



Sixth Form Open Evening
Subject Information for
Courses Commencing
September 2019



www.holcombegrammar.org.uk

HOLCOMBE GRAMMAR SCHOOL SIXTH FORM
SUBJECT ENTRY REQUIREMENTS 2019/20

SUBJECT	ESSENTIAL	DESIRED
FINE ART	Level 6 in GCSE Art	
BIOLOGY	Level 7 in Biology or a grade 7 7 in Combined Science	Must also study a Level 3 Mathematics in context course if not studying A Level Maths
BTEC APPLIED SCIENCE (Equivalent to 1 X A-Level)	Levels 6 6 5 in separate sciences or Level 6 6 in Combined Science	
BUSINESS STUDIES	Level 6 in Mathematics and English Literature	
CHEMISTRY	Level 7 in Chemistry or a grade 7 7 in Combined Science	Must also study a Level 3 Mathematics in context course if not studying A Level Maths
COMPUTER SCIENCE	Level 6 in Mathematics	If ICT has been taken at GCSE, a level 6 is required
DESIGN TECHNOLOGY	Level 6 in Design Technology	Level 6 in Mathematics
ENGLISH LANGUAGE & LITERATURE	Level 5 in English Language	
ENGLISH LITERATURE	Level 6 in English Literature	
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES	Level 7 7 6 in Triple Science or Level 7 7 in Combined Science	
FINANCIAL STUDIES (DIPLOMA)	Level 5 in English Literature or Language and a level 5 in Mathematics	
FRENCH	Level 6 in French	
FURTHER MATHS	Level 8 in Mathematics	
GEOGRAPHY	Level 6 in Geography and a level 6 in English Language	Where Geography has not been taken at GCSE, a Level 6 in English and a Level 6 in a humanities subject.
HISTORY	Level 6 in History and a Level 6 in English Language or Literature	Where History has not been taken at GCSE, a level 6 in either English Language or literature and a Level 6 in a humanities subject
LAW	Level 6 in English Literature or Language	Level 6 in a humanities subject
MATHEMATICS	Level 7 in Mathematics	
MEDIA STUDIES	Level 6 in English Literature or Language	
PHOTOGRAPHY	Level 6 in GCSE Art	Where Art has not been taken at GCSE, a Level 6 in either English Language or Literature
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	Competitive involvement in one practical activity outside of school (see AQA website for list of approved activities); Level 6 GCSE Physical Education	Level 6 in Biology
PHYSICS	Level 7 in Physics or a grade 7 7 in Combined Science	Must also study a Level 3 Mathematics in context course if not studying A Level Maths
POLITICS	Level 6 in a humanities subject and Level 6 in English Literature or Language	
PSYCHOLOGY	Level 6 in English Literature plus a level 6 in Biology or 6 6 in Combined Science.	If studied at GCSE a Level 6 in Psychology
RELIGIOUS STUDIES	Level 6 in English Literature and English Language	Level 6 in RS or another humanities subject
SOCIOLOGY	Level 6 in a humanities subject	If studied at GCSE a Level 6 in sociology
SPANISH	Level 6 in Spanish	

Enrichment/ Additional qualifications to be studied alongside A Levels (not in place of A Levels)	
Maidstone United Football Academy	Meeting entry requirement for Sixth Form
EPQ	Meeting entry requirement for Sixth Form

For the purpose of entry requirements, the following are considered as humanities subjects: Religious Studies (full course), History, Geography, Psychology, Sociology, Film Studies, Economics and Business Studies.



Subjects that are on offer as a collaborative Sixth Form at Rochester Grammar School for Girls

SUBJECT	ESSENTIAL	DESIRED
BUSINESS STUDIES	Level 6 in Mathematics and English Literature or Language	
DRAMA	Level 6 in Drama or Level 6 in English Literature or Language and be active in drama outside of school	
ECONOMICS	Level 6 in English Literature or Language and a Level 7 in Mathematics	Must also study a Level 3 Mathematics in context course if not studying A Level Maths
GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES	Level 7 in English Literature or Language GCSE and a Level 7/A in a GCSE humanities subject 2 year course as an option - must accompany 3 other A levels and be working as Oxbridge entry level required.	
MUSIC	Level 6 in GCSE Music and a Grade 5 in voice or musical instrument. Must be involved in external lessons outside of school.	
MUSIC TECHNOLOGY	Level 6 in Music, Music Theory Level 4	



Subjects that are on offer as a collaborative Sixth Form at The Victory Academy

SUBJECT	ESSENTIAL	DESIRED
A LEVEL SUBJECTS		
ART & DESIGN	Level 5 in Art and Level 4 in English	
BIOLOGY	Level 6 Maths, Science and English	
CHEMISTRY	Level 6 Maths, Science and English	
ENGLISH LITERATURE	Level 5 in English Literature and Language	
MEDIA STUDIES	Level 5 in English and Level 4 in Maths	
PRODUCT DESIGN	Level 4 in English and Maths	GP/RM GCSE at level 5 or Art GCSE at level 6
RELIGIOUS STUDIES	Level 5 in English	
SOCIOLOGY	Level 5 in English and Maths	
BTEC SINGLE SUBJECTS		
APPLIED PSYCHOLOGY	Level 4 in English and Maths	
APPLIED SCIENCE	Level 5 in Maths, Science and English	
BTEC NATIONALS IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT)	Level 4 in English, Maths and IT or creative media	
BUSINESS	Level 4 in English and Maths	
LEVEL 3 APPLIED CERTIFICATE IN CRIMINOLOGY	Level 4 in English	
BTEC TRIPLE SUBJECTS		
ART & DESIGN EXTENDED DIPLOMA	Level 4 in English and Maths	
HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE EXTENDED DIPLOMA	Level 4 in English and Maths	
PERFORMING ARTS EXTENDED DIPLOMA	BTEC in Performing Arts- at a Pass or above	
SPORT EXTENDED DIPLOMA	Level 4 in English and Maths	
LEVEL 3 CERTIFICATE		
CORE MATHS	Level 5 in English and Maths	



Please note that with educational/DFE changes, there may be amendments over the next ten months that affect the choice of examination board or subject offer. Additionally, for subjects to be run successfully, there will be a minimum number of students required. The school reserves the right to amend as necessary. If, for any reason, we are unable to accommodate one of your course choices, we will contact you directly to discuss alternative options. The attached list is accurate at November 2018.

Dear Student,

Thank you for taking the time to read our Sixth Form course prospectus. We are very proud of our extensive curriculum and are pleased to offer such a broad choice of courses at Holcombe Grammar School and across the Trust Schools. With such a wide range of courses available, you will be able to select the combination that best suits your interests, abilities and career aspirations.

Within this booklet, you will find details of all the Sixth Form courses we are offering students for September 2019. If you are an existing student, you will be able to ask your teachers any questions about the courses throughout the Open Evening or you can speak to them directly in school. If you are an external student, please feel free to speak to our excellent team of teachers, including those from our other Trust Schools at the Open Evening, or contact the school so that we can happily respond to any of your queries.

Holcombe Grammar School is consistently ranked as one of the highest performing Sixth Form centres in Kent and Medway and it continues to remain as the best performing boys' grammar school in Medway for progress. It works in collaboration with The Rochester Grammar School and The Victory Academy (respectively ranked 1st and 2nd for Key Stage 5 progress in Medway in 2017) to provide one of the broadest Sixth Form offers in the local area. All three schools are part of the same family, 'The Thinking Schools Academy Trust', and are committed to providing the very best learning experiences for all of their students. We want our students to flourish so that they have a solid foundation for further study or employment; it is our aim to transform their life chances.

At Holcombe Grammar School you would be joining a caring, supportive and aspirational community, one that would acknowledge your starting point and nurture you to make excellent progress over your time at the school. We stand by our motto of 'Aspire and Achieve' and will work collaboratively with you to provide you with the skills, knowledge and attributes so that you can fulfil your individual future goals and aspirations.

Admissions criteria:

Students wishing to study in the Sixth Form at Holcombe Grammar School are required to achieve at least five Level 9-4/5 (A*-C grades) including English and Mathematics; in addition to the subject specific requirements listed on the enclosed sheet within this pack.

We believe that yours is an exciting future and look forward to receiving your application and working with you to shape your curriculum offer.

Yours faithfully



Ms A Gage

Executive Principal

Why study Art & Design?

The main purpose of an Art and Design course is to develop students' ability to engage with the visual world and respond in personal and creative ways. Whilst studying Art and Design at Holcombe Grammar School you will develop a variety of skills and a working knowledge of materials, practices and technology in different disciplines such as drawing, painting, textiles and digital photography, mixed-media and darkroom techniques. You will develop your imaginative and creative powers as well as experiment and analyse developing a deeper understanding of art and design in past and present times. A typical Art and Design student is independent and able to understand how to build on previous knowledge as well as having a growth mind set

Endorsements:-

Fine Art

Photography

How will you be assessed?

Component 1: Portfolio. 60% of the A Level.

Component 2: Externally set assignment. 40% of the A Level

What will you study?

Year 12 – Component 1	During terms 1-3 students will learn and extend a number of skills using a wide variety of materials. Both Photography and Fine Art students will have the same starting point from which they will explore sources and techniques. Work will mostly be sketchbook based
Year 12 – Component 1 (coursework personal Investigation)	Students will decide on their own personal investigation project title, this is an individual process. Building on skills learnt during their foundation terms students will develop ideas using sources.
Year 13 – Component 1	Students will continue to develop and refine ideas both in and out of their sketchbooks. Through 1-2-1 tuitions students will extend their ideas and will research and develop work independently to produce a personalised journal and series of outcomes. Students will also produce an extended essay supporting the sketchbook work.
Year 13 – Component 2	Externally set assignment. Students will have a choice of titles and will have approximately 12 weeks to develop a project with the final piece/s being produced during 15 hours of supervised time. This unit makes up 40% of the A Level.

What will Art & Design offer you in the future?

Many students, after completing their A Level in Art and Design move on to complete a foundation course before moving onto a creative degree of their choice. Future careers are wide and varied but could include: Architecture, advertising, marketing, graphic and motion design, game design, theatre and set design, fashion and textile design as well as publishing and the media. The study of Art and Design can also help you to develop transferable skills that you can take into any career.

Why study Biology?

Saving threatened species, studying microbes, growing organic plants for food, curing diseases? The 21st Century offers many challenges to biologists. Which ones are you interested in? New knowledge in areas such as genetics, molecular biology, and biochemistry, the environment and marine sciences have profound effects on human society and the environment which we inhabit. The world moves quickly and in order to move with it and participate fully people need to be 'in the know'. Studying A Level Biology at Holcombe Grammar School gives you the skills and opportunities to advance human knowledge and understanding in today's world, in order to make a difference to tomorrow's.

How will you be assessed?

(Students will sit 3 papers at the end of Year 13)

Paper 1 (2 hours) a written exam (91 marks) - 35% of the A Level

(76 marks: a mixture of short and long answer questions; 15 marks: extended response questions)

Paper 2 (2 hours) a written exam (91 marks) - 35% of the A Level

(76 marks: a mixture of short and long answer questions; 15 marks: comprehension questions)

Paper 3 (2 hours) a written exam (78 marks) - 30% of the A Level

(38 marks: structured questions, including practical techniques; 15 marks: critical analysis of experimental data; 25 marks: one essay from a choice of two titles)

What will you study?

Unit 1: Biological Molecules	All Life on Earth shares a common chemistry providing indirect evidence for evolution. However, despite their great variety, the cells of all living organisms contain only a few groups of carbon-based compounds that interact in similar ways. This unit looks at carbohydrates, lipids, proteins, nucleic acids and water and their role in biological systems.
Unit 2: Cells	All Life on Earth is cellular. This unit looks at the dichotomy in cell structure between prokaryotes and eukaryotes. It also focuses on cell organisation and the control of the movement of materials in and out of cells and its role in cell communication.
Unit 3: Organisms exchange things with their environments	The internal environment of a cell or organism is different from its external environment. The exchange of substances between the internal and external environments takes place at exchange surfaces. This unit focuses on large organisms, where exchange surfaces are associated with mass transport systems that carry substances between the exchange surfaces and the rest of the body and between parts of the body.
Unit 4: Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms	Biological diversity (biodiversity) is reflected in the vast number of species of organisms, in the variation of individual characteristics within a single species and in the variation of cell types within a single multicellular organism. This unit looks at the genetic causes of diversity and the relationship between the genome and the environment and the role of mutations in bringing about variation.
Unit 5: Energy transfers in and between organisms (A Level only)	Life depends on the continuous transfer of energy from producers (photoautotrophs) to consumers (heterotrophs). This unit looks at the energetics and biochemistry of respiration and photosynthesis as well as energy fluxes in ecosystems.
Unit 6: Organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments (A Level only)	This unit looks at the role of nervous, hormonal and growth regulator mediated mechanisms for regulating the internal and external environments of organisms with a clear focus on cell to cell communication.
Unit 7: Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems (A Level only)	The theory of evolution underpins modern Biology. All new species arise from an existing species. This results in different species sharing a common ancestry, as represented in phylogenetic classification. This unit helps you understand how common ancestry can explain the similarities between all living

	<p>organisms, such as common chemistry (e.g. all proteins made from the same 20 or so amino acids), physiological pathways (e.g. anaerobic respiration), cell structure, and DNA as the genetic material and a 'universal' genetic code.</p>
<p>Unit 8: The control of gene expression</p>	<p>Cells are able to control their metabolic activities by regulating the transcription and translation of their genome. Although the cells within an organism carry the same genetic code, they translate only part of it. In multicellular organisms, this control of translation enables cells to have specialised functions, forming tissues and organs. This unit studies the many factors that control the expression of genes and, thus, the phenotype of organisms. Some are external, environmental factors, others are internal factors. This will give you an appreciation of common ailments resulting from a breakdown of these control mechanisms and the use of DNA technology in the diagnosis and treatment of human diseases.</p>
<p>What will Biology offer you in the future? Whether deciding on a career in psychology, medicine, genetics, forensics, pharmacy, veterinary medicine, biochemistry or journalism, a biological qualification gives you many skills and increases your career options so you can adapt to the world changing around you.</p>	

Why study Applied Science?

This course provides the foundation of Biology, Chemistry, and Physics at A Level. You will learn a wide range of practical laboratory skills. It is aimed at students that have a high interest in science and desire to pursue either further studies at university, a route to employment or further training in this subject.

How will you be assessed?

Unit 1 - External assessment- Written examination set and marked by Edexcel, 1.5 hours, 90 marks
Cover Biology, Chemistry and Physics equally. The paper will include a range of question types, including multiple choice, calculations, short answer and open responses.

Unit 2 - Internal coursework assessment

Unit 3 - External assessment- A practical investigation (3 hours) and written submission (1.5 hours) marked by Edexcel, 60 marks

Unit 4 - Internal coursework assessment

Each unit is graded as: U, Pass, Merit or Distinction

The units are combined together for one overall A-Level equivalent grade. You will be awarded either a U, Pass, Merit, Distinction, or Distinction *. You will be awarded an Extended Certificate in Applied Science at the end of year 13.

What will you study?

Unit 1: Principles and Applications of Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 90 Guided Learning Hours• Covers some of the key science concepts in biology, chemistry and physics. The topic areas covered in this unit include: animal and plant cells; tissues; atomic structure and bonding; chemical and physical properties of substances related to their uses; waves and their application in communications.
Unit 2: Practical Scientific Procedures and Techniques	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 90 Guided Learning Hours• This unit introduces you to standard laboratory equipment and techniques, including titration, colorimetry, chromatography, calibration procedures and laboratory safety.
Unit 3: Scientific Investigation Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 120 Guided Learning Hours• In this unit, you will develop the essential skills underpinning practical scientific investigations. As well as drawing on Units 1 and 2, these skills will be delivered through subject themes ranging from enzymes and diffusion to electrical circuits.

What will Applied Science offer you in the future?

This course is useful in preparation for further study at university, employment, self-employment, or training. Studying Applied Science could lead to a career in engineering, psychology, geography, environmental science, nursing, midwifery, and many other STEM related fields. Students should always check the requirements of the degree programme that they are interested in pursuing.

What do I need at GCSE in order to Study BTEC Applied Science?

In Separate Science GCSE you must get at least 6/6/5 and in Combined Science you must have at least 6/6.

Why study Business Studies?

Learn about the workings of real life businesses; understand the cause and effect of business decisions; develop skills such as handling data, presenting arguments, making recommendations, recognising problems, planning and conducting research - all useful for future study and for all career choices.

How will you be assessed?

There are three papers used to assess A Level Business Studies. Each paper will assess all parts of the subject material. Paper 1 consists of multiple choice, short answer and essay questions. Paper 2 contains questions based on data response. Paper 3 is based on a case study. Each paper is worth one third of the final qualification.

What will you study?

Year 12 - Business Activity

What is business?

Managers, leadership and decision making.

Decision making to improve:

- Marketing performance
- Operational performance
- Financial performance
- Human resource performance

Year 13 - Business Strategy

Analysing the strategic position of a business.

Choosing strategic direction.

Strategic methods.

Managing strategic change.

What will Business Studies offer you in the future?

There are hundreds of Business courses at University from Pure Business to combinations with languages, marketing, human resources, and economics. Specific careers include accountancy and management as well as preparing students working for themselves.

Why study Chemistry?

Chemistry provides the opportunity to develop the manipulative, practical, analytical skills needed to interpret experimental data. It emphasises ability to apply knowledge and make predictions about unknown/new situations and in addition it enables you to understand the world around you, including some of the very processes of life itself.

How will you be assessed?

Pupils will sit 3 papers at the end of Year 13

Paper 1 (2 hours) a written exam - 35% - Advanced Physical and Inorganic

Paper 2 (2 hours) a written exam - 35% - Advanced Physical and Organic

Paper 3 (2 hours) a written exam - 30% - Advanced Physical, Inorganic and Organic

What will you study?

Physical Chemistry	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Atomic structure• Amount of substance• Structure and Bonding• Energetic• Kinetics• Equilibria• Redox Chemistry• Thermodynamics• Kinetic Rate Equations• Equilibrium Constants Kc• Electrode Potentials• Electrochemical Cells• Acids, Bases and Buffer Solutions
Inorganic Chemistry	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Periodicity• Trends in group 2 and 7• Identification of unknown aqueous compounds• Transition metals and reactions of ions in solution
Organic Chemistry	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Alkanes and Alkenes• Halogenoalkanes and Alcohols• Optical Isomerism• Aldehydes and Ketones• Carboxylic Acids• Aromatic Chemistry• Amines• Polymers• Amino Acids• Proteins and DNA• Organic Synthesis• NMR and Chromatography

What will Chemistry offer you in the future?

A Level Chemistry is an essential requirement for studying Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Medicine and can lead to a large variety of career options, such as Chemical Engineering, Pharmaceuticals, Forensics, Biochemistry, Accountancy/Finance, Journalism/Publishing and Education. Universities particularly value the logical discipline and transferrable skills developed through studying Chemistry and regard it as a facilitating subject for a diverse variety of courses, providing you with the scope to pursue virtually any career path.

Why study Computer Science?

Computer Science (this is NOT ICT, ICT is totally different from Computer Science) is a practical subject where you can apply the academic principles learned in the classroom to real-world systems. It's an intensely creative subject that combines invention and excitement, that can look at the natural world through a digital prism. Computer Science qualifications will value computational thinking, helping you to develop the skills to solve problems, design systems and understand the power and limits of human and machine intelligence.

How will you be assessed?

- 01 Computer Systems – Externally marked paper – 40%
- 02 Algorithms and programming – Externally marked paper – 40%
- 03 Programming project – Internally assesses and externally moderated – 20%

What will you study?

Unit 01 Computing Principles	This component is a traditionally marked and structured question paper with a mix of question types: short-answer, longer-answer, and levels of response mark-scheme-type questions. It will cover the characteristics of contemporary systems architecture and other areas including the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Operating systems• Introduction to programming• Data types, structures and algorithms• Exchanging data and web technologies• Using Boolean algebra• Legal and ethical issues
Unit 02 Algorithms and Programming	This component will be a traditionally marked and structured question paper with two sections, both of which will include a mix of question types: short-answer, longer-answer, and levels of response mark-scheme-type questions. Section A <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Traditional questions concerning computational thinking• Elements of computational thinking• Programming and problem solving• Pattern recognition, abstraction and decomposition• Algorithm design and efficiency• Standard algorithms Section B <p>There will be a scenario/task contained in the paper, which could be an algorithm or a text page-based task, which will involve problem solving.</p>
Unit 03 Programming Project:	You will select your own user-driven problem of an appropriate size and complexity to solve. This will enable you to demonstrate the skills and knowledge necessary to meet the Assessment Objectives. You will need to analyse the problem, design a solution, implement the solution and give a thorough evaluation.

What will Computer Science offer you in the future?

You will develop an ability to analyse, critically evaluate and make decisions. The project approach is a vital component of 'post-school' life and is of particular relevance to Further Education, Higher Education and the workplace. Irrespective of your final choice of workplace or further education place Computer Science helps you to develop the analytical skills essential to success.

Why study Product Design?

A Level in Design and Technology offers a unique opportunity in the curriculum for learners to identify and solve real problems by designing and making products or systems. Design and technology is an inspiring, rigorous and practical subject. This specification encourages learners to use creativity and imagination when applying interactive design processes to develop and modify designs and to design and make prototypes that solve real world problems, considering their own and others' needs, wants, aspirations and values. The course enables learners to identify market needs and opportunities for new products, initiate and develop design solutions and make and test prototypes. Learners should acquire subject knowledge in design and technology, including how a product can be developed through the stages of prototyping, realisation and commercial manufacture.

How will you be assessed?

Component 1: Exam, 3 examination – 50% of A Level

Component 2: NEA, 80 Hours – 50% of A Level

What will you study?

Year 12/13

Component 1: Design and Technology in the 21st Century

This paper is set out through four sets of questions that predominantly cover technical principles within each endorsed title. Learners will be required to:
analyse existing products

- demonstrate applied mathematical skills
- demonstrate their technical knowledge of materials, product functionality, manufacturing processes and techniques
- demonstrate their understanding of wider social, moral and environmental issues that impact on the design and manufacturing industries.
- analyse and evaluate wider issues in design and technology

Year 12/13

Component 2: Design and make project

Learners are required to complete one sustained design and make project, based on a design brief developed by the learner. Approximately 80 hours should be devoted to this project.

In completing the design and make project, the learner will be required to produce the following evidence:

- a design brief developed by the learner
- a final prototype (or prototypes) based on that design brief, and
- additional evidence as necessary, including a design folio, to enable the assessment of the learner's attainment in each of the categories
 - a) Identifying and investigating design possibilities
 - b) Developing a design brief and specification
 - c) Generating and developing design ideas
 - d) Manufacturing a prototype
 - e) Analysing and evaluating design decisions and prototypes

What will Product Design offer you in the future?

A Level Design Technology naturally progresses on to University courses in product design, furniture design, interior design, architecture, engineering, and automotive design. The skills developed in managing extended projects, time management, problem solving and creativity are a valuable foundation for any future university course or career.

Why study Drama?

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

- Presenting practical work as either an actor or technical designer
- Exploring the work of recognised theatre practitioners
- Devising your own theatrical work based on stimuli
- Studying a range of theatrical texts
- Working creatively with others
- Observing live theatre

What will you study?

You will be examined on either your acting or your technical designing abilities, as well as through a written creative log and a written examination.

You will take part in practical workshop lessons through which you will study a range of theatre practitioners and theatrical texts.

You will work on both scripted and devising projects, applying the knowledge gained from your exploration of theatrical styles and genres.

You will develop technical as well as performance skills in order to gain a holistic approach to the theatre.

How will you be examined?

Component 1:	Theatre Workshop (internally assessed non-examination assessment, 20% of the qualification) A performance unit in which you create a new piece of theatre from an existing script, with an accompanying written assignment.
Component 2:	Text in Action (externally assessed by a visiting examiner, 40% of qualification) A performance exam in which you present one devised piece of theatre and one scripted piece of theatre, as well as submitting a written assignment.
Component 3:	Text in Performance (written examination, 40% of qualification) An exam in which you write from the point of view of an actor, director and designer.

What will Drama offer you in the future?

You may wish to take a GCE in Drama for its own sake, perhaps to form the basis of a future interest or academic study at University or Drama school.

Drama related careers are numerous and include performing, directing, technical design (sound, lighting, costume, make-up, and scenic production), entertainment, education, television, radio, drama therapy, film or theatre production, or any job which involves communication and expressive skills.

Why study Economics?

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

- a combination of essay writing, numerical data handling and reading comprehension skills,
- fostering a passion for current affairs,
- enhancing debating, decision making and problem solving skills,
- developing the logical analysis and chain of reasoning,
- practising evidence-based evaluation skills

What will you study?

You will be examined on Microeconomics, Macroeconomics and The Themes.

Microeconomics involves the decision making by the government to intervene in the interaction of supply and demand in the individual markets to correct market failure in order to solve the basic economic problem of scarcity.

Macroeconomics is about the government's decisions on the nation-wide basis and involves objectives such as low unemployment, low and steady inflation, high economic growth, and equity in income distribution.

The Themes would allow you to apply the knowledge gained in these two units in the setting of International Economics, Development Economics, and Financial Markets to name the few.

How will you be examined?

Paper 1: Microeconomics

33% of your grade. 2 hours. 80 marks, of which 50 marks are two 25-marks essays, and the rest are shorter (2-15 marks) questions related to a case study.

Paper 2: Macroeconomics

33% of your grade. 2 hours. 80 marks, of which 50 marks are two 25-marks essays, and the rest are shorter (2-15 marks) questions related to a case study.

Paper 3: The Themes

33% of your grade. 2 hours. 80 marks, of which 30 marks are multiple choice questions and the rest are short questions (2-15 marks) based on a case study.

What will Economics offer you in the future?

Apprenticeships: former Economics RGS pupils successfully applied and are currently working at the Bank of England, Ernst and Young, Price Water House and other audit firms straight after school.

University degrees: former Economics RGS pupils went to study Economics and Management at Oxford, Land Management at Cambridge, Economics at Warwick, Durham, Essex, Queen Mary etc.

Future careers: one former RGS Economics pupil is doing PhD in Economics in New York, some have Summer internships at Bank of America Merrill Lynch, Morgan Stanley and other financial institutions in the city, and some work in accounting and audit, and some as economists for private or public sector.

Subject Leader
Ms I Tomris

Advanced Level
**English Language
and Literature**
AQA

Why study English Language and Literature?

The Language and Literature syllabus encourages students to engage creatively, critically and independently with a wide range of texts. Using literary and linguistic methods, students will analyse literary and non-literary texts in a range of modes and genres, in the process gaining insights into the nature of different discourses and ideas about creativity. Students will develop skills as producers and interpreters of language by creating texts themselves and critically reflecting on their own processes of production.

How will you be assessed?

Paper 1 - Written exam 3 hours. Open books. 100 marks. 40% of A Level.

Paper 2 - Written exam 2 hours 30 minutes. Open book. 100 marks. 40% of A Level.

Coursework – A personal investigation into language (2500 words). 50 marks. 20% of A Level.

What will you study?

Unit 1	Paper 1: Telling Stories. This paper involves students exploring the differing perspectives and viewpoints used by authors to create characters. It also explores how imagined worlds and remembered places have been represented through an exciting range of poetry and prose. This exam will be 3 hours in length and will be open book.
Unit 2	Paper 2: Exploring Conflicts. This unit will inspire students to get creative with their writing skills, re-creating texts from a range of genres. There will be particular focus on society and the roles of individuals within it as well as an exploration of drama texts with conflict at their heart. This exam will be 2 hours 30 minutes in length and will be open book.
Unit 3	Non-exam Assessment: Making Connections. The coursework takes the form of a personal investigation, where students select their own specific language technique or theme in both literary and non-literary discourse. The word count is 2500, not including a bibliography.

What will English Language and Literature offer you in the future?

Studying A Level English Language and Literature will give you the best of both worlds: it will develop you as a critical thinker whilst, at the same time, lighting the creative fires in you. You will engage innovatively and independently with a range of spoken, written and multimodal texts and this will prepare you to engage with, critically assess and utilise language in any setting.

The opportunity to undertake independent and sustained studies in this subject, honing skills as both producers and interpreters of language along the way, will be excellent preparation for future study and a stepping stone to self-sufficiency. The chance to write creatively will certainly encourage you to take more risks and build confidence in your own abilities. English Language and Literature inspires you to grow as individuals. It cares about what you think.

Finally, the flexibility of an English Language and Literature qualification is unsurpassed, supporting innumerable career paths, from Finance to Law to Medicine – it is highly prized and one that no student should underestimate the value of.

Why study English Literature?

The Literature syllabus encourages students to develop interest in and enjoyment of English Literature, through reading widely, critically and independently, across centuries, genre and gender, and through experience of an extensive range of views about texts and how to read them.

How will you be assessed?

Paper 1 - Written exam 3 hours. 75 marks. 40% of A Level.

Paper 2 - Written exam 2 hours 30 minutes. Open book. 75 marks. 40% of A Level.

Coursework - One extended comparative essay (2500 words). 50 marks. 20% of A Level.

What will you study?

Unit 1	This is the foundation to the whole course. It invites students to study a central literary theme as seen over time, referencing their wider reading in prose, drama and poetry. Students will sit a 3 hour exam. In Paper 1 they will be asked to respond to unseen extracts from Shakespeare, poetry and prose.
Unit 2	Paper 2 will involve students responding to a range of literature pertaining to WW1 and its aftermath. In particular students will study three texts, one of which would have been written post 2000. This exam will be 2 hours 30 minutes in length and will be open book.
Unit 3	The coursework, Unit 3 is an independent, comparative critical study of two texts, one of which must have been written pre-1900. This will provide students with the opportunity to develop skills of autonomy and challenge their appreciation of wider reading. The word count is 2500, not including a bibliography

What will English Literature offer you in the future?

Studying A Level English Literature will help you to develop your ability to effectively communicate, both orally and in writing. You will also develop skills in: independent working; time management and organisation; planning and researching written work; articulating knowledge and understanding of texts, concepts and theories; leading and participating in discussions; effectively conveying arguments and opinions and thinking creatively; using your judgement to weigh up alternative perspectives; and critical reasoning and analysis.

The acquisition of these skills means that A-Level English Literature is a highly prized A Level which opens routes to many courses at university and in the world of work.

Why study Environmental Science?

The subject provides a highly relevant interdisciplinary fourth science option. It's ideal for anyone interested in contemporary environmental issues, systems thinking and sustainability.

This is a great accompaniment to A Levels in geography, biology, physics and maths and develops key skills including communication, teamwork and critical thinking.

We provide a foundation for the development of key scientific skills and knowledge to assist progression to further study and beyond:

- develop essential knowledge and understanding of different areas of environmental science and how they relate to each other
- develop and demonstrate a deep appreciation of the skills, knowledge and understanding of the scientific methods used to investigate the environment
- develop competence and confidence in a variety of practical, mathematical and problem solving skills related to environmental issues and the sustainable use of resources
- understand the importance of basing decisions on reliable data which allows evidence-based analysis of environmental issues
- develop interest in and enthusiasm for the subject, including developing an interest in further study and careers associated with the subject
- understand how society makes decisions about environmental issues and how these contribute to the success of the economy and society.

How will you be assessed?

(Students will sit 2 papers at the end of Year 13.)

Paper 1 (3 hours) a written exam (120 marks) - 50% of the A Level

Paper 2 (3 hours) a written exam (120 marks) - 50% of the A Level

A range of question types will be used, including those that require extended responses. Extended response questions will allow students to demonstrate their ability to construct and develop a sustained line of reasoning which is coherent, relevant, substantiated and logically structured. Extended responses may be in written English, extended calculations, or a combination of both, as appropriate to the question.

10% of the overall assessment of A Level Environmental Science will contain mathematical skills equivalent to Level 2 or above.

At least 15% of the overall assessment of A Level Environmental Science will assess knowledge, skills and understanding in relation to practical work.

What will you study?

Unit 1:

The living environment

The emphasis is on the interaction of living organisms with each other and their abiotic environment, and how an understanding of this can inform decisions that lead to sustainable human activities. Students must apply their understanding of these interactions in a wide range of contexts throughout this area.

Unit 2:

The physical environment

The emphasis is on understanding how anthropogenic activities are inter-connected with physical processes, to formulate management strategies and plan sustainable activities.

Supplies of renewable physical resources may be maintained by the control of activities that may cause over-exploitation and by protecting the processes that aid their production.

Supplies of non-renewable physical resources may be extended by controlling exploitation and developing improved technologies to harness them.

<p>Unit 3:</p> <p>Energy resources</p>	<p>The importance of energy resources in both past and future developments in society will be analysed. The impact of future energy supply problems will be evaluated.</p> <p>Students should understand how improvements in technology can provide increasing amounts of energy from sustainable sources.</p> <p>Quantitative data will be used to compare and evaluate new and existing technologies.</p>
<p>Unit 4:</p> <p>Pollution</p>	<p>Students should understand how the properties of materials and energy forms interact to result in environmental change. They should apply this knowledge to suggest solutions to minimise current pollution problems and prevent future problems. Students should apply their understanding through a range of different historic and contemporary pollution events.</p>
<p>Unit 5:</p> <p>Biological resources</p>	<p>Students must develop an understanding of the challenge posed by the need to provide food and forest resources for a growing human population without damaging the planet's life support systems. The interaction of the production of biological resources with other areas of the subject should be emphasised, including with conservation of biodiversity, energy resources, pollution and the physical environment.</p>
<p>Unit 6:</p> <p>Sustainability</p>	<p>The subject principles that are the focus in all topics will be used to develop a holistic understanding of sustainability and the circular economy. Examples will be taken from throughout the areas of study to gain an understanding of the interconnected nature of environmental problems and solutions to these problems. Students should consider sustainability on local, national and global scales.</p>
<p>Unit 7:</p> <p>Research methods</p>	<p>Students must understand the general principles of scientific methodology and be able to apply these to a wide range of environmental situations and techniques.</p> <p>Practical activities will be carried out with consideration of their environmental impacts and how these can be minimised.</p> <p>Students must undertake experimental and investigative activities, including appropriate risk management, in a range of environmental contexts. They must also know how to safely and correctly use a range of practical equipment and materials.</p>
<p>What will Environmental Science offer you in the future?</p> <p>Career options include working in the STEM industries of engineering, food, energy, conservation and health, as well as non-STEM opportunities in media, leisure or planning.</p>	

Why study Financial Studies (DipFS)?

This course gives a comprehensive introduction to personal finance, enabling students to make informed financial decisions by introducing them to the risks and challenges involved in personal finance and the tools for effective planning. Students will also learn about the key concepts of financial capability and how they are applied to achieve longer-term financial sustainability.

How will you be assessed?

Units are assessed through a combination of Multiple Choice Questions (Part A) and a written paper (Part B).

Unit 1 and Unit 2

Part A: 35 multiple choice questions in a 45-minute examination.

Part B: pre-release case study requiring essay responses in a 105-minute examination.

Unit 3 and Unit 4

Part A: 35 multiple choice questions in a 1-hour examination.

Part B: pre-release case study requiring essay responses in a 2-hour examination.

What will you study?

Year 12 – Certificate in Financial Studies	Value of money Types of financial products Key stakeholders in financial services Personal budgeting Tax implications Financial advice
Year 13 – Diploma in Financial Studies	External influences of personal finances Debt and borrowing Changes in the Financial Services industry Impact of global events Ethical considerations Financial services marketing

What will Financial Studies offer you in the future?

This qualification develops knowledge and understanding of the financial services sector and enhances skills that are valued within that sector. For students seeking to continue in education, DipFS provides a foundation for further study in business and finance-related disciplines, as well as a wide range of other commercial or not-for profit sectors.

For students who choose to move straight into employment, DipFS may support access to employment in areas such as in insurance, banking, and office administration, or in the voluntary sector such as with Citizens Advice.

Why study French?

The ability to speak other languages opens up countless opportunities in both the fields of leisure and work. There will be a shortage of qualified linguists and your services will be in great demand by industry if Britain is to compete in a business context on a global level. The course encourages a greater appreciation of French language, society and culture, as well as a greater understanding of language in general. It would therefore be of great benefit to English Language and Literature students.

How will you be assessed?

Paper 1: Listening, reading and translation. Written examination: 1 hour and 50 minutes (40% of the qualification 64 marks)

Paper 2: Written response to works and translation. Written examination: 2 hours and 40 minutes (30% of the qualification 48 marks)

Paper 3: Speaking - Internally conducted and externally assessed. Total assessment time: between 21 and 23 minutes, which includes a single period of 5 minutes' formal preparation time (30% of the qualification 48 marks)

What will you study?

Paper 1 - draws on vocabulary and structures across all four Themes.

1. Changes in French society;
2. Political and artistic cultural in French speaking countries;
3. Immigration and the French multicultural society;
4. Occupation and Resistance.

Section A: Listening (24 marks)

A listening assessment based on a recording, featuring male and female French speakers. Students will respond to comprehension questions based on a variety of contexts and sources.

Section B: Reading (24 marks)

A reading assessment based on a variety of text-types and genres where students will have to respond to comprehension questions.

Section C: Translation into English (16 marks)

Paper 2 - draws on the study of two discrete French works: either two literary texts, or one literary text and one film.

The literary texts listed include a range of classic and contemporary novels, novellas, short stories and plays. All of the films are feature length.

Assessment overview

This paper includes a translation exercise and two essays on either two literary texts, **or** one literary text and one film (students must **not** answer questions on two films).

Students are not permitted access to a dictionary or any documentation relating to the works during the examination.

Section A: Translation (16 marks)

Students translate an unseen passage from English into French.

Section B: Written response to works (literary texts) (16 marks)

Section C: Written response to works (films) (16 marks)

Task 1 draws on vocabulary and structures across all four themes.

Task 2 is based on independent research selected and carried out by the student. The research may be based on one of the Themes or on the student's own subject of interest related to the society and culture of the language studied.

Assessment overview

Students complete two tasks. Task 1 worth 20 marks and Task 2 worth 28 marks.

Task 1 (discussion on a Theme)

Students discuss one Theme from the specification based on a stimulus containing two different statements.

Task 2 (presentation and discussion on independent research)

Students present a summary of the key findings of the written sources they have used for their research and answer questions on this. They then have a wider discussion on their research.

What will French offer you in the future?

Direct use of languages following Higher Education: translating, interpreting, teaching, commerce, tourism and travel. Indirect use of languages for careers: law, accountancy, secretarial skills, export marketing and selling, insurance, hotels, catering, merchant banking, engineering, manufacturing, computing and purchasing.

Why study Further Mathematics?

Potential for joint university courses, graduate prospects, transferable skills and salary advantage.

How will you be assessed?

PEARSON Edexcel Level 3 Advanced GCE in Further Mathematics (9FM0)

Four externally examined written papers.

Students must complete all assessment in May/June, in any single year.

Paper 1: Further Pure Mathematics 1 (9FM0/01)

1 hour and 30 minutes, 25% of the qualification and 75 marks.

Students must answer all questions and calculators may be used in the assessment.

Paper 2: Further Pure Mathematics 2 (9FM0/02)

1 hour and 30 minutes, 25% of the qualification and 75 marks.

Students must answer all questions and calculators may be used in the assessment.

Paper 3: Further Mathematics Option 1 (9FM0/Papers 3A - 3D)

1 hour and 30 minutes, 25% of the qualification and 75 marks.

Students take **one** of the following **four** options: **3A** Further Pure Mathematics 3; **3B** Further Statistics 1; **3C** Further Mechanics 1; **3D** Decision Mathematics 1.

Students must answer all questions and calculators may be used in the assessment.

Paper 4: Further Mathematics Option 2 (9FM0/Papers 4A - 4G)

1 hour and 30 minutes, 25% of the qualification and 75 marks.

Students take **one** of the following **seven** options:

4A: Further Pure Mathematics 4; **4B:** Further Statistics 1; **4C:** Further Statistics 2; **4D:** Further Mechanics 1; **4E:** Further Mechanics 2; **4F:** Decision Mathematics 1; **4G:** Decision Mathematics 2.

Students must answer all questions and calculators may be used in the assessment.

Assessment objectives:

AO1 Use and apply standard techniques, 50%;

AO2 Reason, interpret and communicate mathematically, at least 15%;

AO3 Solve problems within mathematics and in other contexts, at least 15%.

What will you study?

Paper 1: proof, complex numbers, matrices, further algebra and functions, further calculus and further vectors.

Paper 2: complex numbers, further algebra and functions, further calculus, polar coordinates, hyperbolic functions and differential equations.

Paper 3 (one of the following options)

3A: further calculus, further differential equations, coordinate systems, further vectors, further numerical methods and inequalities.

3B: linear regression, statistical distributions (discrete), statistical distributions (continuous), correlation, hypothesis testing and chi squared tests.

3C: momentum and impulse, collisions, centres of mass, work and energy, elastic strings and springs.

3D: algorithms and graph theory, algorithms on graphs I and II, critical path analysis and linear programming.

Paper 4 (one of the following options)

4A: groups, further calculus, further matrix algebra, further complex numbers, number theory, further sequences and series.

4B: as 3B.

4C: probability distributions, combinations of random variables, estimation, confidence intervals and tests using a normal distribution, other hypothesis tests and confidence intervals, probability generating functions, quality of tests and estimators.

4D as 3C.

4E: further kinematics, further dynamics, motion in a circle, statics of rigid bodies, elastic collisions in two dimensions.

4F: as 3D

4G: transportation problems, allocation (assignment) problems, flows in networks, dynamic programming, game theory, recurrence relations and decision analysis.

What will Further Mathematics offer you in the future?

A broad mathematical knowledge and secure technical ability to progress a broad range of career options, leading to 5% to 10% higher salaries than the mean for all graduates.

Why study Geography?

The specification is designed to address a wide range of contemporary themes and issues, so students can understand the world around us and what could impact its future. We cover the key ideas and debates in our world today, such as climate change, globalisation, urban regeneration and management of the world's resources. Students will explore a range of issues and examine potential solutions to them. There are a minimum of 4 compulsory days of coursework required to study this course.

How will you be assessed?

Paper 1, 30% of qualification - Assessment of Dynamic Landscapes and Physical Systems and Sustainability. 2 hours 15 minutes. 105 marks

Paper 2, 30% of qualification - Assessment of Dynamic Places and Human Systems and Geopolitics. 2 hours 15 minutes. 105 marks

Paper 3, 20% of qualification - Synoptic investigation of a contemporary geographical issue. 2 hours 15 minutes. 70 marks

Coursework, 20% of the qualification- A level Independent Investigation. Internally assessed and externally moderated. Written report of 3000 – 4000 words. 70 marks

What will you study?

Area of study 1 -Dynamic landscapes	This unit will include study on: 1. Tectonic processes and Hazards 2. Landscape processes and change- Either Glaciated or Coastal Landscapes
Area of study 2 - Dynamic Places	This unit will include study on: 3. Globalisation 4. Shaping Places - Regenerating Places or Diverse Places plus a minimum of 1 day of human geography fieldwork
Area of study 3- Physical systems and sustainability	This unit will include study on: 5. The water cycle and water insecurity 6. The carbon cycle and energy security 7. Climate change futures
Area of study 4 - Human systems and geopolitics	This unit will include study on: 8. Superpowers 9. Global Development and Connections Either Health, Human Rights and Intervention or Migration, Identity and Sovereignty

What will Geography offer you in the future?

Geography offers a host of career opportunities: Meteorology, Data Collectors, Climatology, Global Warming Researcher, Teaching, Seismologist, Volcanologist, Lecturer, Human Resources, Travel Industry and many more.

Subject Leader
Dr A Moseley
(The Rochester Grammar
School)

Advanced Level
**Global Perspectives and
Independent Research**

Why study Global Perspectives?

In today's global society having a broad and culturally sensitive perspectives is paramount for engaging with all aspects of life. This course offers you the chance to learn skills of analysis and evaluation, which can then be applied to global questions. The skills that you acquire here, such as the ability to produce high-quality research on a topic and formulate your own opinion, will benefit your other subjects, as well as being highly sought by both employers and universities.

How will you be assessed?

In the first year you will complete 50% of the 2-year qualification, which can also be cached in as a short-course. It is divided into three components:

- 1 ½ hour exam, where you complete a critical analysis and comparison of 2 articles (12.5%)
- 2000-word essay on a controversial ethical topic (15%)
- 3000-word presentation on a self-devised question from a stimulus booklet of 8 articles (22.5%)

In the second year, you complete a 5000-word essay on a topic of your choice. This counts for 50% of the final grade.

What will you study?

Critical Thinking Skills	This will introduce you to the key critical terminology that you will need to employ in both the exam, to successfully compare two articles, as well as in your analysis of articles for the different pieces of coursework.
2000 Essay	This needs to be on a controversial issue, which has two clear sides. You will weigh up arguments for and against the question that you pose, using critical thinking techniques, before reaching a conclusion. Topics in the past have ranged from genetic engineering to immunisation, from the use of nuclear weapons to social media.
3000 Presentation	This presentation will be produced taken from a concept or argument from a booklet containing 8 articles. Again, you will need to give both sides of the issue and reach a conclusion. Topics that booklets have been on in the past include e-books and driverless cars.
IRR 5000 essay	This research piece allows you the opportunity to write a comprehensive essay on a topic that you may wish to study at university or in the world of work. It will allow you to gain excellent research skills and to engage with a topic at a high level. Topics that have been successfully completed in the past range from investigating into Communism in China to the effects of the media on body image.

What will Global perspectives offer you in the future?

This course offers you the ability to become a more analytical and discerning student, through acquiring the skills necessary to research and critically analyse scholarly articles. The skills that you gain can be applied to all of your other subjects, which will enhance your general understanding of global issues, coupled with the ability to write in a clear and concise manner.

Why study History?

The study of History will provide a sound basis for both further education and entering the world of work. History provides vital forensic and literary skills and is a sound basis for professions where concise, accurate reporting is important. Students will develop a range of skills which will be of significant use to them both in further education and future employment. The study of History helps students to improve as effective and individual learners, and as critical and reflective thinkers. Students will learn to question the world around them rather than to simply accept the views and beliefs of others.

How will you be assessed?

Units 1 and 3 are each worth 30% of final grade.
Units 2 and 4 are each worth 20% of final grade.
Units 1-3 are externally marked.
Unit 4 is internally marked and externally moderated.

What will you study?

Unit 1 – Britain, 1625-1701; conflict, revolution and settlement

The quest for political stability, 1625-88; Religion, conflict and dissent, 1625-88; Social and intellectual challenge, 1625-88; Economy, trade and empire, 1625-88; How revolutionary in the years to 1701, was the Glorious Revolution of 1688-89?

Unit 2 – Russia in Revolution, 1894-1924

The rule of Nicholas II, 1894-1905; The end of Romanov rule, 1906-17; The Provisional government and its opponents, February-October 1917; Defending the Bolshevik revolution, October 1917-24.

Unit 3 – Civil Rights in the USA, 1850-2009

'Free at last', 1865-77; The triumph of 'Jim Crow', 1883-c1900; The New Deal and race relations, 1933-41; 'I have a dream', 1954-68; Obama's campaign for the presidency, 2004-09; Changing portrayal of civil rights issues in fiction and film

Unit 4 – Historical Investigation

Students complete a single assessment on a question set by the teacher. The assignment will assess the ability to carry out a historical enquiry, analysing and evaluating historical interpretations, and organizing and communicating the findings.

What will History offer you in the future?

The study of history offers clear preparation for a wide range of university courses. It also prepares students for the world of work by developing a wide range of transferrable skills such as investigation, organisation and communication. Students will prepare for university study by developing as effective and independent learners, and as critical and thinking learners with lively, curious and enquiring minds.

Why study Law?

This course is designed to encourage students to develop knowledge and understanding of selected areas of Law including the English Legal System, criminal law, tort law and Human Rights law. Students will also gain an understanding of legal method and reasoning, develop techniques of logical reasoning and analytical skills, and solve problems by applying legal rules.

How will you be assessed?

Pupils will sit 3 papers

Paper 1 (2 hours) a written exam – 33.3% of the A Level English Legal System and Criminal Law

Paper 2 (2 hours) a written exam – 33.3% of the A Level English Legal System and Tort Law

Paper 3 (2 hours) a written exam – 33.3% of the A Level Human Rights Law

What will you study?

The Nature of Law and the English Legal System	This module establishes the distinction between enforceable legal rules and social morals. It break downs the law making process and outlines the differences between criminal and civil law. It also looks at how laws are made, interpreted and reformed; the court structure and legal personnel.
Criminal Law	This module focuses on the rules and principles concerning general elements of criminal liability and liability for offences against the person including murder, manslaughter, grievous bodily harm and assault. Property offences including theft and robbery. Defences including insanity, intoxication and duress.
Tort Law	This module highlights the rules and principles concerning liability and fault in actions for negligence, occupier's liability, nuisance and vicarious liability, and associated defences and remedies.
Human Rights	This module outlines the rules and principles of law relating to the right to life, to liberty and security of person, to privacy, to freedom of expression, and to freedom of assembly and association, as recognised by the European Convention on Human Rights in the United Kingdom.

What will Law offer you in the future?

The study of Law helps to develop analytical ability and critical thinking. It also develops problem solving skills through the application of legal rules. It provides a useful background for the further study of law either as the main subject or subsidiary part of a degree, foundation degree or for the many professional qualifications which have a Law component.

Why study Mathematics?

Potential for joint university courses, graduate prospects, transferable skills and salary advantage.

How will you be assessed?

PEARSON Edexcel Level 3 Advanced GCE in Mathematics (9MA0)

Three externally examined written papers.

Students must complete all assessment in May/June, in any single year.

Paper 1: Pure Mathematics 1 (9MA0/01) 2 hours, 33.33% of the qualification and 100 marks.

Students must answer all questions and calculators may be used in the assessment.

Paper 2: Pure Mathematics 2 (9MA0/02) 2 hours, 33.33% of the qualification and 100 marks.

All the content of the specification for Paper 1 is assumed knowledge for Paper 2 and may also be tested within parts of questions. Students must answer all questions and calculators may be used. Synoptic assessment requires students to work across different parts of a qualification and to show their accumulated knowledge and understanding of a topic or subject area. Synoptic assessment enables students to show their ability to combine their skills, knowledge and understanding with breadth and depth of the subject. This paper assesses synopticity.

Paper 3: Statistics and Mechanics (9MA0/03) 2 hours, 33.33% of the qualification and 100 marks.

The assessment comprises two sections: Section A - Statistics and Section B – Mechanics.

Students must answer all questions and calculators may be used in the assessment. All of the content of the specification for Paper 1 and Paper 2, is assumed knowledge for Paper 3 and may be tested within parts of questions. This paper assesses synopticity.

Assessment objectives:

AO1 Use and apply standard techniques, 32-36%;

AO2 Reason, interpret and communicate mathematically, 31-35%;

AO3 Solve problems within mathematics and in other contexts, 31-35%.

What will you study?

Topics for Paper 1	Proof, algebra and functions, coordinate geometry in the (x,y) plane, sequences and series, trigonometry, exponentials and logarithms, differentiation, integration and vectors.
Topics for Paper 2	Proof, algebra and functions, coordinate geometry in the (x,y) plane, sequences and series, trigonometry, differentiation, integration and numerical methods.
Topics for Paper 3 Section A: Statistics	Statistical sampling, data presentation and interpretation, probability, statistical distributions and statistical hypothesis testing.
Topics for Paper 3 Section B: Mechanics	Quantities and units in mechanics, kinematics, forces and Newton's Laws and Moments.

What will GCE Mathematics offer you in the future?

Development of analytical and problem solving skills. Careers in accounting, medicine, engineering, forensic pathology, finance, business consultancy, teaching, ICT, games development, scientific research, programming, civil service, design, construction and astrophysics.

Why study Media Studies?

The media is constantly evolving and shaping our lives with it. You will consider the extensive impact of the media on your everyday life, such as how you receive, use and make sense of information, entertainment and ideological messages. You will also examine media industries and how changing technologies influence media output, audience consumption and your own interactivity and creativity. You will also learn to apply contextual factors to your study and analysis of real media products. A Level Media Studies provides you with exciting opportunities to develop media production skills in different forms and to apply your theoretical knowledge.

How will you be assessed?

Component 1: Media Products, Industries and Audiences. Written examination: 2 hours 15 minutes (35% of qualification).

Component 2: Media Forms and Products in Depth. Written examination: 2 hours 30 minutes (35% of qualification).

Component 3: Cross-Media Production. Non exam assessment (30% of qualification).

What will you study?

Component 1

Section A: Analysing Media Language and Representation, this section assesses media language and representation in relation to two of the following media forms: advertising, marketing, music video or newspapers.

Section B: Understanding Media Industries and Audiences. This section assesses two of the following media forms – advertising, marketing, film, newspapers, radio, video games and media contexts.

Component 2

The examination assesses media language, representation, media industries, audiences and media contexts. It consists of three sections:

Section A – Television in the Global Age

Section B – Magazines: Mainstream and Alternative Media

Section C – Media in the Online Age.

Component 3

An individual cross-media production based on two media forms and applying knowledge and understanding of the theoretical framework and digital convergence.

What will Media Studies offer you in the future?

Media Studies is a demanding A Level that requires learners to think critically, apply analytical frameworks and develop their creativity. These skills can be utilised in a wide range of university courses and jobs. For students wishing to further pursue their interest in the subject, most universities offer an extensive choice of Media and Film related courses.

The creative and cultural sector of the economy is a significant growth area and Media Studies graduates have a huge selection of careers to choose from, including journalism, advertising and marketing, television film and radio production, web design and photography, to name just a few.

Why study Music?

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

- Involves performing as a soloist and/or ensemble member
- Involves composing, by exploring and applying those elements in your own works
- Involves listening to all kinds of music, developing an open mind to a wide range of styles, and understanding the inner workings of the elements of music

How will you be assessed?

Unit 01 Performing – externally marked course work – 30%

Unit 02 Composing – externally marked course work – 30%

Unit 03 Appraising – externally marked examination – 40%

What will you study?

Unit 01 Performing	<p>Total performance time of 8 minutes Performance can be solo and/or ensemble Students should be having regular individual lessons with a specialist tutor for an instrument/singing – preferably at least 30 minutes per week. Total of 60 marks (12 marks available for difficulty of pieces)</p>
Unit 02 Composing	<p>Having been introduced to various compositional techniques you will then produce 2 compositions of your own 1 free or free choice brief – min 4 min (40 marks) 1 brief assessing technique – min 1 min (20 marks) Together total minimum of 6 minutes</p>
Unit 03 Appraising	<p>6 Areas of Study with 3 set works in each • Vocal Music • Instrumental Music • Music for Film • Popular Music and Jazz • Fusions • New Directions Examination 2 hours Total 100 marks</p>

What will Music offer you in the future?

You may wish to take a GCE in Music for its own sake, perhaps to form the basis of a future interest or academic study at university or conservatoire.

Music related careers are numerous and include performing, composing/arranging, publishing, entertainment, teaching (instrumental and classroom), promoting, television, radio, recording technician, music therapy, concert management, or any job which involves communication and expressive skills.

Why study Music Technology?

Advanced skills in music technology are developed through the use of sequencing, recording techniques and listening and analysing. Students will have the opportunity to perform and arrange music and to record their work on a regular basis.

How will you be assessed?

Unit 1 – Recording - A controlled coursework module, externally examined – 20%
 Unit 2 – Technology - based composition, externally examined – 20%
 Unit 3 – Listening and Analysing – 25%
 Unit 4 – Producing and Analysing – 35%

What will you study?

Unit 1 - Recording	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One recording, chosen from a list of 10 songs, consisting of 5 compulsory instruments. • Keyboard tracks may be sequenced • Total time – between 3 and 3 ½ minutes • Logbook
Unit 2 – Technology - based composition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One technology-based composition chosen from 3 briefs • Synthesis and sampling/audio manipulation and creative effects use must be included • Total time must be 3 minutes • Logbook
Unit 3 – Listening and Analysing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge and understanding of recording and production techniques and principles • Application of knowledge related to all 3 areas of study: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recording and production techniques - Principles in sound and audio technology - The development of recording and production technology <p>Examination 1 hours 30 minutes</p>
Unit 4 – Producing and Analysing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge and understanding of editing, mixing and production techniques • Application of knowledge related to 2 of the areas of study: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recording and production techniques for both corrective and creative purposes - Principles of sound and audio technology <p>Examination 2 hours 15 minutes</p>

What will Music Technology offer you in the future?

Music Technology is an excellent course for those wishing to work in the music business or study different aspects of Performing Arts. It can lead to further study of Music Technology or Recording, as well as being an excellent course for those who wish to further study music (in addition to a Music A Level). The job market for music technology is huge from sound engineering, producer, recording engineer, composer (film music and music for video games), performer, teaching, entertainment, television, radio, concert management and many more.

Subject Leader
Mrs R Mourino

Advanced Level
Art and Design
Photography
AQA

Why study Photography?

The main purpose of an Art and Design course is to develop students' ability to engage with the visual world and respond in personal and creative ways. Whilst studying Art and Design at Holcombe Grammar School you will develop a variety of skills and a working knowledge of materials, practices, and technology in different disciplines such as digital photography, mixed-media, film and darkroom techniques. You will develop your imaginative and creative powers as well as experiment and analyse developing a deeper understanding of art and design in past and present times. A typical Art and Design student is independent able to understand how to build on previous knowledge as well as having a growth mind set

Endorsements:-

Fine Art

Photography

How will you be assessed?

Component 1: Portfolio. 60% of the A Level.

Component 2: Externally set assignment. 40% of the A Level

What will you study?

Year 12 – Foundation Skills	During terms 1-3 students will learn and extend a number of skills using a wide variety of materials. Both Photography and Fine Art students will have the same starting point from which they will explore sources and techniques. Work will mostly be sketchbook based.
Year 12 – Component 1 (coursework personal Investigation)	Students will decide on their own Personal Investigation project title, this is an individual process. Building on skills learnt during their foundation terms students will develop ideas using sources.
Year 13 – Component 1	Students will continue to develop and refine ideas both in and out of their sketchbooks. Through 1-2-1 tuitions students will extend their ideas and will research and develop work independently to produce a personalised journal and series of outcomes. Students will also produce an extended essay supporting the sketchbook work.
Year 13 – Component 2	Externally set assignment. Students will have a choice of titles and will have approximately 12 weeks to develop a project with the final piece/s being produced during 15 hours of supervised time. This unit makes up 40% of the A Level.

What will Art & Design offer you in the future?

Many students, after completing their A level in Art and Design move on to complete a foundation course before moving onto a creative degree of their choice. Future careers are wide and varied but could include: Advertising, marketing, graphic and motion design, game design, multimedia artist, photojournalism, film making as well as different avenues of Photography including fashion as well as commercial. The study of Art and Design can also help you to develop transferable skills that you can take into any career.

Why study Physical Education?

PE offers students the opportunity to develop their knowledge and skills in a range of sporting roles. They will explore contemporary issues in modern sport and recreation as well as examining the effects of exercise and the relationships between training and performance. Students will enhance their understanding of how elite performers prepare for sports competition as well as finding ways to improve their own performance in selected roles through their greater understanding of the subject. This specification gives students the opportunity to experience and develop an interest in a variety of roles in sport including performer and coach.

How will you be assessed?

Component 1: Factors affecting participation in physical activity and sport (2 hour written examination) **35%** of overall grade

Component 2: Factors affecting optimal performance in physical activity and sport (2 hour written examination) **35%** of overall grade

Component 3: Non-Exam Assessment (*Practical performance in physical activity*) **30%** of overall grade

What will you study?

Paper 1: Factors affecting participation in physical activity and sport

- **Applied anatomy & physiology** (e.g.: analysis of movement, specialist training, energy systems)
- **Skill Acquisition** (e.g.: theories of learning, information processing)
- **Sport & society** (e.g.: sociological issues, historical eras, female sport)

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

- **Exercise physiology & biomechanics** (e.g.: injury prevention, fluid mechanics)
- **Sports psychology** (e.g.: anxiety, leadership, motivation)
- **Technology in sport** (e.g.: role of NGBs, sports analytics, development of facilities & equipment)

Non-Exam Assessment

- 1) Assessment as a **player or coach** in the full context of one activity.
- 2) Written or verbal **analysis and evaluation** of either your own or another's practical performance.

What will Physical Education offer you in the future?

Students have progressed onto careers in teaching, sports coaching, sport development, leisure management, and sports design, as well as physiotherapy and sports psychology. The new specification has an emphasis on physiology as well as quantitative analysis which lend themselves to further study or specialisation in Biology and Mathematics.

Why study Physics?

Physics is the science that attempts to describe how nature works using the language of mathematics. It is the most fundamental of all the natural sciences and its theories attempt to describe the behaviour of the smallest building blocks of matter, light, the universe and everything in between.

How will you be assessed?

Paper 1 (sections 1-5 and 6.1 periodic motion) - Externally written examined modules - 34% of A Level grade

Paper 2 (assumed knowledge from all sections but the option) - Examined Unit - 34% of A Level grade

Paper 3 (Part A:practical skills and data analysis; Part B:the option) - Examined Unit - 32% of A Level grade

All examinations occur at the end of the Year 13.

What will you study?

Section 1- Measurements and their errors	Students will carry out experimental and investigative activities in order to improve their practical skills. The examination will not involve completing practical but answering questions related to a practical completed in class and completing a written paper.
Section 2 - Particle and radiation	Particle physics introduces students to the fundamental properties of nature of matter, radiation and quantum mechanics.
Section 3 - Waves	Waves studies, interference, stationary and progressive waves, fibre optics and diffraction.
Section 4 - Mechanics and Material	In mechanics, we study projectile motion, moments, Newton's Law, and energy conservation. Materials will look at properties of materials, Young Modulus.
Section 5 - Electricity	Electricity is mainly about building circuits and understanding how they work and what they do.
Section 6 - Further Mechanics and thermal physics	Momentum concepts, circular motion, simple harmonic motion and simple harmonic systems, forced vibrations and resonance. Thermal physics includes energy transfers calculation and qualitative treatment of the first law of thermodynamics, ideal gases and molecular kinetic theory modelling.
Section 7 - Fields and their consequences	Gravitation, electric fields, capacitance, magnetic fields and electromagnetic induction.
Section 8 - Nuclear Physics	Radioactivity, nuclear instability, nuclear energy and safety aspects.
Option - Astrophysics	Astrophysics includes lenses and optical telescopes, non- optical telescopes, classification of stars and cosmology.

What will Physics offer you in the future?

Progression to University in a very wide range of subjects and a variety of careers and professions including engineering, financial services, architecture, computing, human resources, the law, education and research but the list is endless.

Why study Government and Politics?

Who should study politics, and why? The short answer is that everyone should study politics – all members of society should have a general understanding of the rules under which they live. For these rules to be effective, as many citizens as possible should actively participate in making, upholding and, hopefully, changing these rules. This is what is meant by 'active citizenship'. A healthy society is a society in which many people engage in political activity and do so with insight and understanding.

Politics is therefore particularly likely to suit students who:

- have an interest in the world around them – ones who want to know more about the society they live in, how it works and how it could work.
- enjoy debate, discussion and argument – students who are comfortable with the fact that in politics there are no simple 'rights' or 'wrongs'.
- like to think for themselves and who wish to develop their own views, rather than simply accept the views of others.

How will you be assessed?

All 3 units are externally examined modules worth 33.3% of the final A Level Grade.

What will you study?

Component 1: UK Politics	Political Participation and Core Political Ideas (conservatism, liberalism, socialism)
Component 2: UK Government	The Constitution, parliament, the Prime Minister and the executive and non-core political ideas
Component 3:	Comparative Politics: UK and the USA

What will Government and Politics offer you in the future?

The study of politics offers clear preparation for a wide range of university courses. It also prepares students for the world of work with particular relevance to public service such as the police force, teaching and civil service. Politics is also becoming increasingly relevant to those who wish to work in the private sector; journalists, researchers, lawyers, engineers and financial sector workers are all influenced by political decisions made by people in power. They are increasingly finding that being aware of, understanding and helping to shape those decisions is not only helpful, but also necessary, in their chosen lines of work.

Why study Psychology?

Studying Psychology will give you fundamental and lasting insights into human behaviour; you will learn about the main approaches in this subject (Biological; Cognitive; Social; Developmental and Individual Differences). The research in Psychology ranges from controlled experiments on humans (power of the authority figure to conformity in administering electric shocks) to long term case studies (deprivation studies)

How will you be assessed?

The course is 100% externally examined. The course is divided into three components:

Component 1 Research Methods - 30% of the overall course.

This component has three elements which include a multi-choice section, stimulus response section and a mathematical data analysis section.

Component 2 Psychological Themes through Core Studies - 35% of the overall course

Students will answer a range of short and essay style question on ten sets of classic and contemporary core studies.

Component 3 Applied psychology - 35% of the overall course.

Students answer extended questions relating to three areas of applied psychology, of which, mental health is the compulsory element.

What will you study?

Research Methods	This component introduces the student to the world of research methods whereby, they actively engage in their own practical research investigations. Through the first hand experiences of collecting data via a range of methods and techniques, students will be able to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of different techniques.
Psychological themes through core studies	This exciting component draws upon classic core studies and contemporary studies, to appreciate how psychological knowledge and understanding has developed over time. There are ten pairs of studies to cover behaviours ranging from child aggression to brain abnormality. Media sources are analysed in detail for their applications and engagement with psychological research.
Applied psychology	This insightful applied unit examines how the research and theories in psychological theory have an impact on life in certain areas. The compulsory unit is "issues in mental health" plus students learn from two other optional units, choosing from: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Child psychology• Criminal psychology• Environmental psychology• Sport and exercise psychology

What will Psychology offer you in the future?

Taking Psychology as an option will change your life, besides learning about human behaviour, you will also learn how to express yourself coherently, how to challenge information, how to be confident about yourself, how to be a more self-aware person! Progression to University in a wide range of subjects and a variety of careers and professions including the public services, media, human resources, the law, education, research and many more - Psychology is relevant to every sphere of industry.

Subject Leader
Miss H Cook

Advanced Level

Religious Studies (Philosophy & Ethics)

OCR (Course code H573)

Why study Religious Studies (Philosophy and Ethics)?

Religious Studies requires students to engage with many of the ultimate questions which have fascinated humanity for millennia. To be successful in this subject an enquiring mind, the ability to think critically, and an enthusiasm for debate are essential. Students will need to question, analyse, interpret, apply and evaluate a range of theories concerning the nature of belief and morality. Throughout the course the ability to make comparisons and connections between various concepts is developed. Students must construct and communicate articulate arguments and this frequently requires students to understand and argue points of view that may be contrary to their own.

How will you be assessed?

This is a two year course which is externally assessed through three two hour examinations at the end of the second year of study. Each exam is worth 33.3% of the final A level grade, and will require students to write three essays (each worth 40 marks). There is no coursework.

What will you study?

Unit 1 (H573/01)

Philosophy of Religion

Philosophy of Religion is concerned with exploring religious beliefs and concepts to see whether they can stand up to rational argument. Students will explore ancient philosophical influences including the thought of Plato and Aristotle; the teleological, cosmological and ontological arguments about the existence or non-existence of God; the nature and impact of religious experience; the challenge for religious belief of the problem of evil and suffering; the nature of the soul, mind and body; the possibility of life after death; ideas about the nature of God, and issues in religious language. Students will critically assess the strengths and weaknesses of the philosophical perspectives examined.

Unit 2 (H573/02)

Religious Ethics

Topics studied will include normative ethical theories such as utilitarianism, Kantian ethics, natural law and situation ethics; the application of ethical theories to three contemporary issues of importance (euthanasia, business ethics and sex and sexuality); ethical language and thought; debates surrounding the significant idea of conscience; the influence on ethical thought on developments in religious beliefs and the philosophy of religion. Students must be able to express and justify their own position in relation to the issues covered.

Unit 3 (H573/03)

Developments in Religious Thought

In this unit, students will further develop their skills of evaluation and synthesis in particular. Students will examine religious beliefs, values and teachings, how they are connected and how they vary historically and in the contemporary world. Focussing on the Christian faith, they will examine topics such as human nature, death and the afterlife, gender, liberation theology, and the challenges of secularism and pluralism. Students will explore sources of religious wisdom and authority; practices which shape and express religious identity, significant social and historical developments, and the relationship between religion and society.

What will Religious Studies offer you in the future?

The skills and subject knowledge developed in Religious Studies can be of great benefit to those intending to study many Arts subjects at Higher Education. In addition, these skills are useful in careers requiring the ability to prepare, present and challenge arguments, good interpersonal skills and cultural awareness, (in particular law, education, journalism, medicine, the public sector, marketing, management and many more).

Subject Leader

Advanced Level

Sociology

Mrs K Jhaj		AQA
<p>Why study Sociology?</p> <p>In Sociology we aim to encourage student's curiosity and interest in the society around them. Society affects us all directly, it shapes our lives, and it shapes our interactions with other individuals, groups and institutions. Therefore, for anyone who has ever questioned why things are the way they are, sociology is a 'must study' subject. Sociology gives a clear insight into the working of society and social interactions.</p>		
<p>How will you be assessed?</p> <p>Externally assessed examinations in year 13. Three papers each 2 hours long and worth 80 marks.</p>		
<p>What will you study?</p>		
<p>Paper 1: Education with Research Methods in Context (Year 1)</p>	<p>The role and purpose of education in Society. Differential educational achievement of social groups by social class, gender and ethnicity. Relationships and processes within schools: pupil subcultures, hidden curriculum. The significance of educational policies: selection, comprehensivisation and marketisation. The application of sociological research methods to the study of education.</p>	
<p>Paper 2A: Families and Households (Year 1)</p>	<p>The relationship of the family to the social structure and social change, with particular reference to the economy and to state policies. Changing patterns of marriage, and the diversity of contemporary family and household structures. The nature and extent of changes within the family, with reference to gender roles, domestic labour and power relationships. The nature of childhood, and changes in the status of children in the family and society. Demographic trends in the UK since 1900; reasons for changes in birth and death rates.</p>	
<p>Paper 2B: Beliefs in Society (Year 2)</p>	<p>Different theories of ideology, science and religion, including both Christian and non-Christian religious traditions. The relationship between religious beliefs and social change and stability. Religious organisations, including cults, sects, denominations, churches and New Age movements, and their relationship to religious and spiritual belief and practice. The relationship between different social groups and religious/spiritual organisations and movements, beliefs and practices. The significance of religion and religiosity in the contemporary world, including the nature and extent of secularisation in a global context.</p>	
<p>Paper 3: Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods (Year 2)</p>	<p>Different theories of crime, deviance, social order and social control. The social distribution of crime and deviance. Globalisation and crime; the mass media and crime; human rights and state crimes. Crime control, prevention and punishment. The connections between sociological theory and methods. Theory and Methods: The relationship between positivism, interpretivism and sociological methods. Consensus, conflict, structural and social action theories. The concepts of modernity and post-modernity. The extent to which sociology can be regarded as scientific. The relationship between sociology and social policy.</p>	
<p>What will Sociology offer you in the future?</p> <p>Studying Sociology will change the way you look at the world. You will learn the value of evidence based knowledge over common sense. Skills of analysis, interpretation and self-expression will be developed. Studying Sociology at A Level aids progression to University in a wide range of subjects and a variety of careers and professions including social policy, social work, journalism, human resources, public sector work. In comparison to other disciplines, sociology graduates have high rates of employability across a range of fields.</p>		

Why study Spanish?

The ability to speak other languages opens up countless opportunities in both the fields of leisure and work. There will be a shortage of qualified linguists and your services will be in demand from industry if Britain is to compete in a business context. The course encourages a greater appreciation of Spanish language, society and culture, as well as a greater understanding of language in general. It would therefore be of great benefit to English Language and Literature students.

How will you be assessed?

Paper 1: Listening, reading and translation. Written examination: 1 hour and 50 minutes (40% of the qualification 64 marks)

Paper 2: Written response to works and translation. Written examination: 2 hours and 40 minutes (30% of the qualification 48 marks)

Paper 3: Speaking - Internally conducted and externally assessed. Total assessment time: between 21 and 23 minutes, which includes a single period of 5 minutes' formal preparation time (30% of the qualification 48 marks)

What will you study?

Paper 1 - draws on vocabulary and structures across all four Themes.

1. Changes in Spanish society;
2. Political and artistic cultural in Spanish speaking countries;
3. Immigration and the Spanish multicultural society;
4. Franco's dictatorship and the Spanish transition to democracy.

Section A: Listening (24 marks)

A listening assessment based on a recording, featuring male and female Spanish speakers. Students will respond to comprehension questions based on a variety of contexts and sources.

Section B: Reading (24 marks)

A reading assessment based on a variety of text-types and genres where students will have to respond to comprehension questions.

Section C: Translation into English (16 marks)

An unseen passage to be translated from Spanish to English

Paper 2 - draws on the study of two discrete Spanish works: either two literary texts, or one literary text and one film.

The literary texts listed include a range of classic and contemporary novels, novellas, short stories and plays. All of the films are feature length.

Assessment overview

This paper includes a translation exercise and two essays on either two literary texts, **or** one literary text and one film (students must **not** answer questions on two films). Students are not permitted access to a dictionary or any documentation relating to the works during the examination.

Section A: Translation (16 marks)

Students translate an unseen passage from English into Spanish.

Section B: Written response to works (literary texts) (16 marks)

Section C: Written response to works (films) (16 marks)

Task 1 draws on vocabulary and structures across all four Themes.

Task 2 is based on independent research selected and carried out by the student. The research may be based on one of the Themes or on the student's own subject of interest related to the society and culture of the language studied.

Assessment overview

Students complete two tasks. Task 1 worth 20 marks and Task 2 worth 28 marks.

Task 1 (discussion on a Theme)

Students discuss one Theme from the specification based on a stimulus containing two different statements.

Task 2 (presentation and discussion on independent research)

Students present a summary of the key findings of the written sources they have used for their research and answer questions on this. They then have a wider discussion on their research.

What will Spanish offer you in the future?

Translating opportunities, interpreting, teaching, commerce, tourism and travel. Indirect use of languages for careers: law, accountancy, secretarial skills, export marketing and selling, insurance, hotels, catering, merchant banking, engineering, manufacturing, computing and purchasing.

Why study Extended Project?

The Extended Project gives students the opportunity to undertake a short research project on an agreed topic of their choice.

Universities look upon this qualification favourably because it gives students a useful grounding in the skills that they are expected to learn and use in their senior academic life.

How will you be assessed?

You can choose between two different pathways: The first is a research-based written report of approximately 5000 words; the second is the practical production of an 'artefact', which must also be accompanied by a research-based written report of at least 1000 words. In both cases, the assessment is carried out internally by 'supervisors' with external moderation. There are 3 compulsory parts to the project: Students must maintain a project log, recording the process of writing the project; produce a summary presentation which must include elements of their research in a clear, formal way and the written project (plus artefact if one is being created) itself.

It is important that the work you produce for your EPQ is not directly connected to a current or past piece of A level work as this would be classed as dual accreditation.

What will you study?

Unit 1 – Developing Questions & Course Introduction

Choosing a topic, understanding the assessment objectives and the importance of the production log.

Making sure that the topic is feasible (in coordination with supervisors).

The nature of research, developing research questions and deciding which pathway to take: written report of artefact.

Time management, planning and research diaries.

Unit 2 – Collecting & Analysing Material

Effective use of research sources such as libraries, the internet, JSTOR etc...

Choosing material and being aware of bias (how to assess reliability).

Risk assessments, consent, research etiquette and the right to withdraw.

Primary and secondary data (quantitative and qualitative data).

Guide to Harvard referencing, end notes – footnotes and avoiding plagiarism.

How to build arguments, critical and descriptive writing.

Unit 3 – Proof Reading & Presentation Skills

Developing critique skills, drafting and editing work.

Presentation skills, clarity of delivery and 'on the spot questioning'.

Completing project reflections.

What will Extended Project offer you in the future?

Most universities will accept Extended Project as part of their main UCAS point requirement for entry to courses. In some cases, students with an Extended Project qualification may be excused some first year introductory classes. Many Universities will offer a lower point score for admission if an EPQ is included. Excellent research skills if continuing in academia or further research.