

sixth form

SUBJECTS



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Arabic

KEY FACTS

Examining Board: Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Level

Syllabus/Code: YAA01

Course Summary

Students are required to study two works from a prescribed list of texts; summarise information from spoken and written sources in writing; develop independent research skills; undertake a task integrating the skills of listening, reading and writing; translate from and into Arabic.

Students will be required to develop as independent researchers through the study of language. Students are required to understand social, political and cultural themes, relating to the Arabic language, culture and communities. This will enable students to gain a deeper understanding of the culture related to their language of study and ensure smooth progression to further study.

They will study four themes:

Theme 1: Changes in Arab society

Theme 2: Artistic culture in the Arab world

Theme 3: Work and citizenship in the Arab world

Theme 4: Political culture in the Arab world

Career Pathways/Key Skills Developed

Studying Arabic will give students the opportunity to learn how to communicate in Arabic in Dubai, the UAE and the other Arabic countries. Students will also learn more about the Arabic civilisation and culture. Choosing GCE Arabic will also provide students with the chance to develop their language skills and improve their written skills.

Why Choose Arabic?

Developed in consultation with practitioners and students, the A level in Arabic qualification rewards A level Arabic language skills and knowledge through student focused assessment.

With appealing content and opportunities to gain greater understanding of other cultures, it will prepare students to become well informed and effective communicators in the Arabic language.

Name	Assessment Type	Weighting
Paper 1	Translation into English, reading comprehension and written (research question)	40%
Paper 2	Translation into the target language and written response to works	30%
Paper 3	Listening, reading and writing	30%

Art: Fine Art

KEY FACTS
Examining Board: Edexcel

Syllabus/Code: 9FA0

Course Summary

A level Fine Art is taught as a linear two-year course. During the course you will have the opportunity to develop personally driven projects under the guidance of your teachers. For each project, you will be expected to complete comprehensive research work, recording and developing your ideas, exploring media, refining your skills and linking your ideas to other artists and designers. You will be introduced to a range of media in order to explore your strengths and preferences.

There are a wide range of media options that you may choose to work in, such as painting, printing, sculpture, textiles and photography. The main aim of the course is to develop your visual language skills and conceptual awareness towards presenting in a final exhibition.

A level Art is divided into distinct phases:

Foundation Project: From September to December of Year 12, students will work on a ‘foundation project’. This is designed to aid a smooth transition from GCSE to A level. This project can also contribute to the coursework component if completed to an advanced standard.

Unit 1 (NEA): From January in Year 12 students will work on the main NEA unit 1. This component will be assessed by your teachers and the feedback should provide an opportunity to refine the work further. For A level Fine Art, this unit makes up 60% of the overall grade. Please note that the A level art unit 1 also contains an academic written study of between 1000-3000 words, consisting of in-depth artist research. This constitutes 12% of the total qualification.

Unit 2 (NEA) Externally Set Assignment : From February of Year 13, A level students will work on a new project, the externally set assignment (ESA). For this you will have eight weeks of preparation followed by an examination. The theme for this project is normally broad and set by the examination board. There is a 15-hour timed test for A level students in Term 3 of Year 13.

For all units, students will complete research book work and large-scale work for exhibition.

Name	Assessment Type	Weighting
Component 1	Personal Investigation	60%
Component 2	Externally Set Assignment and 15 hours sustained working	40%

Career Pathways/Key Skills Developed

If you intend to train for any kind of creative or design-based career you should elect Art as one of your GCE A level choices. Art A level is a traditional requirement for Architecture, and students wishing to undertake an Architecture degree should consider art along with Maths and/or Physics.

Key careers include:

- Architecture, interior design, public planning
- Design: graphics, illustration, media, journalism, products, industrial
- Fashion: design, textiles, merchandising, shoe design, millenary
- Education: teacher, lecturer, curation, community worker, arts based therapy, conservation
- Lens based media: film, photography, photo-journalism, animation, games design
- Theatre set design, costume design, makeup for film, special effects

Why Choose Art?

You may be intending to progress into a creative career and therefore you should consider studying art at GCE level. Alternatively, if you just enjoy being creative and wish to continue with art for pleasure, it can make an ideal compliment to your other subjects. It is expected that you would have studied Art GCSE to a good level to be able to undertake the A level program.

Art encourages students to put into practice theory learnt in some of their other subjects. Creative thinking and problem solving are invaluable transferable skills for any career.

Visual literacy is becoming an increasingly important skill in today’s high-tech world. Business now relies heavily on high speed communication and so visual imagery is becoming increasingly important. Being able to interpret visual messages and learning how to use the visual elements to aid your communication, is a major benefit to all students. In Dubai, design-based jobs are being promoted as a part of the national economic agenda.

Art Photography

KEY FACTS
Examining Board: Edexcel

Syllabus/Code: 9PY0

Course Summary

A level Photography is taught as a linear two-year course. To successfully progress in this course, you will need access to a digital SLR camera to use for independent photoshoots outside of lesson time. In addition to this, you will need access to Adobe Creative Suite, a laptop and have the means to print out photographic images for your research book.

During the Photography course you will have the opportunity to develop personally driven projects under the guidance of your teachers. For each project, you will be expected to complete comprehensive research work recording and developing your ideas, exploring lens-based media, refining your skills and linking your ideas to other photographers and lens-based artists. There are a range of options that you may choose to work with, such as documentary photography, photojournalism, studio photography, location photography, experimental imagery, installation and moving image (film, video and animation). The main aim of the course is to develop your visual language skills and conceptual awareness towards presenting the final exhibition.

A level Photography is divided into distinct phases:

Foundation Project: From September to December of Year 12, students will work on a ‘foundation project’. This is designed to aid a smooth transition from GCSE to A level. This project can also contribute to the coursework component if completed to an advanced standard.

Unit1 (NEA): From January in Year 12 students will work on the main NEA unit 1. The component will be assessed by your teachers and the feedback should provide an opportunity to refine the work further. For A level photography, this unit unit makes up 60% of the overall grade. Please note that the A level photography unit 1 also contains an academic written study of between 1000-3000 words, consisting of in-depth artist research. This constitutes 12% of the total qualification.

Unit 2 (NEA) Externally Set Assignment: From February, A level students will work on a new project, the externally set assignment (ESA). For this you will have eight weeks of preparation followed by an examination. The theme for this project is normally broad and set by the examination board. There is a 15 hour timed test for A level students in term 3 of Year 13.

For all units, students will complete research book work and large-scale work for exhibition.

Name	Assessment Type	Weighting
Component 1	Personal Investigation	60%
Component 2	Externally Set Assignment and 15 hours sustained working	40%

Career Pathways/Key Skills Developed

If you intend to train for any kind of creative or design-based career you could elect Photography as one of your GCE A level choices.

Key careers could include:

- Movie production, directing, screen writing, cinematography, theatre design
- Animation, games design
- Media studies, journalism, photo-journalism, public relations, promotions, advertising and marketing
- Graphics, illustration, design
- Freelance photographer: fashion, events
- Education, arts therapy, curation, community artist

Why Choose Photography?

You may be intending to progress into a creative career and, therefore, you should consider studying Photography at GCE level. This course is good for students who like to be creative but do not want to work in traditional fine art media. It is good for students who want to fuse technology with creativity.

It is preferable that an A level Photography student has studied GCSE Art or a comparable course such as Graphics or Media Studies. However, if a student has not studied Art GCSE, they may be admitted on to AS Photography if a small portfolio of work (drawing, photography, and/or film) is shown to the Head of Art that demonstrates an ability to undertake the course.

Visual literacy is becoming an increasingly important skill in today’s high-tech world. Business now relies heavily on high speed communication and so visual imagery is becoming increasingly important. Being able to interpret visual messages and learning how to use the visual elements to aid your communication is a major benefit to all students.

Biology

KEY FACTS
Examining Board: AQA

Syllabus/Code: 7402

Course Summary

Biology is the study of living organisms and the environment. During the A level course, students will study a range of topics outlined below.

The course is intended to stimulate the enthusiasm of students from the start. It emphasises the way in which Biologists work and the contributions of Biology to society.

Some of the topics covered

1. Biological molecules - including carbohydrates, proteins, enzymes and the structure of DNA.
2. Cells - including the structure of prokaryotes and eukaryotes, DNA replication and mitosis, cell recognition and the immune system.
3. Organisms exchange substances with their environment - including digestion and absorption, the Biochemistry of the foods we eat, mass transport and gas exchange.
4. Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms - including DNA, genes and chromosomes, DNA and protein synthesis, genetic diversity and adaptation.
5. Energy transfers in and between organisms - including the processes of photosynthesis, respiration, energy transfer and nutrient cycles.
6. Organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments - including responding to stimuli, the nervous system, muscles and homeostasis
7. Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems including inheritance and evolution.
8. The control of gene expression - including transcription, translation, mutations and cancer, the genome project and genetic technology.

Career Pathways/Key Skills Developed

- Pharmaceutical
- Education
- Scientific/Academic Research
- Biotechnology
- Environmental Science
- Microbiology
- Nanotechnology
- Marine Biology
- Communication, through report writing and presentations
- Teamworking and collaboration, through group projects and investigations
- The ability to work independently
- Numeracy and maths
- Research and data analysis

Why Choose Biology?

The Biology GCE course is designed specifically to encourage candidates to develop:

- Practical skills alongside understanding of concepts and principles
- In-depth knowledge and understanding of the principles of Biology

Assessment

There is no coursework on this course. However, there are twelve required practical's throughout the course and performance during these practical's will be assessed. There are three examinations at the end of the two years for A level, all of which are two hours long.

Name	Assessment Type	Weighting
Paper 1	Examination	35%
Paper 2	Examination	35%
Paper 3	Examination	30%

Business

KEY FACTS
Examining Board: AQA

Syllabus/Code: 7132

Course Summary

No matter where you work or what you do, Business Studies will be relevant. The knowledge and skills gained on this course will be useful for the rest of your life. You will learn about many relevant businesses, such as, Apple, Tesla, Google etc. Moreover, you will examine how political, economic, social, technological and environmental developments affect businesses. Amongst the many benefits, this course is designed to encourage candidates to:

- Understand practical solutions to real business problems
- Apply business concepts in the context of Finance, Marketing, Operations and Human Resources
- Understand the role of the entrepreneur and business in society

Students will study ten units over the two years of the course.

In Year 12 we will study:

- 1 - What is business?
- 2 - Managers, leadership and decision making.
- 3 - Decision making to improve marketing performance.
- 4 - Decision making to improve operational performance.
- 5 - Decision making to improve financial performance.
- 6 - Decision making to improve human resource performance.

In Year 13 we will study:

- 7 - Analysing the strategic position of a business.
- 8 - Choosing strategic direction.
- 9 - Strategic methods: how to pursue strategies.
- 10 - Managing strategic change.

Career Pathways/Key Skills Developed

Business Studies helps you develop a range of important and transferable skills. For example, you will use data skills to identify and analyse problems. You will learn how to present an argument and make recommendations on the basis of the available evidence. You will also undertake group work and develop negotiation and leadership skills. Central to Business Studies is problem solving.

Business Studies students are well placed to gain places on Business related degrees. Students may wish to specialise in Accounting, HR, Marketing or Operations Management. Others may use the skills learnt in areas such as Law or Psychology.

Why Choose Business Studies?

This course has clear links to the real world. Business features in the news regularly and the topics that you will learn about will often be related to examples from businesses that you engage with regularly. Therefore, students often find Business Studies interesting due to the accessibility of the topics studied.

You will either work for a business in the future or set up and run a business of your own. So, the knowledge that you will acquire on this course will be useful as you progress through your chosen career or unlock your entrepreneurial potential.

Name	Assessment Type	Weighting
Paper 1	Examination	33.3%
Paper 2	Examination	33.3%
Paper 3	Examination	33.3%

Chemistry

KEY FACTS
Examining Board: AQA

Syllabus/Code: 7404

Course Summary

Chemistry is the study of the composition, properties and behaviour of matter. During their AS and A2 level course, students will study a range of topics outlined below. The course is designed to allow students to gain hands-on practical and data analysis skills.

Students are encouraged to raise questions, investigate them and develop conclusions based on firm scientific evidence.

Students will develop an enthusiasm for Chemistry and appreciate its relevance beyond the laboratory.

Some of the topics covered:

- Structure of the atom
- Amount of substance
- Organic Chemistry and Reaction Mechanisms
- Energetics and Kinetics
- Environmental Chemistry
- Analytical Techniques such as NMR, IR and Mass Spectrometry
- Acids and Bases
- Polymers
- Amino Acids
- Organic Synthesis Routes

Career Pathways/Key Skills Developed

- Medicine
- Veterinary Science
- Dentistry
- Pharmacology
- Engineering
- Biochemistry

Why Choose Chemistry?

Chemistry GCE course is designed specifically to encourage candidates to develop:

- Practical skills alongside understanding of concepts and principles
- In-depth knowledge and understanding of the principles of Chemistry
- Skills to engage in debate and discussion on ethical and moral scientific issues

Assessment

There is no coursework on this course. However, your performance during practical's will be assessed. There are three examinations at the end of the two years for A level, all of which are two hours long. At least 15% of the marks for A level Chemistry are based on what has been learnt in your practicals. 20% of the marks require Level 2 Higher GCSE Mathematics.

Name	Assessment Type	Weighting
Paper 1	Examination	35%
Paper 2	Examination	35%
Paper 3	Examination	30%

Computer Science

KEY FACTS
Examining Board: CIE

Syllabus/Code: 9618

Course Summary

It is an exciting time to be a Computer Scientist! Many of the most in demand jobs over the past few years were tech related! That trend looks likely to continue into the future. We are living in the midst of a revolution powered by technology. This revolution has invaded all aspects of society. It is a communication revolution, a transportation revolution, a medical revolution and an entertainment revolution to name but a few. Consider the things that you would need to give up if you were to live a day without technology! Technology is ultimately developed to solve problems to serve humanity and this course studies both the human and technical aspects of the complex Computer Science Sector. The course aims to develop problem solving skills, an essential skill for life. Students study the design, development and analysis of software and hardware used to solve problems in a variety of business, scientific and social contexts. Students will develop computational solutions to solve real world problems.

This course aims to encourage the development of computational thinking, that is thinking about what can be computed and how by the use of abstraction and decomposition. Learning computational thinking involves learning to program, by writing computer code, because this is the means by which computational thinking is expressed.

The key aims of the course are:

- to develop computational thinking skills.
- to develop an understanding of the main principles of solving problems using computers and computer code.
- to develop an understanding that every computer system is made up of interlinked subsystems.
- to develop an understanding of the component parts of computer systems and how they interrelate, including software, data, hardware, communications and people.
- to acquire the skills necessary to apply this understanding to develop computer-based solutions to real life current problems.

Career Pathways/Key Skills Developed

Computer Science is an ever-growing field, and a qualification in Computer Science provides an amazing breadth of opportunities at higher level study. Degree courses that lead directly from an A level in Computer Science include:

- Games Design
- Software Engineering
- Robotics
- Mathematics
- Data Analytics
- Artificial Intelligence
- Cyber Security
- Engineering
- Informatics

Why Choose A level Computer Science?

We are living in the midst of a revolution powered by computers. This revolution has had an impact on almost every segment of society including healthcare, politics, sport, business, communication, transportation and entertainment. Beyond the daily uses of computer technology, it has also become central to many enterprises including medicine, emerging economies, sustainability, scientific research and climate change.

Central to all of these things that is taken for granted are computers: hardware, software and thinkers that have the enterprising ability to innovate and create. Studying Computer Science gives students the opportunity to develop algorithmic, procedural, concurrent, abstract and recursive thinking skills; all which are the foundation to the discipline of computational thinking.

Year 1	Assessment	Weighting	Year 2	Assessment	Weighting
Paper 1	Written Examination	25%	Paper 3	Written Examination	25%
Paper 2	Written Examination	25%	Paper 4	Practical Programming Assessment	25%

Design and Technology

KEY FACTS Examining Board: AQA	Syllabus/Code: 7552
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Course Summary

A-level Design and Technology: Product Design requires students to engage in both practical and theoretical study. These design and technology skills have been separated into:

Technical Principles

Materials and their applications; Performance characteristics of materials; Enhancement of materials; The use of adhesives and fixings; The use of finishes; Modern industrial and commercial practice; Efficient use of materials; Digital design and manufacture; The requirements for product design and development; Health and safety; Protecting designs and intellectual property; Design for manufacturing, maintenance, repair and disposal; Feasibility studies; Enterprise and marketing in the development of products and Design communication.

Designing and making principles

Design methods and processes; Design theory; How technology and cultural changes can impact on the work of designers; Product life cycle; Design processes; Critical analysis and evaluation; Selecting appropriate tools, equipment, and processes; Accuracy in design and manufacture; Responsible design; Design for manufacture and project management and National and international standards in product design.

Career Pathways/Key Skills Developed

This creative and thought-provoking qualification gives students the practical skills, theoretical knowledge and confidence to succeed in a number of careers. Especially those in the creative industries such as

- Product Designer
- Mechanical engineer
- Architecture
- Built environment/town planner
- Biomedical engineer
- Interior design

Students will investigate historical, social, cultural, environmental, and economic influences on design and technology, whilst enjoying opportunities to put their learning in to practice by producing prototypes of their choice. Students will gain a real understanding of what it means to be a designer, alongside the knowledge and skills sought by higher education and employers.

Why Choose Design and Technology?

Have you ever wondered how products and buildings are made? Would you like to experience industry level Computer Aided Design and Manufacturing processes? Do you want to influence sustainability, environmental impact, and resourcing of sustainable materials for innovative, creative products? Do you aspire to be a designer of the future? Then, Design and Technology is the course for you. Combining perfectly with Business Studies, Computer Science, History, Art and Design amongst others, there are opportunities for students to integrate and apply their wider learning and understanding from other subject areas studied in KS4 and those studied alongside A Level Design and Technology.

Name	Assessment Type	Weighting
Paper 1	Examination	30%
Paper 2	Examination	20%
NEA	NEA	50%

Economics

KEY FACTS Examining Board: AQA	Syllabus/Code: 7136
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Course Summary

Paper 1 (Markets and Market Failure) focuses on microeconomics including the economic problem, how resources are allocated in competitive markets and an understanding of supply and demand. You will study how businesses produce efficiently, look at theories of the firm and how firms operate in competitive and concentrated markets. You will also examine how labour markets function, why there is sometimes market failure and why government intervention in the market occurs.

Paper 2 (The National & International Economy) looks at the measurement of the performance of national economies. This means studying in detail the circular flow of national income. You will also use Aggregate Demand and Aggregate Supply analysis. You will study the economic cycle; including inflation, unemployment and economic growth. You will learn how fiscal, monetary and supply-side policies are used by governments. You will also examine in depth, the international economy, the impact of globalisation on UK economic performance, the European Union and the effect of EU membership and economic policy on the UK economy.

Paper 3 (Economic Principles & Issues) uses the knowledge, skills and techniques developed in Papers 1 and 2 to answer Multiple Choice questions (often using mathematics) and Case Study materials.

Career Pathways/Key Skills Developed

For the person who is curious about how the world works, knowing something about economics is very important.

Economists are involved in many aspects of business, commerce and management. Economics is a subject that links well with Mathematics, Sciences, Geography, History and Psychology.

Economics teaches you to think logically about complex human issues. You will learn to identify and analyse problems and present potential solutions. You will develop your mathematical and written skills in new ways.

Why Choose Economics?

Have you ever wondered what makes the price of oil go up, or why there is unemployment or why some businesses succeed, and others fail? Then Economics is the subject for you. Economics is all around you.

Economics is a highly marketable subject beyond A level. Many students carry on studying the subject at university. It can also be combined with other subjects, such as Mathematics or Geography. Others take related degrees in Business, Management, Finance, Accountancy or Statistics. Some professional qualifications require an understanding of Economics.

Name	Assessment Type	Weighting
Component 1	Examination	33.3%
Component 2	Examination	33.3%
Component 3	Examination	33.3%

AS English

KEY FACTS
Examining Board: Cambridge International

Syllabus/Code: 9093

Course Summary

The course is designed to enhance students' understanding of the English language through a comprehensive exploration of its structure, usage, and contextual significance. The curriculum focuses on key areas such as language analysis, the study of language in various contexts, and the development of critical thinking skills. Students will engage with a range of texts, analysing their linguistic features and the impact of language on meaning and communication. The course emphasises both written and spoken English, fostering skills in composition, interpretation, and effective communication.

The AS Level qualification comprises two examination papers, each contributing fifty percent to the final grade. Paper 1 primarily assesses reading skills and techniques, whereas Paper 2 focuses on writing skills and techniques.

Students are encouraged to read widely throughout the course, continually deepening their appreciation of a rich array of reading material. They will develop a strong knowledge and understanding of the conventions and discourses associated with a diverse range of genres, styles and contexts. Using their reading as inspiration, students will explore and experiment with an extensive variety of genres, styles and contexts in their writing. In addition to refining their ability to express themselves with precision and clarity of purpose, students should become increasingly reflective writers, capable of adapting the style of their writing to fit a diverse range of forms, audiences, purposes and contexts.

Career Pathways/Key Skills Developed

Student will learn to analyse texts, arguments and various forms of communication, enhancing their ability to evaluate information critically. The course emphasises both written and spoken skills, teaching students to express ideas clearly and persuasively.

Students will gain proficiency in examining language structure, style and techniques, which will deepen their understanding of how language functions in different contexts.

Students will also develop their ability to craft compelling narratives and arguments, honing their voice and style in writing.

Why Choose English Language?

The AS Cambridge English Language course is prioritised for students holding a passport from Australia, South Africa, or New Zealand, who are planning to apply to universities in any of these countries. Some universities in these countries may require applicants to continue studying English until the age of seventeen. Consequently, this may necessitate the achievement of an AS Level in English Language, in addition to the GCSE English Language qualification.

Should the AS English Language qualification be required to support a university application in the home country, enrollment in the AS Level English Language class will be necessary. This course will be taken alongside A-Level studies. Students already engaged in A Level English Language or A Level English Literature will not be required to enroll in the AS English course.

Participants in this course must attend six English lessons per week and will sit for the Cambridge International AS Level English Language examination in April of the following year, while still in Year 12.

Name	Assessment Type	Weighting
Paper 1	Examination	50%
Paper 2	Examination	50%

English Language

KEY FACTS
Examining Board: AQA

Syllabus/Code: 7702

Course Summary

English Language A Level is a two-year linear course, with the A level qualification being examined and awarded at the end of Year 13.

The study of English Language is the key to a deeper and more critical understanding of the way that language shapes our society, our experiences and the culture of the English speaking world. During the course, you will gain an understanding and appreciation of the phenomenal impact that language has, as well as considering the impact that your own use of language has in shaping your identity. While the majority of the course is structured around critical analysis of texts and theoretical viewpoints, there is also ample opportunity to be creative with, and develop your own, writing style.

The A level course comprises two examinations worth a total of 80%, and two non-examined assessment pieces worth 20%.

Paper 1: Language, the individual and society

This exam allows students to explore how writers create and manipulate texts to suit their audience and purpose. Students will analyse two unseen texts, linked by a common theme, and consider how the writers have manipulated features of language, grammar and context to achieve their aims. The second part of this exam is a study of Child Language Acquisition and the theoretical models underpinning how children acquire language from birth.

Paper 2: Language diversity and change

The second part of the exam covers the application of language in different social and historical contexts. Students will study how language is impacted by gender, social class, region, power, age and ethnicity. You will also consider how the English language has developed over time. Throughout this unit, there are chances to explore theoretical studies and consider students' personal views and use these in the second part of this exam to write a creative opinion piece presenting these to a non-specialist audience.

NEA: The NEA comprises two pieces of original work. Firstly, students complete a creative piece in a format of their choosing, writing a commentary alongside to explain their stylistic choices. Secondly, students complete a small investigation into an area of language that interests them, collecting data to prove/disprove a hypothesis.

Career Pathways/Key Skills Developed

The ability to communicate effectively in both speech and writing is a necessity for everyone in all aspects of life. Moreover, the ability to critically evaluate the discourses that we are exposed to every day, in a fast-paced, technology dominated world, is vital to ensure that our generation are critical consumers of the vast array of media they see every day.

A level English Language is an excellent option if you are considering reading Law, English Language, Linguistics, Psychology, Politics, Social Sciences, Science and MFL. Possible career paths may include: forensic linguistics, speech therapy, lexicography, digital copywriting, editorial roles, marketing, web-content management and journalism.

Why Choose English Language?

To develop a critical awareness of how producers manipulate language to create specific representations within a text and how this influences the receiver.

To understand how language is linked to our identity.

To consider the way that language differs depending on context and how this might shape our understanding of the world.

To develop creative writing skills and experiment with language in a range of different forms.

Name	Assessment Type	Weighting
Paper 1	Language & Society examination	40% of A2 / 2hr 30 / 100 marks
Paper 2	Language Diversity examination	40% of A2 / 2hr 30 / 100 marks
C/W	Language in Action coursework	20% of A2 / 3,500 words

English Literature

KEY FACTS
Examining Board: OXFORD International AQA

Syllabus/Code: 9675

Course Summary

The English Literature A level is a two-year linear course, with the A level qualification being examined and awarded at the end of Year 13. This inspirational course provides you with the opportunity to read a range of exciting new prose, drama and poetry texts - both with your teachers in class and independently! You do, therefore, need to be a committed, enthusiastic reader and to be responsible for your own progress.

The A level course comprises of three examinations, worth a total of 70% and a non-examined assessment component worth 30%. Each exam is two hours and consists of two questions.

Unit 1: The focus of this exam is aspects of dramatic tragedy. You will analyse a Shakespeare play and a modern play. At the core of both set texts is a tragic hero or heroine who is flawed in some way, who suffers and causes suffering to others.

Unit 2: This paper explores two texts that are linked through the cultural genre of place. The texts explore the significance of place(s) in the texts: to their stories; their narrative structures; their socio-cultural views of the world; their potential meanings. You will analyse a prose text and a collection of poetry.

Unit 3: This unit examines elements of crime and mystery in literature. You will study one play and one prose text. In both texts a significant crime drives the narrative and the execution and consequences of the crime are fundamentally important to the way the texts are structured.

Unit 4: This unit comprises of a non-examined assessment submission, that is teacher assessed and externally moderated. The NEA involves a critical study of two texts; one prose text and one poetry collection. Students are free to choose texts that interest and inspire them.

Career Pathways/Key Skills Developed

The ability to read for meaning is a necessity for everyone in all aspects of life.

English Literature A level is ideal if you wish to broaden your knowledge and understanding of texts; it also develops different types of reading and research skills. The written responses you will produce offers you the opportunity to develop your writing skills, ensuring that your communication on paper is both accurate and clear.

This is an excellent option if you are considering, amongst others, Law, History, Politics, Social Sciences, Journalism and MFL.

Why Choose English Literature?

- Enjoyment - The chance to form your own views and discuss them with your fellow students.
- Explore different interpretations of texts - remember nothing is actually wrong if you can support your argument!
- Becoming a more informed, critical reader.
- Learn about how writers' experiences of their time have influenced and shaped their work.
- Lose yourself in exciting books and discover the joy of being a lifelong reader.

Name	Assessment Type	Weighting
Unit 1	Aspects of Dramatic Tragedy: Shakespeare, Modern Play Examination	20% / 2 hours / 50 marks
Unit 2	Place in Literary Texts: Prose and Poetry Examination	20% / 2 hours / 50 marks
Unit 3	Elements of Crime and Mystery: Play and Prose Examination	30% / 2 hours / 50 marks
Option 4b: NEA	Study of texts: one poetry, one prose Two essays of 1250 - 1500 words each	30% / 50 marks

French

KEY FACTS
Examining Board: AQA

Syllabus/Code: 7651

Course Summary

The French A level course provides a detailed study of various social, political and cultural aspects of France and French-speaking countries.

The topics covered in Year 12 include:

Aspects of French-speaking society: current trends. The changing nature of family, the 'cyber -society', the place of voluntary work

Artistic culture in the French-speaking world. A culture proud of its heritage, contemporary francophone music, cinema.

The topics covered in Year 13 include:

Aspects of French-speaking society: current issues, positive features of a diverse society, Life for the marginalised, How criminals are treated.

Aspects of political life in the French-speaking world: Teenagers, the right to vote and political commitment, demonstrations, strikes, politics and immigration.

Students also study a film in Year 12 and a novel in Year 13. We also offer the option for French as an AS.

Career Pathways/Key Skills Developed

An A level in French will enable students to develop and build on the skills acquired at GCSE.

A level linguist is keenly sought after by universities as they have had to develop a number of key transferable skills, such as analysis and public speaking, during the course.

An ability to speak French is an advantage on the international job market. A knowledge of French opens the doors of French companies in France and other French-speaking parts of the world (Canada, Switzerland, Belgium and North and sub-Saharan Africa). As one of the world's biggest economies and the first international tourism destination, France is a key economic country.

Why Choose French?

Choosing to study French at A Level will not only provide you with an insight and understanding of the French culture and society but will also enhance employment prospects and future career opportunities in a more and more competitive job market.

Many employers, especially in fields like international business, diplomacy, and tourism, actively seek bilingual or multilingual individuals.

Additionally, a strong language foundation can open doors to fostering global connections and enrich the university experience.

Studying a language at A Level equips students with essential skills that are increasingly sought after in our interconnected world.

Name	Assessment Type	Weighting
Paper 1	Listening, Reading and Writing	50% of A level
Paper 2	Writing	20% of A level
Paper 3	Speaking	30% of A level

Geography

KEY FACTS
Examining Board: Edexcel

Syllabus/Code:
9GEO/01/02/03/04

Course Summary

The Geography course is a two-year A level and provides a mix of human and physical areas of study and encompasses a range of fieldwork opportunities. In Year 12 we cover the topics of Tectonics, Coastal Environments, Globalisation and Diverse Places. Also, during Year 12, we begin to look at the application of fieldwork techniques, which are needed to complete the independent investigation. In Year 13, we cover the topics of Migration, Identity and Sovereignty, The Water Cycle and Water Insecurity, The Carbon Cycle and Energy Security, as well as Superpowers. At the end of Year 13 three exam papers are completed, along with the Independent Investigation being submitted.

Unit 1: Dynamic Landscapes (30% of GCE). This unit focuses on the physical landscape around us. It is divided into four topic areas for study; Tectonic Processes and Hazards, The Water Cycle and Water Insecurity, The Carbon Cycle and Energy Security and Coastal Landscapes and Change. The examination for this unit is 2 hours 15 minutes and will be sat at the end of Year 13.

Unit 2: Dynamic Places (30% of GCE). This unit focuses on human geography looking at the world and how it is being shaped. Students study four areas; Globalisation, Shaping Places, Superpowers and Global Development and Connections. The examination for this unit is 2 hours 15 minutes and will be sat at the end of Year 13.

Unit 3: Contested Planet (20% of GCE). The examination for this unit is 2 hours 15 minutes. Students will be given a resource booklet to allow them to investigate the synoptic themes across the course of study, based on the content areas of Players, Attitudes and Actions and Futures and Uncertainties. This exam will also be sat at the end of Year 13.

Unit 4: Geographical Research (20% of GCE). This unit focuses on field work (minimum four days), related research and investigations. Students must develop a hypothesis in line with one of the compulsory units of study and produce a written report of approx. 3000–4000 words.

- The Geographer’s canvas is coloured by place, space and

Career Pathways/Key Skills Developed

Geography covers a wide range of skills - from data interpretation, statistical analysis and human and physical Geography based fieldwork, as well as extended writing and critical thinking skills.

Geography students are able to identify, select, present, process, evaluate and interpret both quantitative and qualitative evidence to support or reject arguments, propositions or plans.

Careers include:

Climatologist, environmental management and impact assessment, emergency management, GIS specialist, marketing, real estate appraisal, writer/researcher, demographer, urban planner, surveyor, transport management, geologist.

Why Choose Geography?

- Geography occupies a distinct place in the world of learning, offering an integrated study of the complex reciprocal relationships between human societies and the physical components of the earth.
- The Geographer’s canvas is coloured by place, space and time; recognising the great differences and dynamics in cultures, political systems, economies, landscapes and environments across the world, and the links between them.
- Geography degrees are useful to a range of future careers. Geography, as an A level is seen as a Science by many universities.

Name	Assessed	Assessment Type	Weighting
Paper 1	Physical Geography	Examination	30% of A level
Paper 2	Human Geography	Examination	30% of A level
Paper 3	Synoptic Links	Examination	20% of A level
NEA	Independent Investigation	Coursework	20% of A level

History

KEY FACTS
Examining Board: AQA

Syllabus/Code: 7042

Course Summary

Component 1: Breadth Study

1C : The Tudors: England, 1485-1603

Students will immerse themselves in Tudor England, studying in breadth issues of change, continuity, cause and consequence in this period. They will examine how the Tudor Dynasty came into being and how each monarch from Henry VII through to Elizabeth I, handled the challenges of the 16th century. Students will consider how different interpretations of the past have developed over time and will use their knowledge and understanding of the period to evaluate whether interpretations present an accurate representation of events.

Assessment: Written examination: 2 hours 30 minutes

Component 2: Depth Study

2Q: The American Dream: Reality and Illusion, 1945-1980

Students will engage in an in-depth study of the challenges faced by the USA at home and abroad as it emerged from the Second World War as a Superpower. For many Americans, post-war prosperity realised the “American dream” but the prosperity was not shared by all and significant problems at home and abroad challenged the extent to which the “American dream” was a reality. Students will explore concepts and ideas such as American identity at home and abroad, anti-communism, social equality, ethnic identities and federal versus states’ rights. They will also reflect on the nature of democracy in a pluralist society, political protest and the power of the media. Students will conduct analysis of primary evidence from the period and will examine provenance when assessing the validity of the evidence.

Assessment: Written examination: 2 hours 30 minutes

Component 3: Historical Investigation

Coursework of approximately 3500-4500 words. Students focus on the history of change over the course of 1855-1964 in Russia and what motivated change during this time.

Career Pathways/Key Skills Developed

History provides a wealth of skills that will serve you throughout life and are highly prized by universities and employers.

The subject works very well with Government & Politics, Economics and Sociology.

The study of History at A level teaches you to assimilate and communicate large amounts of information and to reach balanced judgements. These skills are valuable for a wide variety of careers, including journalism, accountancy, law, television, tourism and management.

Why Choose History?

The History department aims to provide lively and challenging lessons which engage the students and make them think more deeply about the world around them.

We believe that the study of History provides an excellent foundation for life, providing skills that are highly sought by universities and employers. It requires hard work; but the rewards; both in terms of academic value and enjoyment; make it one of the most valuable A levels available.

Name	Assessment Type	Weighting
Unit 1	USA 1945-80	40% of A level
Unit 2	Tudors 1485-1603	40% of A level
Unit 3	Russia 1855-1953	20% of A level

Information Technology

KEY FACTS
Examining Board: CIE

Syllabus/Code: 9626

Course Summary

Take a look around. IT is everywhere. And every day, it changes the world. Technology underpins our lives. It is in the alarm that woke you up this morning, the commute that got you to school or work and the food on your table.

It is ingrained in every industry, from education through to engineering and entertainment. It helps remote communities conserve vital resources, creates more effective medicines and keeps us safe. It allows us to form networks right around the planet and far into space. In the first unit, you will develop an understanding of what these technologies are, how they work together and how they enable our digital world to function.

Websites, social media and apps are part of our everyday lives. Web designers and developers are continually innovating and developing new ways for us to access information and interact with the web. In the second unit, you will learn real-world, best practices in writing computer code for the web and understand how coding and programming languages combine to create effective user experiences.

It is impossible to imagine a world that does not depend on data in one form or another. With this dependence comes responsibility. In this unit, you will understand how to ensure that data is relevant, accurate and valid. You will understand how to design and create mechanisms to ensure that data maintains its value as a resource. In the final unit, you will understand how to design mechanisms that reinforce the relationships between different data components. You will also understand the uses of Big Data and the mechanisms involved in collecting, storing and accessing it.

Career Pathways/Key Skills Developed

When taken alongside other Level 3 qualifications in complementary or contrasting subjects, such as Mathematics, Economics, Business, Science, Enterprise, Art or Media, the qualification gives learners the opportunity to progress to a variety of higher education degrees including:

- Business and E-Commerce
- Information and Communication Technology
- Consultancy
- Analytics
- Research and Development
- Multimedia
- Software Architect or Engineer
- Self-Employment
- Digital Security

Why Choose IT?

There are many opportunities throughout the IT qualification that gives learners practice in developing employability skills including:

- cognitive and problem-solving skills: using critical thinking, approach non-routine problems applying expert and creative solutions, using systems and technology.
- intrapersonal skills: communicating, working collaboratively, negotiating and influencing, self-presentation.
- interpersonal skills: self-management, adaptability and resilience, self-monitoring and development.

Year 1	Assessment	Weighting	Year 2	Assessment	Weighting
Unit 1	Theoretical Exam	25%	Unit 3	Theoretical Exam	25%
Unit 2	Practical Exam	25%	Unit 4	Practical Exam	25%

Law

KEY FACTS
Examining Board: AQA

Syllabus/Code: 7162

Course Summary

The course covers a number of legal areas, including the nature of the types of laws, how they are made, links to morals and the role Law plays in society. It encompasses aspects of the legal system from the perspective of the criminal and civil court systems, Criminal Law theory, and aspects of criminal liability. The first paper covers fatal offences against the person, non-fatal offences against the person and property-based offences. Students will cover defences including insanity, automatism as well as intoxication.

As well as criminal law, students will investigate aspects of Civil Law. They will study Tort law, including the concept of liability in harm to both people and property as well as considering the concept of economic loss. Occupier's Liability and the escape of hazardous creatures/substances is covered as well as the fundamental concept of vicarious liability. Students will learn the various defences and remedies available in civil cases.

Students will learn about Contract Law and delve into more complex issues surrounding legal theory, including consideration of concepts such as morality, justice and fault as well as their importance in making and applying laws.

Career Pathways/Key Skills Developed

For the person who is curious about how the legal system works, how laws are made and most importantly, how they are applied.

Law A level is an opportunity for students who are looking for a good base level of understanding prior to embarking on a legal career. It develops clear lines of argument, essay writing skills, vast levels of analysis and evaluation. A good memory is an essential prerequisite.

The development of legal essay writing is a strong feature of this course and will be a favourable skill to present to prospective Universities, particularly those with a legal focus. Works well with Politics, Business Studies, History, English Literature as well as Psychology.

Why Choose Law?

Have you ever wondered why some crimes are treated more leniently than others? Or why you can't have someone arrested for peacefully standing in your garden?

Law is an interesting and involved course, it has a vast number of pointed stories which have turned into legal precedents. The rules of society are an endlessly complex and ever evolving system of traditions that are a reflection of the behaviours exerted by citizens and give parameters of what is deemed to be permissible.

Law will intrigue and develop you in equal measure.

Name	Assessment Type	Weighting
Paper 1: Criminal Law	Examination	33.3%
Paper 2: Law of Tort	Examination	33.3%
Paper 3: Law of Contract	Examination	33.3%

AS Level Mathematics

KEY FACTS
Examining Board: Edexcel

Syllabus/Code: Pure Mathematics (8MA0/01)
Statistics and Mechanics (8MA0/02)

Course Summary

Students on the AS level course will complete two units of study, Pure and Applied Mathematics, which will be studied throughout Years 12 and 13. Students will not have the option to sit the AS examination at the end of Year 12 and failure to continue with the course in Year 13 will result in no qualification being awarded. Students joining us from an IGCSE background are required to take a past GCSE non-calculator examination paper, this is to access their suitability for the non-calculator elements of the course.

The course modules in brief:

Pure Mathematics: At A level, GCE students will extend their knowledge of such topics as Algebra, Trigonometry and Co-ordinate Geometry as well as learning some brand new ideas such as Calculus and proofs.

Statistics: Students will learn how to represent, analyse, interpret and summarise numerical data in order to arrive at conclusions about it, to model real life problems, make predictions about possible outcomes and extend the range of probability problems that they studied for GCSE.

Mechanics: Students will learn how to describe mathematically the motion of objects and how they respond to forces acting upon them, they will work with Newton's laws of motion and their application.

Career Pathways/Key Skills Developed

AS Level Mathematics supports the study of subjects like Physics, Chemistry, Engineering, IT, Economics, Business and Biology. Studying Mathematics alongside an essay subjects like English or History can help students keep their options open when applying for university courses.

This qualification will give the students the opportunity to study not only Pure Mathematics but also elements of Statistics and Mechanics, preparing students for a variety of career paths in the future.

Why Choose Law?

Mathematics at A Level is considered to be a 'facilitating' subject by most universities. AS Level Mathematics gives students the option to study Mathematics beyond GCSE who might otherwise not have. AS Level mathematics will be a challenging option however, success in the course promises to develop a higher level of thinking which will prove useful through all career paths and life choices.

Name	Assessment Type	Weighting
Paper 1:	Pure Mathematics - 2 Hours - 100 Marks	66.66%
Paper 2:	Statistics And Mechanics - 1 Hour - 50 Marks	33.33%

Mathematics

KEY FACTS
Examining Board: Edexcel

Syllabus/Code: Pure Mathematics (9MA0/01
+02) Statistics and Mechanics (9MA0/03)

Course Summary

Students on the full A level course will follow two pure and two applied units in Mathematics over the two-year course. Students are no longer permitted to use AS level examinations to form part of their A level qualification.

The course modules in brief:

Pure Mathematics: At A level, GCE students will extend their knowledge of such topics as Algebra, Trigonometry and Co-ordinate Geometry as well as learning some brand new ideas such as Calculus and proofs.

Statistics: Students will learn how to represent, analyse, interpret and summarise numerical data in order to arrive at conclusions about it, to model real life problems, make predictions about possible outcomes and extend the range of probability problems that they studied for GCSE.

Mechanics: Students will learn how to mathematically model the motion of objects and how they respond to forces acting upon them, they will work with Newton's laws of motion and their application.

As the A level course is heavily weighted towards algebra, all students will be required to pass an assessment on their GCSE algebra skills at the start of Year 12 in order to start the course.

Career Pathways/Key Skills Developed

A level Mathematics is also a pre-requisite for many choices at degree level, especially Medicine, Engineering and Computer Science. A level Mathematics is typically combined with Physics, Chemistry and Biology or, alternatively, Information Communication Technology and Business Studies.

However, an A level in Mathematics will provide students studying in other areas, such as English or History, with an excellent qualification that develops a diverse range of skills and talents.

Why Choose Mathematics?

Most people are surprised to learn that a recent study published in The Wall Street Journal, lists the top three jobs in the United States as Mathematician, Statistician and Actuary. In fact, nine of the top eighteen jobs are heavily connected to Mathematics. So, in terms of pay, conditions and job prospects, A level Mathematics fits right in as a subject to help you get ahead.

A level Mathematics is a challenging option; however, success in the course promises to develop a higher level of thinking which will prove useful through all career paths and life choices.

Name	Assessment Type	Weighting
Paper 1	Pure Mathematics 1 - 2 hours - 100 marks	33.33%
Paper 2	Pure Mathematics 2 - 2 hours - 100 marks	33.33%
Paper 3	Statistics and Mechanics - 2 hours - 100 marks	33.33%

Further Mathematics

KEY FACTS Examining Board: Edexcel	Syllabus/Code: Further Mathematics Core Pure 1 (9FMA0/01) Further Mathematics Core Pure 2 (9FM0/02) Further Mathematics Option 1 (9FM/3A-3D) Further Mathematics Option 2 (9FM0/4A-4G)
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Course Summary

Students on the Further Mathematics course will complete two A levels over the two years. These will both be examined at the end of Year 13. In Year 12, students will complete the A level Mathematics course. In Year 13 students will undertake four units of study completing the full FurtherMathematics course. Further Mathematics is therefore delivered over two option blocks as two A levels are achievedat the end of Year 13.

The course modules in brief:
Core Pure: Students will be exposed to a range of mathematical concepts including proofs, complex numbers, matrices as well as further calculus, algebra and functions and vectors. Some of these concepts will be an extension of the A level Mathematics course and some will be brand new.

Further Mathematics Options: At DESS College we always try to match the units we cover with the strengths of our students. The optional units covered in Year 13 will be chosen based on what we feel are the best options for our students. The choices available to us are Further Pure 1 and 2, Statistics 1 and 2, Mechanics 1 and 2 and Decision 1 and 2. The most common combination is Further Pure Mathematics 1 and Further Statistics 1. Further Pure Mathematics 1 will cover extend trigonometry, calculus, differential equations, vectors and numerical methods, and explore coordinate systems and inequalities. Further Statistics 1 will cover discrete probability distributions, poisson, geometric and negative binomial distributions, chi squared tests, probability generating functions and further explore hypothesis testing.

Career Pathways/Key Skills Developed

Mathematics and Further Mathematics are versatile qualifications, well respected by employers and are both “facilitating” subjects for entry to higher education. Careers with good mathematics skills and qualifications are not only well paid, but they are also often interesting and rewarding. People who have studied Mathematics are in the fortunate position of having an excellent choice of career. Whilst the number of young people studying A level Mathematics and Further Mathematics is increasing, there is still a huge demand from science, engineering and manufacturing employers.

Why Choose Further Mathematics?

Further Mathematics at A level suits students who have a deep passion for mathematics; it provides a challenge and a chance to explore new and more sophisticated mathematical concepts. It makes the transition from Sixth Form to university courses, which are mathematically rich, that much easier as some of the first-year course content will be familiar. It enables students to distinguish themselves as able mathematicians in their application for university and future employment.

Name	Assessment Type	Weighting
Unit 1	Further Pure 1	25%
Unit 2	Further Pure 2	25%
Unit 3	Option 1	25%
Unit 4	Option 2	25%

Media Studies

KEY FACTS Examining Board: AQA	Syllabus/Code: 7572
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Course Summary

Media Studies is the examination of both the traditional media and new digital media technologies. The key concepts in Media Studies are:

Media language (including narrative and genre): how meaning is created in media texts using factors such as sound, camerawork, editing, set, lighting, costume, framing etc.

Representation: how people, places and events are represented in the media and the significance of this.

Audience: how audiences ‘read’ and interact with media texts, and how much we can or cannot be affected by the media around us.

Institutions: the companies that produce our media, their values and identities, and how their ideologies influence messages and values in their products.

The Media Studies A level course provides students with opportunities to develop their analytical and research skills, and also their practical skills in media production. Students complete a non-exam (coursework) component, where they pick from a range of practical production briefs including print, film, social media and audio production. The choice of brief allows for students to select areas of the media that they are interested in, and/or will lead into further study at university.

Career Pathways/Key Skills Developed

Through studying Media Studies students will view, evaluate and analyse a variety of media products, and develop practical skills spanning a range of media forms. Contemporary, diverse topics and varied and engaging content will help students to develop research, problem-solving and creative skills and knowledge. Students will also develop debating techniques through the discussion of contemporary issues from a range of perspectives. Media Studies students are able to pursue a spectrum of higher education courses at university, which can lead into a variety of careers in communication, technology, media, production, law and business.

Why Choose Media Studies?

Media is everywhere, influencing and shaping our perceptions, attitudes, desires and behaviour. We aim to question these perceptions and look behind the media façade to reveal the factors that influence media texts and shape the response of us—the audience.

Some of the media texts that we study are:

GQ Magazine, The Gentlewoman, The Guardian, The Daily Mail, The Sims Freeplay, Horizon Forbidden West, Deutschland 83, Capital, War of the Worlds, Blinded by the Light, Score, Old Town Road, Ghost Town, Newsbeat (BBC), Sephora and many more!

Name	Assessment Type	Weighting
Paper 1	Examination	35%
Paper 2	Examination	35%
Practical Response	NEA	30%

Physical Education

KEY FACTS
Examining Board: AQA

Syllabus/Code: 7582

Course Summary

Students selecting this course should have a keen interest in sport and be a self-starter with regards to physical activity and fitness. The PE syllabus has both theoretical (70%) and practical coursework (30%) components, most of the lessons are delivered as interactive theoretical, exciting classroom-based lessons.

The academic content of the course is extensive and covers a wide variety of topic areas. These include applied anatomy and physiology, skill acquisition and sport and society in year one. Along with exercise physiology, bio-mechanical movement, sport psychology and the role of technology in sport in year two. Students will experience some practical lessons throughout the course. These will be centered around the course content and will enable students to develop their knowledge and understanding.

Students are expected to attend extracurricular clubs and are encouraged to represent school teams and seek additional clubs outside of DESS College to enhance their performance. Students will need to perform in one sport listed on the AQA A-level specification for their practical performance.

Paper 1: Factors affecting participation in physical activity and sport

Paper 2: Factors affecting optimal performance in physical activity and sport.

Non-exam assessment: Practical performance in physical activity and sport and written analysis and evaluation coursework.

Career Pathways/Key Skills Developed

Students can access a diverse range of sports related courses at university by studying this subject at A-level. With degrees available in Sports Science, Sports management, Sports Coaching, Sports Therapy, Teaching, Sports Psychology and Sports Physiology.

Additionally, students have been able to transfer the key skills developed on this course into career pathways such as the Armed Forces, Personal Training, Sports Business or Media.

This course will enable students to identify, apply and evaluate a range of topics in relation to sport. Students will develop their analytical and problem-solving skills through the non-exam assessment.

Additionally, teamwork and communication will be enhanced when participating in debates regarding current issues in sport and within practical tasks.

Why Choose PE?

If you have a real interest in sport and would like to learn about all the different aspects which contribute towards an elite sports performance.

It is particularly suitable for those students who have excelled in GCSE PE and would like to further their studies in this area.

It also provides students with a chance to focus on their own sport in great detail as they prepare their coursework.

Name	Assessment Type	Amount of Marks	Weighting
Paper 1	2 hours written examination	105 marks	35%
Paper 2	2 hours written examination	105 marks	35%
NEA	Non-Examined: Practical Performance and Written analysis of Performance	90 marks	30%

Physics

KEY FACTS
Examining Board: AQA

Syllabus/Code: 7408

Course Summary

In Year 12 Students will study five core topics:

- Measurements and their errors
- Mechanics and Materials
- Particles and Radiation
- Electricity
- Waves

In Year 13 Students will study four further topics in addition to the Year 12 topics:

- Further mechanics and thermal physics
- Nuclear physics Fields and their consequences
- Option topic - Astrophysics

Practical skills and data analysis will be assessed throughout the two years.

Career Pathways/Key Skills Developed

Physics is an advantage for almost all university courses. Careers requiring Physics include:

Aeronautical Engineering, Astronomy, Biomedical Engineer, Civil Engineer, Electrical Engineer, Electrician, Forensic Scientist, Geophysicist, Mechanical Engineer, Medical Physicist/Technician, Nuclear Scientist, Physicist, Structural Engineer and many more.

Physics is also seen as an advantage in many careers not directly involved with the application of the subject, including Accountancy and Finance.

Why Choose Physics?

Among the many benefits, this new specification is designed to encourage candidates to:

- progress smoothly from previous GCSE studies in Physics.
- develop principles of Physics.
- gain hands-on practical and data analysis skills.
- appreciate working scientifically and its relevance beyond the laboratory.
- see how Physics links to other sciences and how the subject underpins important technologies.
- study optional topics so they can specialise in topics that generate interest.

Name	Assessment Type	Weighting
Paper 1	Examination	34%
Paper 2	Examination	34%
Paper 3	Examination	32%

Politics

KEY FACTS
Examining Board: Edexcel

Syllabus/Code: 9PL0

Course Summary

You might have thought living in a post-Brexit, post-Trump world, politics in the UK and US has calmed down....you would be very wrong! In the UK, historic party allegiances are diminishing alongside traditional party identities. The impact of which we are still discovering with the backdrop of increasing partisanship across both sides of the Atlantic. All of these issues and more will be explored in Politics A level. You will delve into the realities of global relationships and internal national movements, focusing on who and why people interact with politics across UK and US society. When you choose to study A level Politics, you will take a fresh look at the issues of power and conflict and develop a deeper understanding of the forces which shape the world around us. You will explore if the UK is fully democratic and assess the roles, powers and limitations of the House of Lords, House of Commons and the Supreme Court. You will also look at different political ideologies through various case studies; ranging from the traditional Conservative ideology to more extreme ones such as the concept of Nationalism. The course also looks to explain the key ideological reasons for changes to political systems across the world, not least looking at ways that we can explain why people vote for Labour or Conservative, Republican or Democrat.

Career Pathways/Key Skills Developed

The course offers many benefits to students in Year 12 and 13 and particularly those who study it with complimentary subjects like History, Economics and Business. Many students go on to study Politics at university seeking a career as a politician, lobbyist, journalist or diplomat. The course has a direct relevance to students wishing to study Law, History, Economics or PPE at university.

The study of Politics develops independent thinking and research skills; encouraging students to think for themselves and to express their own opinions, both verbally and in writing. They will develop critical thinking and analytical skills which will support their learning in other subjects and at university.

Finally, the subject has a fantastic link with those students who are looking to go into a career in Law. The skills of analysis of arguments, providing and explaining synoptic links across different topics, debating and presenting different types of information and data all provide key reasons for this.

Why Choose Politics?

The election of a new Prime Minister of the UK and the ascension of King Charles III, alongside a looming economic and standard of living crisis, as well as ever increasing tensions in the US due to the financial impact of Covid, all make this course an engaging, topical and exhilarating journey through current affairs. You delve into the realities of global relationships and internal national movements, focusing on who and why people interact with politics across UK and US society.

When you choose to study A level Politics, you will take a fresh look at the issues of power and conflict and develop a deeper understanding of the forces which shape the world around us.

The course also looks to explain the key ideological reasons for changes to political systems across the world, not least looking at ways that we can explain why people vote for Labour or Conservative, Republican or Democrat.

Name	Assessment Type	Weighting
Unit 1	UK Politics	33% of A level
Unit 2	UK Government	33% of A level
Unit 3	US Politics	33% of A level

Psychology

KEY FACTS
Examining Board: AQA

Syllabus/Code: 7182

Course Summary

Psychology is the science of human behaviour and experience. Psychologists use the same methods as other scientists. They conduct research to test and develop theories about human behaviour, the brain and mental processes.

It has been said that the most important and greatest puzzle people face is understanding themselves. It is this fascination with ourselves and others which makes the study of Psychology so attractive. Although the study of Psychology is a rich and varied experience in itself, it also has a wide range of important applications within the broader context of society.

The Psychology specification is also designed to encourage candidates to:

- develop their interest in and enthusiasm for the subject, by studying a broad range of topics from social psychology, to infant attachment, to mental illness, to criminality, plus more
- appreciate how psychology contributes to the success of the economy and impacts wider society
- develop and demonstrate the skills, knowledge and understanding of how Science works
- further expand on the knowledge and skills gained if having studied GCSE Psychology (though this is not a requirement)

Career Pathways/Key Skills Developed

Psychology may offer a pathway for career opportunities or further study at university for the following:

- Clinical, Educational, Forensic and Occupational Psychology
- Medicine
- Law
- Counselling and social work
- Science
- Nursing
- Teaching
- Police

Why Choose Psychology?

In addition to gaining a detailed understanding of other people, which is beneficial for any future pathway, Psychology A level also offers opportunities to develop many key transferable skills:

- Thinking critically and skills of evaluation
- Application of mathematical skills to interpret research
- Effective and concise communication of ideas
- Understanding the principles of scientific research and good research design
- Making evidence-based justifications
- Reflection and perspective taking from a variety of viewpoints

Name	Assessment Type	Weighting
Paper 1	Examination	33.33%
Paper 2	Examination	33.33%
Paper 3	Examination	33.33%

Spanish

KEY FACTS
Examining Board: AQA

Syllabus/Code: 7691

Course Summary

The Spanish A level course provides a detailed study of various cultural aspects of Spain and Latin America.

The topics covered in Year12 include:

- Aspects of Hispanic society
- Modern and traditional values, cyberspace, equal rights
- Artistic culture in the Hispanic world
- Modern day idols, Spanish regional identity, cultural heritage and landscape.

The topics covered in Year13 include:

- Multiculturalism in Hispanic society, Immigration, racism, integration.
- Aspects of political life in the Hispanic world. Today's youth, tomorrow's citizens, monarchies, republics and dictatorships, popular movements.

Students also study a film in Year12 and a novel in Year13.

We also offer the option for Spanish as an AS.

Career Pathways/Key Skills Developed

An A level in Spanish enables students to develop and build on the skills they have acquired at GCSE and get a more complete understanding of the Spanish speaking world.

A level linguists are keenly sought after by universities as they have had to develop a number of key transferable skills, such as analysis and public speaking, during the course.

Language students find themselves well prepared for an increasingly global job market.

Why Choose Spanish?

Nowadays, a wider variety of professions including business and commerce, law and communications are seeking employees who can speak Spanish.

Similarly, Spanish speakers are finding an increasing number of opportunities in the fields of education, medicine and many service industries.

Our A level Spanish students have two teachers who each cover a selection of the course topics.

Name	Assessment Type	Weighting
Paper 1	Listening, Reading and Writing	50% of A level
Paper 2	Writing	20% of A level
Paper 3	Speaking	30% of A level



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BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma in Applied Science

KEY FACTS
Examining Board: Pearson

Syllabus/Code: Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma in Applied Science

Course Summary

Designed for learners who are interested in learning about the sector alongside other fields of study, with a view to progressing to a wide range of higher education courses, not necessarily in applied science. To be taken as part of a programme of study that includes other appropriate BTEC Nationals or A levels.

Equivalent in size to one International A Level. Six units, of which three are mandatory, and assessed using Pearson Set Assignment.

Unit 1 Principles and applications of Biology

This course will focus on three main areas of study including the study of the different type of cells, the musculoskeletal system and the lymphatic system. While learning about the musculoskeletal system and the lymphatic system, we will also look at not only what they are, but also the different disorders that can occur in these as well as treatments for these disorders where applicable.

Unit 2: Principles and applications of Chemistry

In this unit, students will build a fundamental understanding of chemistry by exploring topics such as periodic table, reactivity of key groups of elements and the relationship between bonding of a molecule and its structure. Students will explore real life applications of chemistry such as calculating how much substance is needed and made in a reaction.

Unit 3: Principles and applications of Physics

How do we communicate with each other? How can we send information securely? The Waves in Communication topic explores the physics of communication by looking at how waves can transmit information and then how this is used from sending signals through space to diagnosing cancer.

The final 3 units are selected by the cohort towards the end of Year 12. The current options available include a variety of topics surrounding Environmental Sciences like Climate Change, Sustainable Energy and Ecology. Other options include Astronomy and Disease and Infections.

Methods of Assessment

The course is 100% coursework and is assessed by using pass, merit and distinction criteria, each of which carries points weighting. At the end of the two-year course the points are added up. For those going to university, the points are then converted into UCAS points. You can also convert the points into A level equivalent grades.

Entry Recommendations

5/5 GCSE Science

Is this course for me?

If you are the type of student who is enthusiastic about all areas of Science, then this course could be for you. You need to be willing to use/improve a number of different skills in order to pass this course. These include: organisational, investigational and motivational skills. If you are a person who is fully committed to achieve then this will be the course for you, provided you have proven you have a good command of written English and Mathematics demonstrated by a Level 4 or above at GCSE.

BTEC Level 3 Sub Dip & Diploma in Creative Media

Course Summary

A dynamic and innovative course, the Diploma/Sub-Diploma in Creative Media Production BTEC offers a qualification that has more practical and vocational application than the traditional A level. The Sub-Diploma is equivalent to 1 A-Level and the Diploma is equivalent to 2 A-Levels. An understanding of the media industries is at the core of the program of study, and students will complete practical media projects involving music video production, film studies and print production. This is an opportunity to gain real hands on experience in a range of media forms.

There are several opportunities on the course to improve on existing media skills and we encourage students to embark on 'real' projects to add value to the learning whilst simultaneously developing their UCAS/future job applications. Due to the technical nature of the course, it is important that the BTEC Creative Media Production student has access to a reliable laptop with reasonable storage space and to Adobe software throughout the course. We will provide photographic and video equipment as required by the projects.

Career Pathways/Key Skills Developed

BTEC Creative Media Students will develop skills in:

- A variety of editing software
- Approaches to film
- Print Media production
- Exciting creative productions across film and print.
- An understanding of how the creative industries function.

Why Choose BTEC Creative Media?

There is no industry in the world that has such wide-ranging recruitment options into the work place. All industries now heavily rely on developing brand and digital presence in order to remain visible and valuable. Increasingly, a multi-skilled individual is far more desirable to an employer / university, for example, if you can write content and edit video, you will increase your employability. This course offers a range of skills to the student from two major Media industries (video and print), equipping our students with the skills needed to pursue a successful media career.

Is this course for me?

Students that feel certain that the Creative and/or Media industries are what they want to specialise in, either at University or as a career, this is the perfect course. The course will develop practical and analytical skill alongside real life experience and portfolio development. If students are unsure about which area to specialise in, the BTEC Creative Media Course will offer opportunities to investigate and explore a vast spectrum of creative media disciplines. Our goal is to ensure that students feel ready to enter employment or enter higher education and training, within the field of creative media, by the end of Year 13.

What else do I need to know?

The key word here is creativity. This is a must for the BTEC course. There are no exams in the BTEC Creative Media, it is 100% coursework. This means that students must work on projects that require creative output for real audiences. This can be challenging, but incredibly rewarding. It must be reiterated that access to a laptop and to software are essentials for any student choosing the course. This is to allow you to familiarise yourself with industry standards. There are some very budget friendly student subscription deals available.

BTEC Level 3 Sub Dip & Diploma in Enterprise & Entrepreneurship

KEY FACTS
Examining Board: Edexcel

Course Summary

BTEC Enterprise and Entrepreneurship is an exciting and challenging course that focuses on small businesses. Students have the opportunity to work in small teams to plan, set-up and operate a micro-business. Some of the units studied are contextualised to the micro-business, which makes learning enjoyable and relevant. Not only do students acquire subject knowledge but also many hard-skills from the experience of operating a business. Graduates of the course have commented on the usefulness of the skills they have learnt.

You will study the following units:

- Research and Plan a Marketing Campaign (Sub Dip & Diploma)
- Business Finance (Diploma)
- Business Decision Making (Diploma)
- Enterprise and Entrepreneurs (Sub Dip & Diploma)
- Launch and Run an Enterprise (Sub Dip and Diploma)
- Survival and Growth (Diploma)
- Intrapreneurship and Innovation in an Enterprise (Diploma)
- Optional units - Market research, Branding or Social Enterprise - TBC

Methods of Assessment

The course is 100% coursework based. The 8 units (4 at Sub Dip) are each assessed through assignments that will require the students to complete tasks that mirror those that would be asked of them in the workplace. Grades awarded are Pass, Merit and Distinction. A Distinction* is also achievable as an overall grade. At the end of the two-year course the points are added up to calculate the overall grade. For those going to university, your grade will hold equivalency with UK BTEC courses. You can also convert the points into A level equivalent grades. For example, a Distinction is equivalent to an A at A level.

Entrance Requirements

5 GCSEs at grade 5 or above. No prior study of Business is required.

Is this course for me?

This course is well-suited to hard-working, highly motivated students that prefer coursework to examinations. Although the coursework load is significant, the outcome is much more controllable than an examination. In many cases, hard-working students have achieved superb results that have resulted in a strong application to university.

What else do I need to know?

The BTEC is a 100% coursework only subject, there are no examinations involved. This does, however, mean that you will need to spend a significant amount of time completing work to a high standard outside of lesson time. Assessments may take the form of presentations, videos, performance logs, promotional materials and written documents.

This BTEC Subsidiary Diploma is equivalent to 1 A level. The Diploma is equivalent to 2 A levels.

BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma in Hospitality

KEY FACTS
Examining Board: Pearson

Syllabus/Code: BTEC International Level 3 Sub Dip in Hospitality

What is BTEC Diploma Hospitality about?

The BTEC International Level 3 Sub Dip in Hospitality is designed to give learners the opportunity to develop a range of skills and techniques, personal skills and attributes essential for successful performance in working life. It gives full-time learners the opportunity to enter employment in the Hospitality industry or to progress to vocational qualifications such as the Pearson BTEC Higher Nationals in Hospitality Management.

What is BTEC Diploma Hospitality about?

This course requires students to complete up to six units in total over the two-year course. Three units are mandatory selected by Pearson, with the remaining three being optional units chosen by the College. Units are selected to cover a wide range of topics relating to the Hospitality and Catering Industry. Each unit is broken down into smaller tasks or scenarios which are designed to reflect real life experiences of the Hospitality sector. The units selected allow students to demonstrate a range of skills to include: developing customer service skills; interpersonal skills; supervisory skills; basic finance and costings, planning, managing and organising a Hospitality event. In addition, students will develop their practical cooking and kitchen skills through the completion of European, Contemporary and Asian Food units. Students will also experience external visits to Hospitality establishments help reinforce learning and to experience a true Hospitality environment.

Assessment

Units are assessed using a grading scale of Distinction (D), Merit (M), Pass (P) and Unclassified (U). All mandatory and optional units contribute proportionately to the overall qualification grade. Equivalent in size to one International A level. There are three mandatory units, of which two are assessed using a Pearson Set Assignment.

Is this course for me?

If you are the type of student who is enthusiastic about all areas of the hospitality industry, then this course is for you. Key attributes should include being highly motivated, a good communicator, strong willingness to learn and work hard; being organised and able to meet deadlines. You must also have a good command of written English, demonstrated by a grade 4 or above at GCSE and have a keen interest in Food.

What else do I need to know?

The BTEC is a 100% coursework and controlled assessment subject - there are no examinations involved. This does, however, mean that you will need to spend a significant amount of time completing work to a high standard, outside of lesson time. Assessments may take the form of practical cooking activities, reports, studies, promotional materials and written documents. Missed deadlines or plagiarism will not be tolerated. Although work is internally assessed, the College has strict guidelines to adhere to set by the examination board.

Where could it lead?

BTEC Level 3 Diplomas are valued by employers and Higher Education (universities and colleges). If you want to get a job straight away you could work in: Hospitality management, front of house, finance, customer service, the hotel industry or catering situations within the hospitality industry.

If you decide to go to university or college you could take a degree or a BTEC Higher National in subjects such as: BTEC Higher National in Hospitality Management, BTEC Professional Qualification in Hospitality Management.

BTEC Level 3 Sub Dip and Diploma in Sport

KEY FACTS
Examining Board: Pearson

Syllabus/Code: RXN13

What is BTEC Sport about?

BTEC sport is a vocational qualification, this can be completed as a diploma which is equivalent to two A levels or as a Subsidiary Diploma which is the equivalent to one A level. The course is ideal for those seeking employment within the sports industry. It consists of numerous units that cover a wide range of topics.

How is this course structured?

Unit Content and assessment

This course requires students to complete a specific number of units, over a two-year period. These units cover a wide range of topics, each of which are broken up into smaller tasks, which are designed so that the outcome reflect real life experiences of the sporting sector. Topics will cover a range of sporting concepts such as coaching, anatomy and physiology, fitness testing and nutrition.

Assessment

The course is assessed by using pass, merit and distinction criteria, each of which carries points weighting. At the end of the two-year course the points are added up. For those going to university, the points are then converted into UCAS points. You can also convert the points into an A level equivalent grade.

The specification has been structured to allow learners to cover a diverse range of areas related to sport, so that particular interests and career aspirations within the sport and active leisure sector may be developed within the content taught and units undertaken.

Is this course for me?

If you are the type of student who is enthusiastic about all areas of sport and its industry, then this course could be for you. You need to be willing to use/improve a number of different skills in order to pass this course. These include: organisational, investigational and motivational skills. You must also have a good command of written English, demonstrated by a Level 4 or above at GCSE.

What else do I need to know?

The BTEC is a combination of assignments and controlled assessments, there are no external examinations. This does, however, mean that you will need to spend a significant amount of time completing work to a high standard, outside of lesson time.

Assessments may take the form of presentations, videos, practical performances and written documents. Missed deadlines or plagiarism will not be tolerated. Whilst students' work is internally assessed, the College has strict guidelines to adhere to from the examination board.

Where could it lead?

BTEC Level 3 Diplomas and Subsidiary Diplomas are valued by employers and higher education (universities and colleges).

If you want to get a job straight away you could work in: Leisure Centres, Outdoor Activities Centres, Sports Coaching, Sport Development.

If you decide to go to university or college you could take a degree or a BTEC Higher National in subjects such as: Sports Studies, Sports Science, Leisure Management, Sports Business, Sports Media and Teacher Training.

BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma in Travel & Tourism

KEY FACTS Examining
Board: Edexcel

Is this course for me and the methods of assessment?

The course is assessed by using pass, merit and distinction criteria, these all carry points. For those going to University, the points are then converted into UCAS points, or converted into an A level equivalent grade.

If you are a student who is willing to participate, show initiative, be creative, enjoying learning about real places and real people, can work in groups and independently as well as enjoy traveling, geography and culture then this is the course for you.

The course is 100% coursework. There is no exam.

Why Should I do it?

Travel and Tourism covers a wide range of employment opportunities in the largest industrial sector and employee in the world. Globally 1 in 9 jobs are directly related to tourism. It is the fastest growing industry in the world. The availability, range and requirements for the different careers within the Tourism sector will always be sustained and is enormous, even as global levels of disposable income and countries in Asia develop rapidly the number of international travelers is ever increasing creating careers in airlines, management, agencies, hotels, with tour operators, managing attractions, conferences and events, hospitality and entertainment, the list is endless.

Dubai provides the perfect context for the study of this subject and its highly dynamic industry. Students will get many opportunities for hands on experience whilst studying the course, with visits to several key tourism industries here in the Emirate, completing a two week work experience, participating in residential visits and organising and participating in international trips.

What else do I need to know?

The BTEC is a 100% coursework only subject - there are no examinations involved, although there are two assignments that are set by the examining board. You will be required to spend time completing work to a high standard, outside of lesson time. The work and assessments you produce may take the form of presentations, videos, performance logs, promotional materials and written documents.

This BTEC Diploma is equivalent to 2 A levels. The Subsidiary Diploma is equivalent to 1 A level.

Where could it lead?

Travel and Tourism will allow access to a range of career and further education opportunities. A variety of higher education courses exist that are based around either leisure, travel or tourism management and a number of students will no doubt enter extended learning pathways or most likely they will go onto attend University courses in the United Kingdom and beyond, to study one of the vast range of degrees on offer. Alternatively, there are many careers that build on the Travel and Tourism Qualification, particularly prevalent within the UAE. The Travel and Tourism market is the most rapidly expanding area in the 21st century. Therefore if you are interested in any of the enormous range of career opportunities in travel and tourism, then look no further.

Where could it lead?

The subsidiary course is made up of 4 units of study. Each unit will have an assignment brief with a vocational scenario that students will complete. The units include modules such as;

- World Wide Travel Destinations
- Marketing in Travel and Tourism
- Customer service
- Work Experience

Each unit has credits which students can gain a Pass, Merit or Distinction, these credits are then converted into UCAS points or/and A level equivalent grades. During the course students will develop a range of skills and techniques and improve their skills and attitudes essential for successful performance in working life.

Creative & Performing Arts (CAPA)

KEY FACTS
Examining Board: RSL (Rock School London)

Syllabus/Code: Level 3 Diploma CAPA

Course Summary

This is a purely vocational creative and performing arts course that does not involve a sit-down written exam. RSL is a popular exam board in the UK with over 350 schools & colleges offering this particular course. Its aim is to prepare students for the performing arts industry or further education. The course offers a potential 84 UCAS points which is equivalent to 2 A Levels.

Students can follow one of three pathways - Acting, Dance or Musical Theatre.

All students take the two internally assessed core units, Performance Preparation and Planning a Career in the Creative Sector, together with 5 optional units from within their chosen pathway. There is an opportunity to choose one optional unit from a different pathway.

Students apply a range of skills, knowledge and understanding in preparation for employment/further study. Units provide learners with knowledge and understanding of advanced concepts such as the style and context of performance genres, audition techniques, planning, repertoire, rehearsal schedules, the reviewing/analysis of performances and a solid grounding of practical/technical skills that will prepare them for employment or be developed in further studies.

Examples of units available are: acting workshop, ensemble dance performance, audition techniques, drama in the community, vocal techniques, working with masks or puppetry, approaches to acting and many more.

Each unit requires the students to evidence what they have achieved and prepared and produced for internal assessment. This can be achieved through a combination of audio recordings, video recordings and detailed write ups, as well as peer and tutor verbal/written feedback.

Career Pathways/Key Skills Developed

Students completing this course will have the skills to progress straight into the creative and performing arts industries. The course is divided into specific pathways offering the opportunity to undertake specialist learning that can be accurately matched to specific career sectors in the creative and performing arts industries. Occupational areas this qualification can lead to include:

- Actor
- Dancer
- Musical Theatre Performer
- Television or Film producer/actor/director

Learners can also progress into higher education courses such as degrees in Performing Arts, Music, Music Technology, Musical Theatre, Drama & Theatre Studies, Acting, Theatre Production, Film Studies, Dance, Dance Teaching, Arts Management, Marketing, Film/TV Production, Stage Skills and many more.

Why Choose RSL's CAPA?

This is a rigorous advanced level qualification on a par with A levels, recognised by employers, conservatoires, colleges and universities and comes with many UCAS points. This course is for post-16 students wishing to specialise in a specific industry, occupation or degree. It will equip students with specialist knowledge and skills, enabling entry to employment or progression to a related higher education course.

CAPA offers students the flexibility to be independent in their approach to learning and removes the pressures of sit-down examinations. It is designed for the practical learner who enjoys participating in the performing arts both inside school and through ECA participation.

DESS College has been recognised and awarded Centre of Excellence within the UAE and Internationally.

With specialist teachers in all areas of each unit, DESS College is excited to be the first school in Dubai to be chosen to launch RSL's CAPA course to its students

Music Practitioner (MUSPRA)

KEY FACTS
Examining Board: RSL (Rock School London)

Syllabus/Code: Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma

Course Summary

MUSPRA has grown in popularity since being successfully introduced to DESS College in 2019. With staff, facilities and units designed to prepare our students for a future in either the Music industry or for future study at Music Conservatoires, MUSPRA offers practical musicianship in performing, composing and technology. This course no longer requires a sit-down written exam. RSL is a popular exam board in the UK with over 350 schools & colleges offering this popular course. Its aim is to prepare students for the music industry or further education. This course offers a potential 84 UCAS points which is equivalent to 2 A Levels.

Students can follow any pathway within Performing, Composing, Music Technology & Music Business.

The range of available units allows you to specialise in a specific area of study or undertake units in a range of disciplines to broaden your skillset. There are two core units together with five optional units from within the chosen pathway.

Students apply a range of skills, knowledge and understanding in preparation for employment/further study. Units provide learners with knowledge and understanding of advanced concepts such as the style and context of performance genres, audition techniques, planning, repertoire, rehearsal schedules, the reviewing/analysis of performances and a solid grounding of practical/technical skills that will prepare them for employment or be developed in further studies.

Examples of units available are: Composing for Interactive Media, Listening to Music, Music Stage Management, Composing for Adverts & TV, Session Musician, Live Sound Recording and many more.

Each unit requires the students to evidence what they have achieved and prepared and produced for internal assessment. This can be achieved through a combination of audio recordings, video recordings and detailed write ups, as well as peer and tutor verbal/written feedback.

Career Pathways/Key Skills Developed

Students completing this course will have the skills to progress straight into the music industry. The course is divided into specific pathways offering the opportunity to undertake specialist learning that can be accurately matched to specific career sectors in the creative and performing arts industries. Occupational areas this qualification can lead to include:

- Session Musician
- Recording Artist
- Running a studio
- Musical Theatre Career
- Film Music Writer
- Composer
- Professional Performer

Learners can also progress into higher education courses such as degrees in a Conservatoire, Music, Music Technology, Musical Theatre, Music for Film, Television and many more.

Why Choose RSL's MUSPRA?

This is a rigorous advanced level qualification on a par with A levels, recognised by employers, conservatoires, colleges and universities and comes with many UCAS points. This course is for post-16 students wishing to specialise in a specific industry, occupation or degree. It will equip students with specialist knowledge and skills, enabling entry to employment or progression to a related higher education course.

MUSPRA offers students the flexibility to be independent in their approach to learning and removes the pressures of sit-down examinations. It is designed for the practical learner who enjoys participating in music performance, composition, production or technology both inside school and through ECA participation.

With specialist teachers in all areas of each unit, DESS College is excited to be the first school in Dubai to be chosen to launch RSL's MUSPRA course to its students

ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT SUBJECTS



Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

The EPQ is an exciting and flexible Level 3 qualification that allows you to explore your interests and develop research skills that will be invaluable for university. After a period of planning and research, students choose one of two routes:

1. THE WRITTEN REPORT

A 1200 word dissertation which includes academic referencing using the Harvard system. Potential topics suggested by DESS students include:

- Third Culture Kids in DESS
- The Use of Personalised Learning in Classrooms
- The Popularity of social media
- The use of The Internet to find information
- The importance of social media marketing
- The impact of technology
- Using Music's Rhythms to Create 'Strong' Personality

2. THE ARTEFACT

Students design and construct a product supported by a written report of over 1000 words.

AQA
www.aqa.org.uk

LAMDA

KEY FACTS

Examining Board: LAMDA

Course Summary

Founded in 1861, LAMDA is the oldest drama school in the UK who started to offer examinations in speech and drama to the public over 130 years ago. Since then, LAMDA have developed an enviable reputation for excellence in the provision of Communication and Performance examinations within the UK and internationally.

LAMDA: Grade 8 Acting Examinations:

Our Acting examination learners develop their vocal, physical and interpretive skills while they delve into characters and explore the background of dramatic texts. Alongside producing authentic performances of their chosen scenes, they also gain an understanding of the context and characters within them. For this examination, students will learn 3 monologues from different time periods that they will perform from memory to an examiner. Learners will then be tested on their theoretical knowledge of these texts within discussion.

LAMDA: Grade 8 Musical Theatre Examinations:

Our Musical Theatre learners develop their acting skills through song. They use vocal techniques to convey the right mood and engage with the material to form a thoughtful interpretation of the song. They'll also deepen their understanding of the history of musical theatre by performing songs from a range of eras, and by researching the work and influence of one of its composers or lyricists. Learners will perform three songs from memory, integrating their knowledge and skills to demonstrate a mature understanding of the material. Learners will then be tested on their theoretical knowledge of these musical numbers within discussion.

LAMDA: Grade 8 Speaking in Public Examinations:

Speaking in Public exams prepare our learners for a task that daunts so many people. Learners write their own speeches, researching the topics, creating visual aids and presenting them from memory. The course is designed to develop the skills necessary for effective oral communication and public presentation. Learners will write and present two speeches of their choice and then a further impromptu speech on the day of the examinations. Learners will then be tested on their theoretical knowledge of speech styles.

Our Grade 8 examinations provide students to gain a potential 30 UCAS points.

You need to commit to one timetabled lesson per week in preparation for your examinations in June.

Career Pathways/Key Skills Developed

LAMDA examinations support all university applications for all possible degrees. They will enhance your personal statement and will provide the opportunity to expand vocabulary to improve the powers of self-expression. The process of preparing for and succeeding in a LAMDA examination helps learners, whatever their aspirations, to develop a broad range of skills that will serve them throughout life.

Examinations develop a Learner's ability to:

- Read easily, fluently and with good understanding
- Improve confidence in speaking and listening
- Memorise and recall information
- Research and create persuasive formal presentations
- Create and defend arguments
- Engage in constructive informal conversation

Why Choose LAMDA?

LAMDA examinations are designed to develop your life skills, such as clear communication, self-confidence and presentation ability through the creative platforms of drama, literature and music. They will support your personal statement and also provide you with the opportunity to achieve a further 30 UCAS points.

Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

KEY FACTS

Examining Board: AQA

Syllabus/Code: 9773

Course Summary

The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) is a Level 3 qualification which is highly respected by universities and also contributes tariff points to UCAS applications. It is not, however, intended to replace A-level or BTEC courses; rather it is a supplementary qualification that compliments a sixth form academic programme. As such is a vital element of the College's super-curriculum that seeks to extend student expertise beyond the curriculum.

The EPQ will develop and extend from one or more of the student's study areas and/or from an area of personal interest or activity outside their main programme of study. It will be based on a topic chosen by the student and agreed as appropriate by the Coordinator.

Students are required, with appropriate supervision, to:

- Choose an area of interest
- Draft a title and aims of the project for formal approval by the centre
- Plan, research and carry out the project
- Deliver a presentation to a non-specialist audience
- Provide evidence of all stages of project development and production for assessment.

Students have a choice of two possible paths to complete the EPQ:

1. 5000-word report that is based on academic research
2. An artefact or made object that is based on an area of research. This is supported by a written report of no less than 1000 words.

The flexibility is what makes the EPQ so exciting; students can experiment with their chosen area(s) of interest and decide on the outcome that best suits their project. The final stages of the project is a presentation to a live audience of peers, teachers and parents.

Career Pathways/Key Skills Developed

The EPQ supports a university application for all possible degrees. It enhances a personal statement and provides valuable experience that can help with interviews, motivational essays and letters of application. Universities value the EPQ because it encourages students to go well beyond the curriculum, learning research skills, critical thinking and the conventions of academic writing that will be invaluable when they are undergraduates.

Why Choose EPQ?

Apart from contributing UCAS tariff points, the EPQ fosters valuable research skills and many of the conventions of academic writing nurtures intellectual curiosity. Students rarely have the opportunity to explore their own interests and the EPQ truly allows this. In particular, conducting primary research is an experience that many relish. Activities such as interviewing experts, designing and conducting surveys and questionnaires, analysing data and building computer models; is what makes this a unique, life changing qualification.

Course Organisation

As part of the EPQ programme, students receive one taught lesson per week. In the first term, students follow the DESS College. Advanced Research Skills Programme that teaches them key skills. At the end of the term, they are required to hand in a Research Proposal indicating the intended direction of their project. Providing this is of satisfactory quality, students will move onto their EPQ project in the second term of Year 12. It is important to stress that students are only taught generic skills and not subject content. They will therefore conduct their own research and much of the work will be completed independently. Although each student will be allocated a supervisor, their role is exclusively one of a coach or mentor and not teacher. Thus, the EPQ is a highly demanding qualification that requires resilience, flexibility and tenacity.

AS Classical Studies

KEY FACTS

Examining Board: Cambridge International

Syllabus/Code: 9274

Course Summary

You will begin this new and exciting course in September of Year 12 and sit the examination in October of Year 13. You will study a diverse range of ancient sources and material, including classical literature, philosophy, politics, art, archaeology and history. By studying the society and culture of Ancient Greece and Rome, you will learn about the birth of Western civilisation and its interaction with the East.

In the Greek Civilisation component of the course students will learn about the achievements of Alexander the Great and his impact on the world. Through the study of a selection of biographical works and other fascinating sources you will explore the life of Alexander with particular reference to his campaigns, military achievements and personal characteristics.

The second component centres on Roman Civilisation and the reign of Augustus. You will explore Augustus’ rise to power, his foreign policy and his legacy through close analysis of historical sources, literary texts and artifacts.

AS Classical Studies will enable students to learn about the culture and beliefs of the ancient Greeks and Romans in a multi-disciplinary subject involving the study of ancient thought and ideas, and the ancient historical context.

Career Pathways/Key Skills Developed

If you are looking to apply to university, AS Classical Studies can be extremely useful. You not only acquire specific Classical knowledge, but also important transferable skills such as analysing sources and developing independent, critical and evaluative approaches. You learn to formulate and support an argument and develop a valuable understanding of cultures very different to your own. The skills and knowledge that you develop will be invaluable in helping you prepare for university.

Why Choose AS Classical Studies?

The study of the Classical world can help in our understanding of contemporary events. Ancient Greece and Ancient Rome have shaped modern perspectives on topics ranging from Politics to Art. AS Classical Studies will be a hugely enjoyable and challenging subject that will enhance your critical thinking skills and capacity to empathise with people from different cultures.

Name	Assessment Type	Weighting
Paper 1	Examination (3 hrs)	100%

Mathematical Studies

KEY FACTS

Examining Board: AQA

Entrance Requirements:
Full GCSE Course Grade 5 or equivalent

Syllabus/Code:

Paper 1 Compulsory Unit
Paper 2b Critical Path and Risk Analysis

Course Summary

This course is suitable for students who achieved at least a grade 5 at GCSE (or equivalent) and wish to continue studying mathematics with an increased focus on real life uses and applications. This Level 3 qualification aims to build on the knowledge, understanding and skills established in GCSE Mathematics, but has a significantly lower focus on algebra than A level Mathematics.

Paper 1	Paper 2
Analysis of Data	Critical analysis of given data and models
Mathematics for personal finance	Critical path analysis
Estimation	Expectation
	Cost Benefit Analysis

Career Pathways/Key Skills Developed

Mathematics is for everyone. It is diverse, engaging and essential in equipping students with the right skills to reach their future destination, whatever that may be.

Mathematical Studies helps to develop students' mathematical thinking skills and supports courses such as A level Business Studies, Psychology and Geography as well as technical and vocational qualifications.

Why Choose Mathematical Studies

Mathematical Studies is a course designed to maintain and develop real-life maths skills. What students’ study is not purely theoretical or abstract; it can be applied on a day-to-day basis in work, study or life and includes a financial maths element. The skills developed in the study of mathematics are increasingly important in the workplace and in higher education; studying Mathematical Studies will help students keep up these essential skills.

Name	Assessment Type	Weighting
Paper 1	Compulsory Unit - 1 hr 30 mins - 60 marks	50%
Paper 2b	Critical Path and Risk Analysis - 1 hr 30 mins - 60 marks	50%



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