earth around the sun. Such problems have to be simplified or modelled to make them capable of a solution using relatively simple mathematics.

The study of one or more of the Mechanics units will enable you to use the mathematical techniques which you learn in the Core units, to help you to produce solutions to these problems. Many of the ideas that you will meet in the course form an almost essential introduction to such important modern fields of study such as cybernetics, robotics, bio-mechanics and sports science, as well as the more traditional areas of engineering and physics.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Pure Mathematics

This strand provides a bridge to higher mathematics. You will extend your understanding of algebra, an essential requirement for all further mathematical studies. You will also be introduced to the differential and integral calculus which studies changing quantities and is a key to understanding areas from physics to business logistics.

Could you work out annual inflation if prices double in seven years? After studying pure mathematics, you would know how to answer this, and many other practical questions. You would also do some in-depth trigonometry and further your knowledge of the differential and integral calculus. This will take you to the point of being able to understand a wide range of applications of mathematics to real world problems.

You will look at the nature of functions. The graphical representation of functions is covered in some detail. The foundations for advanced trigonometry are laid through the study of a series of important trigonometric formulas and trigonometric identities. Finally, knowledge of the differential calculus is extended, making it possible to differentiate a very wide range of functions.

You will develop an understanding of how to break up expressions into partial fractions. This technique is important for later applications. The other major topics covered includes vectors, the binomial expansion, co-ordinate geometry of the plane, further differentiation, and further integration. The last of these includes using integration to derive some formulas known since GCSE but never proved.

Statistics

Builds on GCSE data handling topics by analysing more detailed and complicated sets of data. Mode, mean, median and range are all developed to a higher level and new concepts are introduced. Scatter graphs and relationships between two variables are also developed to a higher degree. Particular sets of data are investigated and probability is explored in more detail in this module.

Mechanics

Provides the foundations for understanding the mathematics of physical objects both in motion and when static. It is quite unlike anything done at GCSE level and shows you the enormous power of mathematics to answer practical problems. What velocity is required at launch to reach a certain height? What is the greatest angle at which a ladder can be leaned against a wall without slipping? This module will show you how to find the answers.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

TITLE	ASSESSED BY	MARK BREAKDOWN
Paper 1: Pure Mathematics 1	Written examination - 2 hours Covers the following topics: Proof, Algebra and functions, Coordinate geometry in the (x,y) plane, Sequences and series, Trigonometry, Exponentials and logarithms, Differentiation, Integration and Vectors.	33.3% of A Level
Paper 2: Pure Mathematics 2	Written examination - 2 hours Covers the following topics: Proof, Algebra and functions, Coordinate geometry in the (x,y) plane, Sequences and series, Trigonometry, Differentiation, Integration and Numerical Methods.	33.3% of A Level
Paper 3: Statistics and Mechanics	Written examination - 1 hour 45 minutes Covers the following topics: Statistical sampling, Data presentation and interpretation, Probability, Statistical distributions, Statistical hypothesis testing, Quantities and units in mechanics, Kinematics, Forces and Newton's laws and Moments.	33.3% of A Level

WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE THIS COURSE?

Mathematics is a component of higher level studies across a very wide range from obvious areas like science to less obvious ones such as business studies and IT. Mathematics is a challenge but it is also extremely rewarding. You will also begin to appreciate the insights that higher level mathematics brings to many study areas and to social and everyday affairs.

We have been advised by UCL and others that many universities that students will be required to take further mathematics too if they wish to study degree-level mathematics.

Further Mathematics A Level

Edexcel

Entry Requirements

Grade 7 in mathematics.

About the Course

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Further mathematics is a qualification taken in addition to normal A Level Mathematics for those students with a particular interest in the subject and those intending to study a subject with a high mathematical content at university. It has a core of pure mathematics and in addition, three applied units are studied. These include decision mathematics; depending on the amount of students taking this qualification, it may be possible to be flexible over the other applied units studied. For example, in the past, some students have further mechanics and statistics modules.

Students who take further mathematics will cover all of the A Level mathematics syllabus in Year 12. This gives them a solid foundation going in to Year 13 to study the remaining further mathematics content. These examinations are sat at the end of Year 13 leaving pupils with an A Level in both mathematics and further mathematics.

An outline of the content of the course not described in the previous section are given below:

Further Pure Mathematics

This module introduces complex numbers (numbers that include the square root of -1), the numerical solution of equations and coordinate systems (this looks at the maths of the parabola and the hyperbola). The study of matrices is a large part of the unit. New ways of summing series are learned and finally, proof by induction is introduced.

It also covers inequalities, series, first order differential equations, second order differential equations, further complex numbers, Maclaurin and Taylor series. With this material it becomes possible to analyse a very wide range of problems in science and engineering. We will then cover further matrix algebra, vectors, hyperbolic functions, more work on differentiation and integration and finally, further coordinate systems. On completion of this module, students will have a very solid grounding for the study of higher mathematics.

Decision Mathematics

Decision mathematics takes you into new realms. It is unlike anything done at GCSE. You will learn how to pack bins in the most efficient manner, how to work out a postman's best delivery route, how to organize production to maximize profit, and how to take chances with the best outcome of success. These very recent mathematical ideas have a wide range of applications.

Mechanics

Builds on the topics studied in the mechanics component of A Level Mathematics, considering further kinematics of objects moving in a straight line or plane, centres of masses, work and energy, collisions and statics of rigid bodies.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

TITLE	ASSESSED BY	MARK BREAKDOWN
Paper 1: Further Pure Mathematics 1	Written examination - 1 hour 30 minutes Covers the following topics: proof, complex numbers, matrices, further algebra and functions, further calculus and further vectors.	25% of A Level
Paper 2: Further Pure Mathematics 2	Written examination - 1 hour 30 minutes Covers the following topics: complex numbers, further algebra and functions, further calculus, polar coordinates, hyperbolic functions and differential equations.	25% of A Level
Paper 3 and Paper 4	Two written examinations, each lasting 1 hour 30 minutes Two from: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Further Mechanics (moments and impulses, collisions, centres of mass, work and energy, elastic strings and springs)	25% of A Level for each paper

TITLE	ASSESSED BY	MARK BREAKDOWN
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further Statistics (linear regression, discrete statistical distributions, continuous statistical distributions, correlation, hypothesis testing and chi squared tests) • Decision Mathematics (algorithms and graph theory, algorithms on graphs, critical path analysis and linear programming). 	

WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE THIS COURSE?

Further Mathematics helps to lay solid foundations for all Higher Education courses with a mathematical content. This obviously applies to science- and mathematics-based courses but it can extend much further. The mathematics studied in further mathematics is directly applicable to economics and business. The modules covered take the student into very new realms which will be of great interest to all students interested in mathematics for its own sake.

Finally, it is important to note that an increasing number of university courses are now making further mathematics an entry requirement. The material covered is essential knowledge for a wide range of higher education courses, and students who have studied the material in school have a distinct advantage.

Media Studies A Level

AQA

Entry Requirements

Grade C in media studies or Grade 6 in English Language or English Literature.

About the Course

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Media studies is the close scrutiny and deconstruction of a wide range of media texts, ranging from print media, such as magazines, newspapers, advertising, posters and leaflets, to moving texts like films, television, sitcoms, music videos and the news. We will also study new media and explore websites and podcasts, as well as investigating the impact that these emerging technologies have on society and audiences.

As media texts are produced within a constantly-evolving world, in Year 13 you will have to study these texts within their social, cultural, economic or political contexts. Furthermore, they will have to analyse texts within a range of theoretical frameworks. As well as analytical modules, students have the opportunity to create their own original media texts within the print, broadcasting or e-media platforms. Products are developed fully from the research and pre-production stages through to the creation of texts and, finally, the evaluation of the processes and products.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Assessment takes place on a modular basis throughout the two-year course:

TITLE	ASSESSED BY	MARK BREAKDOWN
Component 1: Issues and Debates	Written examination - 2 hours Questions will focus on issues and debates in the media. A theme will be released in advance of the examination. Students will be expected to use any relevant elements of the theoretical framework in order to explore the ideas in the paper.	35% of A Level
Component 2: Close Study Products	Written examination - 2 hours Questions will focus on the analysis of the Close Study Products (CSPs) provided by AQA and other products they have studied.	35% of A Level
Component 3: Non-Examined Assessment (NEA)	Non-Examined Assessment - Creating a Media Product A choice of topics related to the overarching (annually-changing) theme. Students produce: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• a statement of intent• cross-media products made for an• intended audience.	30% of A Level

WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE THIS COURSE?

You should have excellent analytical skills, be able to engage in high level conceptual understanding, employ a wide range of technical terminology and be able to deconstruct an extensive variety of media texts. You need to be interested in exploring the contexts of how and why a media text is made and how it reaches its specific target audience. You should be concerned with the ways in which media institutions represent certain groups of people or places and how they propound and naturalise particular underlying values and ideologies. You should be interested in the world of media communications and how modern technology has an impact on how we learn about the world and receive information.

This subject is a must if you wish to:

- Study media, film, communications or any related topics at university
- Pursue a career in the media or in the field of journalism, public relations, advertising or promotions.

Music A Level

AQA

Entry Requirements

Grade B in music and grade 5 standard on an instrument.

About the Course

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Unit 1 - Listening & Analysing

Students study one piece of music set by the examination board and one contextual understanding study. Through these, you will learn to use a score and identify musical features. Contextual understanding studies include:

- Pop Music
- Music for Media
- Music for Theatre
- Jazz
- Contemporary Traditional Music
- Art Music since 1910

Unit 2: Composing

Students create two compositions using one of the briefs set by the examination board, as well as one free composition.

Unit 3: Performing

Students give one x 10-12-minute program of solo **or** improvisation **or** ensemble **or** all three, showing their instrumental skills to the best of their ability.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

TITLE	ASSESSED BY	MARK BREAKDOWN
Unit 1: Listening and Analysing	Written examination - 2 hours <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Section A: This section will consist of structured listening questions to unfamiliar music, with or without a score.• Section B: You will answer one essay question from a choice of two.• Section C, Contextual Understanding: You will answer one essay question on your chosen historical period.	40% of A Level
Unit 2: Composing	Composition - 2 x 6-8 minutes	25% of A Level
Unit 3: Performing	Performance - 10 -12 minutes	35% of A Level

WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE THIS COURSE?

You will take this subject if you are passionate about music and want an opportunity to gain deeper knowledge of style, context and origin. You will learn to appreciate and wide range of musical genres; this will open the door to any music course that you may wish to study at university.

IS THERE ANY OTHER INFORMATION THAT I SHOULD KNOW?

You must have a strong commitment to performing outside of lessons and to improving your talent through extra peripatetic lessons. The ability to play an instrument to a grade 5 standard is absolutely crucial.

Music Technology A Level

Edexcel

Entry Requirements

Performing experience is recommended. Grade B in GCSE Music and Grade C in GCSE Physics are advisable due to the nature of the course.

About the Course

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

There is a clear emphasis on music technology, without the emphasis on music theory - the qualification includes practical and theoretical elements of music technology which motivate students and reduces the emphasis on music theory that some students struggle with. The content is designed to develop a broad range of skills including project management, appraising and analysis, creativity and imagination. Students will be able to progress to undergraduate study in music technology, sound production, sound engineering and many other courses requiring a similar skill set. Despite an increased examination content, there is a lot of practical elements in the course and there is higher weighting to the examination containing practical elements.

Units Studied

The course is split into 4 units:

- Recording
- Technology-based composition
- Listening and analysing examination
- Producing and analysing examination

Unit 1: Recording

This component assesses students' skills in capturing, editing and mixing sounds to produce an audio recording with increased sensitivity and control. Students will develop the skills to capture and manipulate sounds in corrective and creative ways in order to communicate effectively with listeners.

Students will use technology to explore a range of techniques for capturing, editing and manipulating sound which will help them understand the impact of music technology on creative processes in the studio. They will then produce a completed mix.

Unit 2: Technology based composition

Students' skills in creating, editing and structuring sounds with increased sensitivity and control are assessed, to develop a technology-based composition.

Students will develop the skills to create and manipulate sounds in imaginative and creative ways in order to communicate effectively with listeners. Students will use technology to explore a range of techniques for developing ideas. They will then turn their ideas into completed technology-based compositions.

Students should develop in-depth knowledge and understanding of musical elements and musical language, and apply these, where appropriate, to their own technology-based compositions.

Unit 3: Listening and analysing

Students develop listening and analysing skills through the study of a range of music production techniques used in unfamiliar commercial recordings. The production stages of capture and creating sounds, editing and arranging sounds and mixing will be covered in the examination. This component gives students the opportunity to identify, analyse and evaluate a range of creative music production techniques, as applied to the unfamiliar commercial recordings supplied in the examination.

As well as identifying effects and their associated parameter settings, students will explain the principles behind the choice of the effects heard on each recording, and their sonic character, in a series of written responses. Through the deconstruction and analysis of a final, commercial product, students will expand their knowledge of the recording and production practices associated with a number of historical eras.

Unit 4: Listening and Producing

This component assesses knowledge of the techniques and principles of music technology through a series of written and practical tasks, in the context of audio and MIDI materials provided by Pearson. The production stages of sound creation, audio editing and mixing will be covered.

Students will work with unedited audio and MIDI materials provided by Pearson that have been captured using microphone, DI and sequencing techniques. The examination will assess the ability to process and correct these materials using a range of production skills, culminating in a series of audio bounces/exports for individual instrumental/vocal parts, plus a final stereo mix. Students will refine and combine pre-existing 'ingredients' of a mix to form a convincing final product.

Students will also comment on sonic characteristics of the materials provided, interpreting the underlying theory associated with these as well as justifying decisions they have made in respect of selecting processes and parameters when undertaking the practical tasks.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

TITLE	ASSESSED BY	MARK BREAKDOWN
Unit 1: Recording and Unit 2: Technology- based composition	For each unit: one recording - between 3 and 3½ minutes The recording is chosen from a list of 10 songs provided by the examination board, consisting of a minimum of five compulsory instruments and two additional instruments, released on their website on 1 June in the calendar year preceding the year in which the qualification is to be awarded. Keyboard tracks may be sequenced. Logbook and authentication form must be supplied.	20% of A Level for each of the two units
Unit 3: Listening and Analysing	Written examination - 1 hour 30 minutes This paper comprises two sections (A and B), and all questions are compulsory. One audio CD with the unfamiliar commercial recordings to accompany questions on the paper will be provided per student. Section A: Listening and analysing (40 marks) - four questions, each based on unfamiliar commercial recordings supplied by the examination board (10 marks each). Section B: Extended written responses (35 marks) - two essay questions. One comparison question, which uses two unfamiliar commercial recordings from the CD (15 marks). The second essay uses the final unfamiliar commercial recording on the CD (20 marks).	25% of A Level
Unit 4: Analysing and Producing	Written examination - 2 hours 15 minutes This paper comprises two sections (A and B) and all questions are compulsory. Each student will be provided with a set of audio/MIDI materials for the practical element of the examination, to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • audio files relating to three instrumental/vocal parts. • a single MIDI file from which a fourth instrumental part will be created or synthesised. Students will correct and then combine the audio and MIDI materials to form a completed mix, which may include creating new tracks or parts from the materials provided. Section A: Producing and analysing (85 marks) - five questions related to the audio and MIDI materials provided that include both written responses and practical tasks. Section B: Extended written response (20 marks) - one essay focusing on a specific mixing scenario, signal path, effect or music technology hardware unit.	35% of A Level

WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE THIS COURSE?

Music technology plays a key role in music across the world. This qualification is designed to open up a range of exciting and useful tasks to a wide candidature, and to encourage students to learn about the subject. Students, including those who do not play a traditional instrument, are encouraged to explore their musicality and create original materials using technology. Like its predecessor, this specification retains an emphasis on practical tasks, but it is slimmed down and updated, with all tasks appropriate to styles of music that use music technology. There are many important opportunities in higher education, and many career possibilities for those proficient in handling music technology. The A Level in music technology has been widely accepted by higher education and will continue to provide valuable experience and preparation for students aiming for HE in the subject.

Music technology careers could include work as a:

- sound engineer
- record producer
- teacher.

IS THERE ANY OTHER INFORMATION THAT I SHOULD KNOW?

You must have a strong commitment to the department outside of lessons, including taking part in extra-curricular activities such as the school production and Summer Arts & Technology Evening. Performing experience is not essential but is strongly advised.

Photography

(Lens & Light-Based Media) A Level

Edexcel

Entry Requirements

Grade B in art or photography.

About the Course

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Photography offers opportunities to work in both traditional black and white, and digital media. You will be expected to respond to given briefs and themes, where you must go out on location shoots from which you select, develop and communicate your own ideas. It must be stressed that this is a photography course based on traditional photographic skills building powers of composition and observation, rather than digital imagery and manipulation.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

There are four Assessment Objectives, which are very similar to GCSE Photography and GCSE Art.

TITLE	ASSESSED BY	MARK BREAKDOWN
Unit 1	Coursework (Personal Investigation) Students produce a portfolio of work including a working journal with 1000-3000-word contextual study which will support the production of a final piece of work. Completed over two terms.	50% of A Level
Unit 2	Externally-set assignment Students respond to a chosen theme in the production of a working journal with supporting studies, with a final piece of work completed over 15 hours.	50% of A Level

WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE THIS COURSE?

Art and design subjects allow you to:

- Develop your creativity and independent thought;
- Learn to express yourself visually;
- Let your imagination go wild.

The creative industries generate over 10% of Britain's wealth, and this is increasing at a faster pace than any other sector. Government recognises this and is supporting opportunity like never before. It is one way our nation can out-compete others. Many students go on to take allied Higher Education courses then aim to join the world of advertising as graphic designers, illustrators, or typographers, or become painters, sculptors, textile designers, fashion designers or photographers, to name just a few.

IS THERE ANY OTHER INFORMATION THAT I SHOULD KNOW?

The examination board rewards inventive, ground-breaking, mixed media and large-scale work in particular. Candidates choosing to concentrate on a narrow, particular skill (e.g. darkroom printing) should explore the techniques to a very strong level. You may take more than one art option if you are considering a career in the fine/expressive/fashion/photographic arts. We provide you with a range of cost price materials.

Physical Education A Level

AQA

Entry Requirements

- Grade B in GCSE Physical Education **or** Merit in BTEC (theory-based grade) **and** a Grade B in science(s).
- A keen interest and regular involvement in a range of sports.
- Regular participation in competition at club level sport or above in at least two major sports.

About the Course

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Paper 1: Factors Affecting Participation in Physical Activity and Sport

Section A: Applied Anatomy & Physiology

Students should develop knowledge and understanding of the changes within the body systems prior to exercise, during exercise of differing intensities, and during recovery. Students should be able to interpret data and graphs relating to changes within the musculoskeletal, cardio-respiratory and neuro-muscular systems and the use of energy systems during different types of physical activity and sport, and the recovery process.

Section B: Skill Acquisition

This section focuses on how skill is acquired and the impact of psychological factors on performance. Students should develop knowledge and understanding of the principles required to optimise learning of new, and the development of existing skills. Students should be able to understand and interpret graphical representations associated with skill acquisition theories.

Section C: Sport and Society

Students should develop knowledge and understanding of the interaction between, and the evolution of, sport and society. Students should be able to understand, interpret and analyse data and graphs relating to participation in physical activity and sport.

Paper 2: Factors Affecting Optimal Performance in Physical Activity and Sport

Section A: Exercise Physiology and Biomechanics

Students should understand the adaptations to the body systems through training or lifestyle, and how these changes affect the efficiency of those systems. Students should develop knowledge and understanding of motion and forces, and their relevance to performance in physical activity and sport. Students should have a knowledge and use of biomechanical definitions, equations, formulae and units of measurement and demonstrate the ability to plot, label and interpret biomechanical graphs and diagrams.

Section B: Sport Psychology

In this section, students will develop knowledge and understanding of the role of sport psychology in optimising performance in physical activity and sport.

Students should be able to understand and interpret graphical representations associated with sport psychology theories.

Section C: Sport and Society and Technology in Sport

Students should develop knowledge and understanding of the interaction between, and the evolution of, sport and society and the technological developments in physical activity and sport.

Non-Examination Assessment: Practical Performance in Physical Activity and Sport

Students are assessed as a performer OR coach in the full-sided version of one activity. Student also performs a written/verbal analysis of performance.

Please see the next page for assessment details.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

TITLE	ASSESSED BY	MARK BREAKDOWN
Paper 1: Factors Affecting Participation in Physical Activity and Sport	Written examination - 2 hours 105 marks	35% of A Level
Paper 2: Factors Affecting Optimal Performance in Physical Activity and Sport	Written examination - 2 hours 105 marks	35% of A Level
Practical Performance in Physical Activity and Sport	Internal assessment, external moderation 90 marks	30% of A Level

WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE THIS COURSE?

Physical Education is a multi-disciplinary A Level. It combines biology, psychology, sociology, practical sport and history in one subject under the umbrella of physical activity, sport and performance. It can lead to many career paths. These include:

- Sports Science
- Physiotherapy
- Nutritionist
- Teaching
- Leisure management
- Coaching

IS THERE ANY OTHER INFORMATION THAT I SHOULD KNOW?

The course is both practical and theoretical in nature. Time will need to be spent on developing theoretical knowledge for the examination parts, but also on developing high quality practical skills for the internally-assessed practical unit. This will also include a written assessment and a live recorded verbal assessment of a performance of someone playing in the candidate's chosen sport.

Physics A Level

AQA

Entry Requirements

- Grade A in science **and** Grade A in additional science **or** Grade A in Physics
- Grade 5 in mathematics on the Higher Tier paper

About the Course

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Paper 1

- Uncertainties and errors
- Constituents of the atom; stable and unstable nuclei; particles; antiparticles, photons, the quark model
- Energy levels and photons, wave-particle duality
- Waves, superposition, stationary waves, refraction, diffraction, interference
- Scalars/vectors, moments, motion in a straight line, projectile motion, Newton's laws, momentum, work, energy, power
- Materials
- Electricity including electrical quantities, resistivity, circuits and components, potential dividers
- Circular motion, simple harmonic motion, forced vibrations, resonance.

Paper 2

- Thermal physics
- Ideal gases, molecular kinetic theory
- Gravitational fields, orbits and satellites
- Electric fields
- Capacitors
- Magnetic fields, electromagnetic induction, alternating currents, transformers
- Rutherford scattering, radioactivity, mass and energy, induced fission

Paper 3

- Practical skills and data analysis
- Optional topic: astrophysics, medical physics, engineering physics, turning points in physics, electronics

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

A Level Physics is assessed through terminal examinations after two years, at the end of Year 13.

TITLE	ASSESSED BY	MARK BREAKDOWN
Paper 1	Written examination - 2 hours	34% of A Level
Paper 2	Written examination - 2 hours	34% of A Level
Paper 3	Written examination - 2 hours	32% of A Level

WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE THIS COURSE?

Students taking physics at A Level usually wish to build on their success at GCSE study, and often plan to study science-based subjects at university; it is a requirement for many university degree courses, including subjects such as engineering and computer science. Students that are unsure of their plans for university, but know that they simply enjoy this subject, are equally welcome.

Psychology A Level

AQA

NOTE: THIS COURSE WILL BE ORGANISED AND RUN BY BRENTFORD SCHOOL FOR GIRLS.

Entry Requirements

- Minimum GCSE Grade 5 in English Literature and Language
- Minimum GCSE grade 6 in Additional Science/Triple Science

About the Course

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Psychology is the study of human behaviour. You will learn about specific behaviours and the theory behind why we do what we do. You will also explore and discuss research into human behaviour. The course aims to develop a critical understanding of concepts, theories and methods within psychology. It also teaches you how to apply psychological explanations to contemporary human behaviour. Psychology students often also study Sociology, Health & Social Care, Biology, English and Sports Studies.

You will enjoy this course if you want to study a subject that:

- Involves the study of theory, empirical evidence and practical applications
- Challenges you to think independently
- Develops how you view the world around you from different perspectives
- Teaches you how to plan and conduct scientific investigations
- Teaches you how to interpret and analyse data
- Develops your critical reasoning skills
- Develops your skills of evaluation, interpretation and analysis
- Provides a varied approach to your studies - teacher and student-led presentations, discussion, note taking, essay writing, individual and group research
- Teaches you to organise and present theories, models and psychological research in a clear way

Paper 1

- Memory
- Social Influence
- Attachment

Paper 2

- Approaches in Psychology - including Biopsychology
- Psychopathology - phobias, OCD, depression
- Psychological Investigations- Research Methods

Paper 3

- Issues and debates in Psychology - Gender Bias; Culture Bias; Free Will v Determinism; Nature-Nurture, Ethical Issues, Reductionism v Holism
- Relationships
- Schizophrenia
- Aggression

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

TITLE	ASSESSED BY	MARK BREAKDOWN
Paper 1: Introduction Topics in Psychology	Written examination - 2 hours	33.3% of A Level
Paper 2: Psychology in Context	Written examination - 2 hours	33.3% of A Level
Paper 3: Issues and Options in Psychology	Written examination - 2 hours	33.3% of A Level

WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE THIS COURSE?

Psychology has links with many disciplines including biological, computer and forensic science as well as humanities such as sociology, philosophy, anthropology and even literature. This course is for students who wish to pursue a career in pharmaceuticals, medicine, law, the caring services, marketing, or business.

Spanish A Level

Edexcel

Entry Requirements

Grade B in Spanish.

About this Course

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

This specification is designed to encourage you to:

- Develop the knowledge and skills acquired at GCSE level and use the language learned in a wide range of contexts;
- Gain a useful insight into another culture and reflect on aspects of contemporary society;
- Enhance your employment prospects, facilitate foreign travel, and experience the enjoyment and motivation of improving your linguistic level.

Theme 1: Changes in Spanish Society

- Changes in familial structures (changes of attitudes towards marriage, couples and family)
- The impact of tourism (economic impact, the opportunities offered by tourism, the impact of society)
- The world of work (work life in Spain and the attitude towards work; work and young people, gender equality)

Theme 2: Artistic and Political Culture in Spanish-Speaking Countries

- Music (changes and developments; the impact of music on the popular culture)
- Media (TV; written and online press; impact on society and politics)
- Festivals and traditions (festivals, celebrations, customs and traditions)
- The analysis of a Spanish film or literary text.

Theme 4: Immigration & the Spanish Multi-Cultural Society

- Historical and contemporary immigration (the origins of immigration; The Muslim population in Andalusia; the influence of immigrants from North Africa and Latin America)
- Integration and multiculturalism (the advantages and challenges of multiculturalism; the attitudes towards immigrants)

Theme 4: Franco's Dictatorship and the Transition to a Democracy

- Franco's dictatorship (The Civil War and the rise of Franco, everyday life under Franco: political oppression, censorship, the divisions in society)
- The transition to a democracy (The role of the King Juan Carlos, Suarez' government, the impact of the dictatorship in today's society)
- The analysis of a Spanish movie and a literary text (one of them studied in AS)
- Completion of an Independent Research Project for the speaking exam. The theme of the project does not have to be linked to the themes studied. It should not be based on the literary text or the film studied but can focus on a wider exploration of the author or film-maker of those works studied.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

TITLE	ASSESSED BY	MARK BREAKDOWN
Paper 1: Listening, Reading and Translation	Written examination - 1 hour 50 minutes 64 marks (available in June)	40% of A Level
Paper 2: Written Response to Work, Grammar and Translation	Written examination - 2 hours 40 minutes 48 marks (available in June)	30% of A Level
Paper 3: Speaking	Speaking assessment - 21-23 minutes (including 15 minutes' preparation) 48 marks (available in June)	30% of A Level

WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE THIS COURSE?

Languages are all around us; they are used in so many situations whether at work, on holiday or just casually in day-to-day life given that we live in a multilingual global society. After A Level Spanish, you can:

- Apply to university to study Spanish;
- Combine French with another subject at university e.g. business;
- Take up another language ab-initio at university;
- Work for a company with international links;
- Improve your UCAS application for any subject;
- Feel more confident when travelling abroad for business or pleasure.

Level 3 National Diploma in Business BTEC

Edexcel

Equivalent to two A Levels

About the Course

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

The BTEC Level 3 Diploma in Business is ideal if you are more suited to coursework-based qualifications. (Please note, however, that there are still external assessments that you have to undertake, but they do not contribute to 100% of your final grade.) You will study eight units, of which three are externally-examined. The qualification supports progression to higher education. For students who intend to go straight into employment or the business sector, this course will equip you with the necessary knowledge and skills.

Compulsory Units Covered

The six core units for the subsidiary diploma give learners an introduction to, and understanding of, the business environment, management of resources, marketing, and communication - all fundamental to the success of any business organisation.

Unit 1: Exploring Business

In this introductory unit, learners study the purposes of different businesses, their structure, the effect of the external environment, and how they need to be dynamic and innovative to survive.

Unit 2: Developing a Marketing Campaign

During this externally-assessed unit, learners will gain skills to and an understanding of how a marketing campaign is developed.

Unit 3: Personal and Business Finance

In this externally-assessed unit, learners study the purpose and importance of personal and business finance. You will develop the skills and knowledge needed to understand, analyse and prepare financial information.

Unit 4: Managing an Event

Learners will work as part of a small group to plan, co-ordinate and manage a business or social enterprise event and evaluate the skills gained.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

This subject is based on 60% coursework and 40% external assessments (one written and timed examination lasting two hours, and two timed controlled assessment-style tasks).

WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE THIS COURSE?

If you feel you want to study business studies but you do not want the pressure of 100% external examinations, BTEC Level 3 in Business would be suitable for you. The content of the course has been designed to ensure you are able to progress to higher education and is also ideal if you intend to go straight into the business sector or employment after Sixth Form.

Unit 5: International Business

Learners study how UK businesses develop strategies to trade globally. Learners will also consider the factors that influence the implementation of these strategies.

Unit 6: Principles of Management

This externally-assessed unit enables learners to understand how the role of management and leadership in the workplace contributes towards business success.

Additional Units Covered

In addition to the six mandatory units, students studying the BTEC Business Level 3 Diploma will also complete two additional units:

Unit 8: Recruitment and Selection Process

Learners explore how the recruitment process is carried out in a business. The unit offers the opportunity to participate in selection interviews and review performance.

Unit 23: The English Legal System

Learners will examine how the English Legal system operates to resolve criminal and civil cases, and why businesses and individuals may require legal advice and representation.

Level 3 Diploma in Information Technology BTEC

Edexcel

Equivalent to two A Levels

Entry Requirements

Grade B in GCSE English Language.

About the Course

The qualification is designed to be studied over two years and carries UCAS tariff points. It meets entry requirements in its own right for some courses in information technology or related study such as an HNC or HND in Computing, Engineering or Business Management. For progression to a degree course, students should normally study this qualification alongside other qualifications, such as an A level or BTEC Extended Certificate in a different or complementary subject area. It is an ideal qualification to take where IT is the main interest of the student, but allows time in a study programme for another Level 3 qualification, which will support progression to a range of higher education courses.

Students will achieve a double Distinction*, Distinction, Merit or Pass award. These grades have the equivalent UCAS tariff points to two A-Levels at Grade A*, A, C or E. From the central bank of twenty units, candidates must achieve eight units to gain the full qualification. Of the eight units required, six units are mandatory (i.e. prescribed by Edexcel and must be achieved by all candidates taking this qualification). The remaining two units can be chosen from a list of optional units. Isleworth & Syon School will select the optional units which it can offer.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Mandatory Units

All of the units below must be passed towards achieving this qualification:

- Unit 1 - Information Technology Systems
- Unit 2 - Creating Systems to Manage Information
- Unit 3 - Using Social Media in Business
- Unit 4 - Programming
- Unit 9 - IT Project Management
- Unit 11 - Cyber Security and Incident Management

Optional Units

- Unit 5 - Data Modelling
- Unit 6 - Website Development
- Unit 7 - Mobile Apps Development
- Unit 8 - Computer Games Development
- Unit 10 - Big Data and Business Analytics
- Unit 12 - IT Technical Support and Management
- Unit 13 - Software Testing
- Unit 15 - Customising and Integrated Applications
- Unit 16 - Cloud Storage and Collaboration Tools
- Unit 17 - Digital 2D and 3D Graphics
- Unit 18 - Digital Animation and Effects
- Unit 19 - The Internet of Things
- Unit 20 - Enterprise in IT
- Unit 21- Business Process Modelling Tools

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Students will study eight units, of which four are externally-assessed through a written examination and practical tasks. The remaining four units are internally-assessed. Internal assessment will take many forms; students will have to make presentations, complete reports and develop information systems. Each unit is graded U, N, Pass, Merit or Distinction. Candidates will also receive a full award certificate giving the qualification title with the overall grade awarded. Each full award will have an overall grade of Pass, Merit, Distinction or Distinction* allocated depending on a candidate's achievements at unit level.

WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE THIS COURSE?

This qualification is typically aimed at young people aged 16-19 in full-time further education who are seeking a career in IT or wishing to further their studies at Level 3 of the National Qualifications Framework. The content of the new BTEC Nationals has been developed in collaboration with employers and representatives from higher education and relevant professional bodies. The content is up to date and includes the knowledge, understanding, skills and attributes required in the sector.

It is suitable for those studying in preparation for employment in the Information Technology sector, particularly in job roles where they will be expected to use IT skills and liaise with users. This qualification is also suitable for those wishing to gain a Level 3 qualification to support further study in further and higher education.

Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Information Technology BTEC

Edexcel

Equivalent to one A Level

Entry Requirements

Grade 6 in GCSE English Language.

About the Course

This qualification is designed for students who are interested in an introduction into the study of creating IT systems to manage and share information alongside other fields of study, with a view to progressing to a wide range of higher education courses. The content has been developed in consultation with academics to ensure that it incorporates the most up-to-date knowledge and skills to enable progression to higher education. In addition, employers and professional bodies have been consulted on the content development to confirm its relevance to current industry practice used in IT and related occupational disciplines.

You will achieve a Distinction*, Distinction, Merit or Pass award. These grades have the equivalent UCAS tariff points to achieve one A Level at Grade A*, A, C or E. From the central bank of eight units, candidates must achieve four units to gain the full qualification. Of the four units required, three units are mandatory (i.e. prescribed by Edexcel and must be achieved by all candidates taking this qualification). The remaining one unit can be chosen from a list of optional units. Isleworth & Syon School will select the optional units which it can offer.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Mandatory Units

All of the units below must be passed towards achieving this qualification:

- Unit 1 - Information Technology Systems
- Unit 2 - Creating Systems to Manage Information
- Unit 3 - Using Social Media in Business

Optional Units

- Unit 4 - Programming
- Unit 5 - Data Modelling
- Unit 6 - Website Development
- Unit 7 - Mobile Apps Development
- Unit 8 - Computer Games Development

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

You will study four units, of which two are externally-assessed through a written examination and a practical task. The remaining two units are internally-assessed. Internal assessment will take many forms; students will have to make presentations, complete reports and develop information systems.

Each unit is graded U, N, Pass, Merit or Distinction. Candidates will also receive a full award certificate giving the qualification title with the overall grade awarded. Each full award will have an overall grade of Pass, Merit, Distinction or Distinction* allocated depending on your achievements at unit level.

WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE THIS COURSE?

This qualification is typically aimed at young people aged 16-19 in full-time further education who are seeking a career in IT or wishing to further their studies at Level 3 of the National Qualifications Framework.

It is suitable for those studying in preparation for employment in the Information Technology sector, particularly in job roles where they will be expected to use IT skills and liaise with users. This qualification is also suitable if you wish to gain a Level 3 qualification to support further study in further and higher education.

Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Performing Arts BTEC

Edexcel

Equivalent to one A Level

Entry Requirements

You should have achieved at least five C grades at GCSE, including English, mathematics and drama GCSE, **or** achieved a Merit in the Level 2 Diploma in Performing Arts **plus** the required basic entry grades.

About the Course

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

The BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Performing Arts broadens and expands the specialist work-related focus from our Key Stage 4 courses. The qualification is suitable for students who wish to enter a particular area of work in this sector, or want to go on to study drama at university/drama school. It is also a useful complimentary subject to other areas of study.

The four units (three compulsory and one optional) cover a broader range of vocational and academic areas such as classical and contemporary play texts, current and historical practices in theatre, vocal and physical technique, performing to camera and a range of audience types, and interview, presentation and audition technique. You will work on both written and practical pieces of work. A professional ethos will be applied to all work to underpin the vocational element of the course.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

This course is 40% internally-assessed and 60% externally-assessed. Assessment is multi-disciplinary with written tasks in controlled conditions, rehearsal and performance all part of the final grade received.

WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE THIS COURSE?

If you have an interest in any area of the performing arts industry, this is an ideal course at this level. The creative arts industry is one of the most significant contributors to the national economy and there are a high number of career paths to pursue in this area. The course has proved itself to be an excellent platform to further training and education.

Recent alumni have secured places at illustrious drama schools such as RADA, LAMDA and Bristol Old Vic, as well as high-profile universities, and have been invited to join several of the more prestigious youth theatre companies in the country. If you are a learner who prefers continuous assessment rather than examinations, this course will support your preferred style of learning.

IS THERE ANY OTHER INFORMATION THAT I SHOULD KNOW?

There will be some extra costs associated with participation on this course, mainly in the form of theatre tickets. These extra-curricular events perform a core part of the learning. Students will also be expected to purchase a pair of plain black tracksuit bottoms and a plain white t-shirt for their practical sessions.

Level 3 Cambridge Technical Extended Diploma in Sport and Physical Activity BTEC

OCR

Equivalent to three A Levels

Entry Requirements

Grade B or Merit in GCSE physical education or BTEC **and/or** a Grade B in science(s). A keen interest in sport is also crucial as is a willingness to represent and contribute to the school's sporting teams.

About the Course

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Year 12

You will study nine modules including:

- Body systems and the effects of physical activity
- Sports coaching and activity leadership
- Working safely in sport, exercise, health and leisure
- Sports organisation and development
- Performance analysis in sport and exercise
- Sports injuries and rehabilitation
- Practical skills in sport and physical activities

Through this course, you are also given the opportunity to complete at least one NGB coaching qualification, a First Aid qualification, and work with children from both Isleworth & Syon and local primary schools.

Year 13

You will take seven modules including:

- Nutrition and diet for sport and exercise
- Sport and exercise psychology
- Research methods in sport science and sport studies
- Physical activity for specific groups
- Improving fitness for sport and physical activity

Students also get the opportunity to gain a coaching/refereeing/officiating qualification(s).

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Students take 16 units, of which five are externally-assessed via online test/examination and assignment. Internal assessment will take many forms; you will be required to make presentations, complete assignments, produce posters, and make videos.

WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE THIS COURSE?

If you have a keen interest in sport and would like to study sport at university, or perhaps work in the leisure industry, this qualification will give you an ideal start. This course also gives students the opportunity to earn money as sports coaches in local primary schools and sports camps.

IS THERE ANY OTHER INFORMATION THAT I SHOULD KNOW?

Candidates should have achieved at least four GCSE passes including English, mathematics and physical education. The course is equivalent to three A Levels. There will be some extra costs associated with participation on this course (for example, additional coaching awards) but it is hoped that these will be kept to a minimum. Students will also be expected to purchase sports kit for their practical sessions.

Level 3 Cambridge Technical Diploma in Sport and Physical Activity BTEC

OCR

Equivalent to two A Levels

Entry Requirements

Grade B or Merit in GCSE physical education or BTEC **and/or** a Grade B in science(s). A keen interest in sport is also crucial as is a willingness to represent and contribute to the school's sporting teams.

About the Course

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Year 12

You will take seven modules including:

- Body systems and the effects of physical activity
- Sports coaching and activity leadership
- Working safely in sport, exercise, health and leisure
- Sports organisation and development
- Performance analysis in sport and exercise
- Sports injuries and rehabilitation

Students are also offered the opportunity to complete at least one NGB coaching qualification, a First Aid qualification, and work with children from both Isleworth & Syon and local primary schools.

Year 13

Students take seven modules including:

- Nutrition and diet for sport and exercise
- Sport and exercise psychology
- Research methods in sport science and sport studies
- Physical activity for specific groups

Students also get the opportunity to gain a coaching/refereeing/officiating qualifications.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Students take 14 units, of which three are externally-assessed via online test/examination and assignment. Internal assessment will take many forms; students will have to make presentations, complete assignments, produce posters, and make videos.

WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE THIS COURSE?

If you have a keen interest in sport and would like to study sport at university, or perhaps work in the leisure industry, this qualification will give you an ideal start. This course also gives students the opportunity to earn money as sports coaches in local primary schools and sports camps.

IS THERE ANY OTHER INFORMATION THAT I SHOULD KNOW?

Candidates should have achieved at least four GCSE passes including English, mathematics and physical education. The course is equivalent to two A Levels and can be taken with other Level 3 qualifications. There will be some extra costs associated with participation on this course (for example, additional coaching awards) but it is hoped that these will be kept to a minimum. Students will also be expected to purchase sports kit for their practical sessions.

Level 3 Cambridge Technical Extended Certificate in Sport & Physical Activity BTEC

OCR

Equivalent to one A Level

Entry Requirements

Grade B or Merit in GCSE physical education or BTEC **and/or** a Grade B in science(s). A keen interest in sport is also crucial as is a willingness to represent and contribute to the school's sporting teams.

About the Course

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Year 12

Students will take three modules:

- Body systems and the effects of physical activity
- Sports coaching and activity leadership
- Working safely in sport, exercise, health and leisure

Students also get the opportunity to complete at least one NGB coaching qualification, a First Aid qualification, and work with children from both Isleworth & Syon and local primary schools.

Year 13

You will study three modules:

- Sports injuries and rehabilitation
- Practical skills in sport and physical activities
- Organisation of sports events

Students also get the opportunity to gain a coaching/refereeing/officiating qualifications.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Students take 6 units, of which three are externally-assessed via online test/examination and assignment. Internal assessment will take many forms; you will have to make presentations, complete assignments, produce posters, and make videos.

WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE THIS COURSE?

If you have a keen interest in sport and would like to study sport at university, or perhaps work in the leisure industry, this qualification will give you an ideal start. This course also gives students the opportunity to earn money as sports coaches in local primary schools and sports camps.

IS THERE ANY OTHER INFORMATION THAT I SHOULD KNOW?

Candidates should have achieved at least four GCSE passes including English, mathematics and physical education. The course is equivalent to one A Level and can be taken with other Level 3 courses. In addition, there is also the possibility that this course can be completed in one year, subject to timetabling.

There will be some extra costs associated with participation on this course (for example, additional coaching awards) but it is hoped that these will be kept to a minimum. Students will also be expected to purchase sports kit for their practical sessions.

Level 2 First Award in Sport BTEC

Edexcel

Equivalent to one GCSE

About the Course

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

The BTEC Level 2 First Award in Sport is a vocational qualification with an emphasis upon applied learning. This means that students will learn key information and then have to apply it to day-to-day situations.

The course consists of four modules, one of which is assessed via online test. The other three modules are completed via coursework tasks and practical assessments. Modules on the course include:

- Fitness for Sport and Exercise
- Practical Sports Performance
- Training for Personal Fitness
- Leading Sports Activities

It is crucial that students considering this option have an interest in both learning about, and playing, sport.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

- One onscreen external examination, lasting one hour.
- Three modules assessed via Coursework/Practical.

WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE THIS COURSE?

This option is usually taken by students resitting GCSE English and/or mathematics. This course is excellent preparation for the Level 3 OCR Sport option, and is equivalent to one GCSE.

Level 2 First Award in Public Services BTEC

Edexcel

Equivalent to one GCSE

About this Course

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

The BTEC Level 2 First Award in Public Services is a vocational qualification with an emphasis upon applied learning. This means that students will learn key information and then have to apply it to day-to-day situations.

The course consists of four modules, one of which is assessed via online test. The other three modules are completed via coursework tasks and practical assessments. Modules on the course include:

- The Role and Work of the Public Services (Online)
- Working Skills in the Public Service Sector
- Employment in the Public Services
- Health, Fitness, and Lifestyle for the Public Services

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

- One onscreen external examination, lasting one hour.
- Three modules assessed via coursework/practical.

WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE THIS COURSE?

This option is usually taken by students resitting GCSE English and/or mathematics. This course is excellent preparation for Level 3 courses, and is equivalent to one GCSE.

This course must be taken in conjunction with the Level 2 First Award in Travel & Tourism BTEC (see next page).

Level 2 First Award in Travel & Tourism BTEC

Edexcel

Equivalent to one GCSE

NOTE: THIS COURSE WILL BE ORGANISED IN COLLABORATION WITH BRENTFORD SCHOOL FOR GIRLS.

About this Course

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

The BTEC Level 2 First Award in Travel & Tourism is a vocational qualification with an emphasis upon applied learning. This means that students will learn key information and then have to apply it to day-to-day situations.

The course consists of four modules, one of which is assessed via online test. The other three modules are completed via coursework tasks and practical assessments. Modules on the course include:

- The UK Travel and Tourism Sector (Online)
- UK Travel and Tourism Destinations
- International Travel and Tourism Destinations
- Factors Affecting Worldwide Travel and Tourism

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

- One onscreen external examination, lasting one hour.
- Three modules assessed via coursework.

WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE THIS COURSE?

This option is usually taken by students resitting GCSE English and/or Mathematics. This course is excellent preparation for Level 3 courses, and is equivalent to one GCSE.

This course must be taken in conjunction with the Level 2 First Award in Public Services BTEC (see previous page).



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