



St Mary's Catholic College

SIXTH FORM

COURSE GUIDE | 2019



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Welcome



As you approach the next stage of your compulsory education you have many important choices to make with a range of opportunities available to you. The next two years should be some of the best years of your life, and will provide you with memories to last a lifetime.

We are immensely proud of our Sixth Form students at St Mary's, not just for all that they achieve, but also for all that they do to contribute to our thriving College community.

Every decision that we make, and everything that we do, places the needs of the individual student first. We are totally committed to providing the very best education we can offer, not just academic but also extra-curricular. This year we offer an enhanced curriculum that provides a pathway for all students. We feel that as our Sixth Form grows, everyone should have the opportunity to study here and hopefully this is reflected in the wide range of courses on offer.

If you are a current student at St Mary's, you will already know that the staff here will go that extra mile for you, but don't be fooled into thinking that Sixth Form life is 'just more of the same'. Whilst the fundamental ingredients which make us such a successful school are still present, Sixth Form life is very different. You will be given greater privileges and responsibilities, both for your own formation and the well-being of others. You will be taught in smaller groups, have more self-directed study time and will work towards becoming a highly successful, capable and independent learner, ready to tackle the challenges of life after St Mary's. Those new to our Sixth Form are welcomed with open arms, make new friends quickly and benefit from all that St Mary's has to offer. We also benefit from the experience you bring with you and together we shape the best future.

Throughout your time with us you will receive the very best pastoral and academic support possible. Sixth Form study has to be challenging and worthwhile, preparing you for life at university and the workplace, but it also has to be enjoyable. Come join us as you continue on your journey...

Mr A Boyle
Head Teacher

What sets us apart...

- ▶ A welcoming environment
- ▶ A Sixth Form where we know you or get to know you very quickly
- ▶ Close monitoring and tracking of academic progress
- ▶ We have a track record of excellent Sixth Form results
- ▶ Courses to suit everyone's needs
- ▶ Excellent communication with parents
- ▶ Great Sixth Form facilities
- ▶ Supervised learning environments designed for Sixth Form study
- ▶ Sixth Form dedicated specialist teachers
- ▶ Outstanding care, guidance and support
- ▶ UCAS and career guidance second to none

Our Courses



Your Results

Course Choices

Five GCSEs at grades 9 - 4 (including Maths and English Language)

▶ Advanced Level (A Levels and BTEC qualifications)

GCSEs at grades 3 - 2

▶ Foundation Course at Level 2 leading to Level 3 courses

GCSEs at grades 2 - 1

▶ Please contact the Sixth Form Team for advice

Advanced Level 3 Courses

A Levels & BTEC Qualifications

Below is an example of a standard pathway for our Level 3 courses:

Entry

Five GCSEs at grades 9 - 4 (including Maths and English Language)

Year 1

Study three A Level subjects or BTEC equivalent qualifications

Year 2

Study three A Level subjects or BTEC equivalent qualifications

Progress

University, employment, or further education/higher education course

A Level Subjects

Art

Biology

Chemistry

Design & Technology (Product Design)

English Combined

English Literature

Extended Project

French

Geography

German

Government & Politics

History

Mathematics

Further Mathematics

Physics

Psychology

Philosophy & Ethics

Sociology

BTEC Subjects

Subsidiary Diploma equivalent to 1 A level

Business Studies
Children's Play
Information & Creative Technology
Creative Digital Media
Music*
Performing Arts (Acting)
Performing Arts (Dance)
Sport
Applied Science
Health & Social Care

Diploma equivalent to 2 A levels

Health & Social Care
Information & Creative Technology

*BTEC Equivalent

BTEC & GCSE Level 2 Courses

Foundation Courses

Below is an example of the sort of progression you can expect from our Level 2 courses:

Entry:
GCSEs mostly at Grade 2 - 3

Year 1 Study:
A combination of BTEC Level 2 courses; may include GCSE resits (or equivalent courses) in Maths and/or English

Years 2 & 3:
Study for Level 3 Advanced Level courses and follow a similar pathway to that outlined on page 7

BTEC Level 2 First Award

Business Studies

Information & Creative
Technology

Child Development
(Level 2 CACHE Award)

GCSE Resit

English

Maths

The SMCC Experience

We are immensely proud of all that the Sixth Form contribute to the school as well as our local and wider communities. The energy and enthusiasm of our students has transformed the lives of many others.

Some of the many projects SMCC Sixth Formers are involved in include:

- Fundraising for whole school charities
- Peer mentoring of younger students
- Acting as Literacy and Numeracy buddies
- Taking an active part in school events such as Open Evenings
- Working with younger pupils in music and drama activities
- Taking part in many music and drama productions
- Young Enterprise
- Work experience placements

Valuable Enrichment Opportunities

Many opportunities are on offer, whether it is being elected to the Sixth Form Leadership team, undertaking voluntary service or work experience, playing in a sports team, learning a musical instrument, acting on stage or travelling to one of many destinations abroad.

Spiritual Life

At the heart of the Sixth Form is our faith. We are a Catholic Sixth Form which welcomes people of all faiths to our community.



How do we help you on your journey?

Career Guidance

The College provides a thorough programme of monitoring and guidance for students to progress to the adult world. We ensure that every individual is prepared with what they need to know in order to achieve their goals. This includes an extensive UCAS programme, dedicated to supporting students in the process of selecting and applying to university. Those not choosing to go to university or further study will benefit from working with our own Work Related Learning Co-ordinator, who has links with and knowledge of local employers.

Pastoral Care

All students will have ongoing discussions covering general academic progress, student concerns, tutor concerns and issues relevant to careers. Tutors are expected to keep themselves informed about members of their tutor group by talking to students and checking progress. Tutors may arrange for contact with home to be made but will usually discuss matters with the student as a first step. Tutors will record any action taken and liaise with the Director of Sixth Form and with the relevant subject teachers.

Academic Monitoring

Students are provided with progress meetings over the two academic years of study. These involve an interview with their P&A Coach, in which academic progress is discussed and future targets set. This information provides the basis for the Achievement Plans, which are sent home following each period of review. In addition to this, students receive five Progress Reports per year.



Art

This subject is offered as an A Level course in Art, Craft and Design; you will produce an A Level portfolio over the course of two years.

The course is essentially concerned with the traditional media of painting, drawing, ceramic, textile, printing and mixed media exploration. However, in keeping with developments in contemporary art practice, you are encouraged to explore a range of media and experimental approaches including digital technology to facilitate an engagement with more 'cutting edge' methods of visual expression. This is likely to involve a study and exploration of more innovative conceptual approaches to visual communication common to the expanded field of art practice today. This will also incorporate an emphasis on the value of drawing to record the creative process interpreted through a wide range of media.

The overall aim of the course is therefore to encourage an adventurous and enquiring approach to art and design which is informed and developed through an in-depth study of both historical and contemporary art practice. In turn this should enable you to embrace and explore a range of ideas in your work of both a personal and an objective/analytical nature and, in so doing, harness a meaningful appreciation of visual culture.

ASSESSMENT YEAR 12: FOUNDATION SKILLS PORTFOLIO

The course will start similar to a foundation course and allow you to develop and reflect on the core elements within art, you will explore a variety of art mediums such as painting, drawing, ceramic, textile, printing and mixed media, you will then choose two mini projects in a specialism of your choice until December. From December the course is comprised of one internally assessed component, the 'Personal Creative Enquiry'; this component requires you to keep a working journal/ portfolio which can be defined as a combination of a sketch-pad and a diary comprising of drawings, paintings, photographs, written notes documenting ideas and other visual research materials on your personal topic. The progression of your work at all stages will be nurtured and stimulated by an organised extra-curricular enrichment programme to include both gallery and practical workshop visits.

A Level
Level 3

Year one of this two course will consist of:

This is an internally assessed unit that will support the work undertaken in year 13, in which you will generate and develop ideas through drawing, painting, photography, and other disciplines such as ceramics. You will also research artists and their work and experiment with media and processes before producing a personal final outcome based on themes negotiated between yourself and staff. Students can select from the following themes: 'Collect, Select, Arrange'; 'Natural Formations'; Ephemeral; Obsessions; Reflection; Ethereal; mundane; juxtaposition; Taped, Tied and Bound; transition; looking through; society today; altered state; it's in the detail, and narrative.

ASSESSMENT YEAR 13

A LEVEL

Year 13 Component 1 Personal Creative Enquiry 60% of A Level

This is an internally assessed unit in which you continue to build upon and develop the ideas pursued during Year 12 through drawing, painting and other disciplines such as ceramics, textiles or print. You should also research both historical and contemporary artists and their work and experiment with media and processes, before producing a personal final outcome based on themes negotiated between yourself and staff. In addition this component demands evidence of written communication showing research and understanding of an Artist or related Art Movement in the form of a 1000 words (minimum) of continuous prose which could take the form of an illustrated essay.

A Level Component 2 Externally Set Assignment: 40% of A Level

You will be required to select a single question from a set paper. You will have an extended period between February and April during Year 13 to prepare, research and develop a personal response culminating in a 15 hour practical examination set over several days.

IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE I SHOULD KNOW?

Art can mix very well with subjects such as Design & Technology and humanities subjects such as History and Religious Studies which deal with moral and social issues and encourage you to explore personal attitudes. Art is a requirement of most Architecture courses at university, in combination with Maths and Physics.

Biology

A Level
Level 3

This subject is offered as an A Level course. If you are interested in how the body functions, genes and genetics, disease, nature and the environment - if you can absorb facts, sort and synthesise a lot of information, as well as explain things fully - if you want to continue to study Biology at university level - then Biology A Level is for you. Biology is taught in a linear course that is practical, modern and relevant to society today. We work with individuals to find suitable career paths and work placements, where necessary, to motivate you and support you in gaining a place at the university of your choice.

COURSE CONTENT

1. Biological Molecules.
2. Cells.
3. How organisms exchange substances with their environment.
4. Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms.
5. Energy Transfers in and between organisms.
6. How organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments.
7. Genetics, populations and ecosystems.
8. The control of gene expression.

ASSESSMENT

As with Physics and Chemistry, Biology is taught as a linear course that is assessed by examinations in June of Year 13.

Paper 1: Topics 1 - 4, including relevant practical skills and extended response questions.

Examination - 2 hours 35% of the overall A Level Marks

Paper 2: Topics 5 - 8, including relevant practical skills and comprehension question.

Examination - 2 hours 35% of the overall A Level Marks

Paper 3: Topics 1 - 8, including relevant practical skills, critical analysis of given experimental data and one essay question.

Examination - 2 hours 30% of the overall A Level Marks

PROGRESSION ROUTES

Biology is highly regarded and considered a 'facilitating subject' for the top universities in the country, regardless of the degree that you wish to study. It provides an excellent grounding for those wishing to progress onto Law and other traditionally 'humanities' subjects but also for Medicine and Veterinary Science as well as Business or Management.

Biology is a good choice for students looking to progress into careers such as Health, Research and Clinical Professionals in areas including Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Science, Physiotherapy, Pharmacy, Education, Optometry, Nursing, Zoology or Marine Biology.

Business Studies

BTEC
Level 3

If you are looking for a career in business and want to develop skills and understanding that are directly relevant to the business world, then this BTEC qualification is for you. This course will help build your skills, knowledge and understanding of the business environment which are needed to continue studying to degree level and to start work. The skills and experience you will receive are vital to succeed in the business environment, thereby enhancing your employability within the business sector. Ideally you will be a good communicator, both in written and verbal forms, confident, conscientious and able to work independently. Above all, you will not be afraid of hard work.

UNITS OF STUDY AND ASSESSMENT

There are a total of four units (three mandatory and one optional). Two of the units are internally assessed and worth 42% of the overall grade. Two units are externally assessed and worth 58% of the overall grade.

Candidates must achieve four units over two years in order to gain the full award equivalent to one A Level.

The course also provides the flexibility of completing two of the core units in one year equivalent to 0.5 A Levels.

The units from this qualification are graded as Pass, Merit or Distinction. The total of each unit will determine the overall grade for the course. The overall grade equivalents are detailed below:

PASS - Equivalent to E grade

MERIT - Equivalent to C grade

DISTINCTION - Equivalent to A grade

DISTINCTION * - Equivalent to A* grade

Unit 1: Exploring Business (25%)

This is mandatory unit that is internally assessed. It will help you gain an overview of key ingredients for business success, how businesses are organised, how they communicate, the characteristics of the environment in which they operate, and how this shapes them and their activities. You will also look at the importance of innovation and enterprise to the success and survival of businesses, with the associated risks and benefits.

Unit 2: Developing a Marketing Campaign (25%)

This is a mandatory unit that is externally assessed under supervised conditions. You will be provided with a case study two weeks before the assessment period. During this unit you will have the opportunity to create your own marketing campaign. This will allow you to understand every step of the process to give you the opportunity to develop the skills

and knowledge you will need to be successful in the field of marketing. You will gain an insight into the importance of marketing to business success.

Unit 3: Personal and Business Finance (33%)

This is a mandatory unit that is externally assessed by an unseen paper-based examination. This unit will help you understand how to manage your personal finances and make informed decisions to help prevent future financial difficulties.

The business finance aspects of the unit introduce you to accounting terminology, the purpose and importance of business accounts and the different sources of finance available to businesses. Planning tools, such as cash flow forecasts and break-even, will be prepared and analysed. Measuring the financial performance of a business will require you to prepare and analyse statements of comprehensive income and statements of financial position. It will help you analyse profitability, liquidity and business efficiency.

Unit 8: Recruitment & Selection Process (17%)

In this unit you will learn that successful recruitment is key to maintaining the success of a business, as people are often considered to be the most valued resource. You will explore the various selection tools and the enhanced use of technology in this area. Businesses with an effective recruitment process in place are more likely to make successful appointments. In a competitive labour market this is a major advantage and will support business success. This unit gives you the opportunity, through role play, to take part in selection interviews. They will need to be organised and prepared so that they demonstrate your communication skills in this work-related competence.

IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE I SHOULD KNOW?

The new BTEC Level 3 Nationals in Business have been designed to accredit candidates' achievement in a modern and practical way that is relevant to the workplace. There is no requirement for candidates to have achieved a Level 2 Business qualification before progressing to this award.

PROGRESSION ROUTES

Employment in a business related role - for example: Supervisory or Management Trainee; entry to college or university for further study; work towards work-related and vocational qualifications in Business.

Business Studies

BTEC
Level 2

Are you the next Sir Alan Sugar? Can you see yourself setting up and running your own business? Or can you see yourself working for a successful multi-national company? Whatever your ambition this course helps you achieve it. The BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Enterprise is a stimulating and engaging coursework based qualification in which you will learn about businesses and how they operate in the real world.

You will study all of the key elements of business operations from how to run a successful business financially, to managing your staff and dealing with customers.

This is a one year course which is GCSE level and you will study several business related units. It is an excellent choice for anyone wishing to develop new skills and increase their employment prospects after school.

A number of visits to local businesses and attractions are included as part of the course and these are used to enhance the relevance of your portfolio.

The course is assessed internally through a portfolio of practical activities based on real businesses and an external assessments. A selection of the units delivered as part of the Level 2 qualification are:

Component 1: Explore

Examine enterprises and the skills needed by entrepreneurs

Component 2: Develop

Students choose an enterprise idea to plan and pitch for

Component 3: Apply

Students pull together all they have learned and apply their knowledge in a real life scenario

The course is a GCSE standard course, which is a great introduction to business and you do not need to have studied this subject before.

After this course, you may want to choose to continue with Business and progress on the BTEC Level 3 course and in the longer term you might choose to progress on to a Business related course at University.

The real life skills you will learn within Business are highly valued by employers and you could work in a large corporation or a management consultancy firm, or even choose to set up your own business.

Chemistry

A Level
Level 3

This subject is offered as an A Level course. Chemistry is the study of everything material. What we eat, wear, drive, build and listen to is all affected by Chemistry. You will gain a challenging and fascinating insight into the building blocks of our planet. Starting with the structure of atoms and how they bond together, the course covers many aspects of organic, inorganic and physical chemistry. The practical aspects of the course will develop your analytical skills using a range of chemicals and high-precision equipment.

COURSE CONTENT

A First Year of A-Level

Physical Chemistry (atomic structure, amounts of substances, bonding, energetics, kinetics, chemical equilibria and Le Chatelier's Principle).

Inorganic Chemistry (periodicity, Group 2 Alkaline Earth Metals, Group 7(17) The Halogens).

Organic Chemistry (alkanes, halogenoalkanes, alkenes, alcohols, organic analysis).

Second Year of A-Level

Physical Chemistry (thermodynamics, rate equations, equilibrium constant for homogenous systems, electrode potentials and electrochemical cells).

Inorganic Chemistry (properties of Period 3 elements and their oxides, transition metals, reactions of ions in aqueous solution).

Organic Chemistry (optical isomerism, aldehydes and ketones, carboxylic acids and derivatives, aromatic chemistry, amines, polymers, amino acids, proteins and DNA, organic synthesis, NMR spectroscopy, chromatography).

ASSESSMENT

As with Physics and Biology, Chemistry is taught as a linear course that is assessed by examinations in June at the end of Year 13.

Paper 1: Physical Chemistry and Inorganic Chemistry, including relevant practical skills.

Examination - 2 hours

35% of the overall A Level Marks

Paper 2: Physical Chemistry and Organic Chemistry, including relevant practical skills.

Examination - 2 hours

35% of the overall A Level Marks

Paper 3: Any content and any practical skills.

Examination - 2 hours

30% of the overall A Level marks

IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE I SHOULD KNOW?

You will develop excellent practical and problem solving skills and the course will prepare you for a wide range of degree courses and careers in Science.

PROGRESSION ROUTE

Chemistry is highly regarded and considered a 'facilitating subject' for the top universities in the country, regardless of the degree that you wish to study. It provides an excellent grounding for those wishing to progress onto Law and other traditional 'humanities' subjects but also for Medicine and Veterinary Science as well as Business or Management.

Chemistry is a good choice for students looking to progress into careers involving Health, Research or Industry. These may include professions such as Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Science, Education, Forensic Science, Biochemistry, Chemical Engineering, Pharmaceutical Research and Development.

Child Development

CACHE
Level 2

The CACHE Level 2 Technical Award in Child Development and Care provides the opportunity to gain a basic introduction to the childcare sector.

It includes knowledge and understanding of child development and well-being, necessary for working with children in a variety of settings. It is aimed at a range of learners who wish to be introduced to childcare and development for children aged 0 - 5 years.

The qualification consists of 3 units;

Two graded A* - D which are assessed by a graded assessment task.

One unit which is a synoptic assessment unit assessed by a short answer external exam paper.

Units studied include;

Unit 1

An introduction to working with children aged 0 - 5 years

Unit 2

Development and well being 0 - 5 years

Unit 3

Child care and development 0- 5 years

Students must pass all three units to gain the qualification.

ASSESSMENT

Unit three is assessed by external examination Unit one and unit two are assessed by internal assessment.

What it prepares you for this course prepares you to move onto further study at Level 3 in Childcare and Health & Social Care courses. It can also provide a valuable stepping stone into childcare apprenticeships.

Children's Play, Learning & Development

Are you interested in pursuing a career working with children? Then Children's Play, Learning and Development can give you that opportunity.

The Edexcel BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate is equivalent to one A Level. It is a natural progression from BTEC Level 2 in Children's Play Learning and Development or Health and Social Care and is designed to further develop you into an independent learner. You can still study at Children's Play Learning and Development Level 3 if you have not studied it before.

Throughout the course you will study a variety of topics and build upon your knowledge and understanding of the world of Early Years. The nature of the course not only gives you the opportunity to develop your knowledge and understanding but it also allows you to improve your research and application skills, organisational skills and time management. You will develop personal skills and attitudes essential for successful performance at university and in working life.

HOW IS THE COURSE STRUCTURED?

The BTEC Level 3 in Children's Play, Learning and Development is run over two years and content is broken down into four units, with two being externally assessed. The size of each unit is determined by how many guided learning hours (GLH) have been set for delivery and to successfully complete the course, you must complete a total of 360 GLH. You must complete all of the units in order to fulfil the course requirements.

Units studied over the two years:

Unit 1: Children's Development (120 GLH)

Unit 2: Development of Children's Communication, Literacy and Numeracy Skills (120 GLH)

Unit 3: Play and Learning (60 GLH)

Unit 5: Keeping Children Safe (60 GLH)

You will also complete 50 hours of work experience in an Early Years Setting and you will be required to complete a portfolio of evidence of your development on placement.

ASSESSMENT

Units 1 and 2 are externally assessed units.

Unit 1 will be a written examination consisting of a 1.5 hours paper each. Unit 2 consists of a set task provided by the exam board.

BTEC

Level 3

The remaining two units are assessed through the completion of assignments. Each of these internally assessed units has a number of tasks to complete in order to fulfil the individual unit requirements. Within assignments, tasks will be completed to PASS, MERIT or DISTINCTION level. Each individual assignment must be completed to at least a pass level in order to pass the whole unit.

On successful completion of a unit, points are awarded depending upon the level of completion and the size of the unit (GLH). At the end of the course, the points will be added from all eight units to make a combined total points score.

Overall PASS - Equivalent to E grade

Overall MERIT - Equivalent to C grade)

Overall DISTINCTION - Equivalent to A grade

Overall DISTINCTION* - Equivalent to A* grade

IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE I SHOULD KNOW?

The qualification carries UCAS points and is recognised by higher education providers as contributing to meeting admission requirements to many relevant courses. It can be taken alongside, for example:

- A Levels in Biology and Psychology, which could lead to a BSc (Hons) in Children's Nursing or BTEC Health and Social Care and BTEC Applied Science, which could lead to a BSc (Hons) in Children's Nursing.
- A Levels in English and Psychology, which could lead to a BA (Hons) in Childhood Studies
- A Levels in English and History, which could lead to a BA (Hons) in Primary Education.

It is widely accepted by universities and during the UCAS application process, students will need to provide details on attainment/expected attainment within individual units.

PROGRESSION ROUTES

Many students who study Children's Play, Learning and Development on to university to study Nursing, Midwifery, Social Work and Teaching. The Level 3 course is excellent preparation for entering university or going directly into Early Years employment via an Early Years Educator Apprenticeship.

D&T (Product Design)

A Level

Level 3

This subject is offered as an A Level course. The course is focused towards consumer products and applications; their analysis in respect of materials, components, and marketability to understand their selection and uses in industrial and commercial practices of product development. In Product Design, materials and components are studied from the perspective of analysing modern consumer products that are designed to meet identified consumer needs, their design and manufacture. During this course you will build upon and develop your knowledge and understanding from GCSE whilst also having the freedom to focus in more depth on areas of design and technology that most interest you.

HOW IS THE COURSE STRUCTURED?

During the two year course, you will study a range of materials including timbers, metals, plastics and paper boards. You will develop a technical understanding of how products function and how they are made to appropriately support the design and manufacture of your own design solutions. You will learn about wider design principles and the effect of design on users and the world we live in. You will identify market needs and opportunities for new products, initiate and develop design solutions, and make and test prototypes/products. You will develop your subject knowledge, including how a product can be developed through the stages of prototyping, realisation and commercial manufacture. This subject also requires you to apply mathematical and scientific knowledge, understanding and skills.

Success in this course can lead to higher education qualifications and careers in Product Design, Graphic Design, Industrial Design, Computer Aided Design, Architectural Design Technology, Mechanical and Aeronautical Engineering as well as other creative, design and engineering disciplines.

A LEVEL

Unit 1: Coursework

Topic: Iterative Design Project

Weighting: 50% of A Level

In Year 13 you will commence a non-examined 'Iterative Design Project', a substantial design, make and evaluate project centred on the iterative processes of explore, create and evaluate. It is worth 50% of the A Level qualification. You will be required to identify a design opportunity or problem from a context of your own choice, and create a chronological portfolio supported by real-time evidence of your project development. Innovative approaches will be required resulting

in a final prototype that can be tested against the user and the market. In the first year of this course you will take part in a range of design and make activities and projects to build on you designing and manufacturing skills in preparation for your A Level coursework project which commences following the Easter holidays in Year 12.

Unit 2: Written Exam

Topic: Principles of Product Design

Weighting: 26.7% of A Level

Exam – 1 hour 30 minutes

The 'Principles' examination paper is worth 26.7% (80 marks) of the A Level qualification and assesses analysis of existing products, technical knowledge and understanding of materials, product functionality, manufacturing processes and techniques and allows you to demonstrate your understanding of design thinking and wider social, moral and environmental issues that impact on the design and manufacturing industries.

Unit 3: Written Exam

Topic: Problem Solving

Weighting: 23.3% of A Level

Exam – 1 hour 45 minutes

The 'Problem Solving' paper is worth 23.3% (70 marks) of the A Level qualification and requires learners to apply their knowledge and understanding through higher level thinking skills, reflecting on the viability of products and possible design solutions in context and being able to make critical judgements on the most appropriate methods and outcomes.

IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE I SHOULD KNOW?

For candidates wishing to study Product Design or Industrial Design at higher education the desirable subjects to choose along with Product Design are Art & Design, Mathematics, Science (Applied), Physics, Business Studies and ICT. However, other combinations are acceptable depending on the type of higher education establishment.

PROGRESSION ROUTES

Success in this course can lead to higher education qualifications and careers in Product Design, Graphic Design, Industrial Design, Computer Aided Design, Architectural Design Technology, Mechanical and Aeronautical Engineering as well as other creative, design and engineering disciplines.

English Combined

A Level
Level 3

Do you enjoy reading and writing independently, away from your college studies? Above everything else, this is the sign that you will enjoy and be successful at A Level English, whether you choose Literature or Language and Literature Combined.

On this course you will combine the study of literary texts with the study of language and linguistic techniques to better understand how writers construct and convey meaning and how in turn readers develop an understanding of a text. You will create your own writing pieces, but also you will read and write about some classic works of literature. If you love to read and enjoy producing your own writing then this course will allow you to showcase your abilities at the same time as experiencing texts across a wide range of genres.

ASSESSMENT OBJECTIVES

1. Apply concepts and methods from integrated linguistic and literary study as appropriate, using associated terminology and coherent written expression.
2. Analyse ways in which meanings are shaped in texts.
3. Demonstrate understanding of the significance and influence of the contexts in which texts are produced and received.
4. Explore connections across texts, informed by linguistic and literary concepts and methods.
5. Demonstrate expertise and creativity in the use of English to communicate in different ways.

A LEVEL

Examination 80% Non-exam assessment 20% The components comprise a comparative analysis of poetry and an unseen text and the critical response to prose. Students will also study drama texts including a Shakespeare play. This course also develops student engagement with spoken language and non-literary materials. The non-exam assessment enables pupils to pursue an independent line of enquiry investigating language usage within a particular text or genre.

IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE I SHOULD KNOW?

The skills that you will learn in this subject, such as independent research, close reading, analysis and evaluation of material and assimilation of material into a formal essay are desirable skills for universities. English (Combined) therefore is an ideal companion to History, German/French, Psychology, Religious Studies or any of the Science subjects.

PROGRESSION ROUTES

Obviously English Combined will be appropriate for students who wish to progress to study a form of English at university. It also provides many of the skills desirable for degrees in History, Law, Anthropology, Criminology or Teaching.

English Literature

A Level
Level 3

On this course you will study some fantastic plays, novels and poetry, ranging in period. You must be willing to undertake independent reading, which should not really feel like a chore, more a pleasure. A qualification in English Literature proves that you are highly motivated, analytical and confident in your ability to construct and convey an argument in both spoken and written form.

ASSESSMENT OBJECTIVES

1. Articulate informed, personal and creative responses to literary texts, using associated concepts and terminology and coherent, accurate written expression.
2. Analyse ways in which meanings are shaped in literary texts.
3. Demonstrate understanding of the significance and influence of the contexts in which literary texts are written and received.
4. Explore connections across literary texts.
5. Explore literary texts informed by different interpretations.

This course has no AS component – it is a two year programme of study culminating in three A Level examinations and the submission of a coursework portfolio.

A LEVEL

Examination 80% Non-exam assessment 20%. The components comprise a study of prose, poetry and drama including Shakespeare from a range of periods. Students are encouraged to study texts using a variety of reading strategies and perspectives and debate and challenge the perspectives of other readers as they develop their own informed personal response to texts. The exam will assess the ability to explore central literary themes and also respond to unseen material.

The non-exam assessment offers the opportunity to independently study and research two prose texts. Students will develop the skills needed to produce a coherent and convincing argument and use literary terminology with confidence.

IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE I SHOULD KNOW?

The skills that you will learn in this subject, such as independent research, close reading, analysis and evaluation of material and assimilation of material into a formal essay are highly desirable skills for universities. English Literature therefore is an ideal companion to History, German/French, Psychology, Religious Studies or any of the Science subjects.

PROGRESSION ROUTES

English Literature is highly regarded and considered a 'facilitating subject' for the top universities in the country, regardless of the degree that you wish to study. It provides an excellent grounding for those wishing to progress onto Law and other traditionally 'humanities' subjects but also for Medicine and Veterinary Science as well as Business or Management.

Extended Project

AS Level
Level 3

This is a Level 3 qualification. It is graded and carries the same UCAS points as an AS Level and can be taken as a free-standing qualification. The course offers students a unique opportunity to develop essential skills for higher education and the workplace, in a subject area of their own choice. The Extended Project gives students more control over their study than ever before. You have a free choice of project topic, so you can choose to explore a further aspect of a subject you're studying, or another subject, or choose a topic in which you have a personal interest. This level of choice and flexibility means students are engaged and motivated and gain valuable research and project management skills along the way.

You have to:

- Choose a topic of your choice to study
- Complete a Production Log to document your project process
- Plan, research and write up their findings of your project
- Prepare and deliver a presentation on the outcome.

ASSESSMENT

This is an independent piece of research. You will meet with a member of staff (supervisor) weekly to discuss your progress and to guide you and help you develop the necessary skills to complete a successful project. You will also attend taught sessions which equip you with the key skills needed for primary research, project writing and independent study.

You can write a 5000 word essay arguing both sides of your research topic or you can create a product with a 1000 word report on the research that lead you to your end product.

The assessment covers both the process and the end product. The final project, plus the Production Log, will be assessed as a whole, according to a generic set of marking criteria. We'll be looking at how well students identify and use resources, carry out research, develop their ideas to realise an outcome and then reflect on the outcome and the process.

Students complete a Production Log as they carry out their projects and at the end they must deliver a presentation which should be for a non-specialist audience. This could take the form of a group presentation (in the case of a group project) or a one-to-one presentation to the supervisor.

The presentation must be supported by a question and answer session which is recorded in the Production Log. The complete Production Log, a written report, the evidence and the presentation are assessed together by the centre at the end of the process.

IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE I SHOULD KNOW?

This AS-level is an independent piece of work and will require students to manage their time effectively throughout the year. Students will be encouraged through self-motivation and independent study inside and outside of school. Students will need to be confident within their area of study to evaluate, reflect, criticise and support their ideas using other pieces of research.

Examples of projects chosen include:

- Teenage pregnancy debate, who is to blame?
- Gender equality in the police
- Can women really be police officers?
- Is God real?
- Teach yourself the guitar - with a DVD and booklet
- A website designed around childhood obesity and how to deal with it
- Education through performing arts, focusing on underage drinking
- Domestic Violence and its effects on the family
- Tourism within Liverpool and has the regeneration of the area increased tourism?
- Design your own Skate park and create a miniature structure of the design using the key materials
- Is Rugby for girls?
- Design and create a Sixth Form magazine

PROGRESSION ROUTES

The project will attract UCAS points (for entry to universities). Students might use the project at interview stage for higher education and/or in their Personal Statement on their UCAS form. The project will develop important independent learning and study skills that will improve the chances of success when progressing to higher education or employment.

French

A Level
Level 3

Are you a linguist? Are you a good communicator? Do you enjoy travelling to new places? Are you interested in people and other cultures? Then you should be considering studying French to A2 Level! More and more universities are asking for a language qualification for their courses, irrespective of your chosen career path.

At A level, you will benefit from one hour per week which builds specifically on your grammar knowledge from GCSE. In all lessons, your teacher will speak French as often as possible and you will use a variety of media to research the topics. The internet will be exploited to give you access to authentic materials and you will also be given the opportunity to go on a work experience placement in France which will enable you to use your language in real life situations.

You will study a two year course full A Level.

Throughout the course, you will develop and refine your listening, speaking, reading and writing skills as well as revising and building on the grammar already learnt at GCSE to improve the complexity and fluency of your language. In addition you will learn about the culture of France and the life of people in France and the French speaking world.

There are two areas of study which are taught at A Level; 'Social issues and trends' and 'Political and/or intellectual and/or artistic culture'. You will study a theme per year across both years of the A Level. Also you will study literature and cinema from the French speaking world.

ASSESSMENT

Exams taken at the end of Year 13

Paper 1: 50% Listening, Reading and Translation into English and into French

Paper 2: 20% Critical response in writing; two essays on both books or book and film studied

Paper 3: 30% Speaking exam: discussion from a speaking stimulus and presentation on individual research project (21-23 minutes)

PROGRESSION ROUTES

French is highly regarded and considered a 'facilitating subject' for the top universities in the country, regardless of the degree that you wish to study. It provides an excellent grounding for those wishing to progress onto Law and other traditionally 'humanities' subjects but also for Medicine and Veterinary Science as well as Business or Management. The Advanced GCE in French can lead to further study of languages at degree level and can easily be combined with other courses such as Law, English, Business, International Studies or other languages that can be taken up at university such as Mandarin and Japanese. Current popular career choices for students of languages include Translation and Interpreting, Business, Journalism, Computing, Law, Publishing, Marketing, as well as Teaching, both in the UK and abroad. Linguists are sought after employees for many types of Business and Industry.

On average, people who use languages in their jobs earn 8% more than their non-linguist colleagues.

Geography

A Level
Level 3

Geography is the study of physical and human environments and how they interact together. It is delivered in the two disciplines of Physical and Human Geography and deals with a range of current topical global issues. Geography builds on what is covered at GCSE Level and apply a range of detailed contemporary case studies to core geographical concepts. You will study the systems, patterns and processes that happen in both urban and rural areas. The content includes studying volcanoes, earthquakes and our changing coastline. Why is Africa the poorest continent on earth? Can Liverpool ever reclaim its status as the 'second city' of Great Britain? How will climate change impact upon my life? Without Geography we stand little chance of answering such questions.

ASSESSMENT

1. Develop and apply your understanding of geographical concepts and processes to understand and interpret the changing world.
2. Develop your awareness of the complexity of interactions within and between societies, economies, culture and environments at local and global scales.
3. Develop as global citizens who recognise the challenge of sustainability and the implications for their own and others' lives.
4. Improve as critical and reflective learners aware of the importance of attitudes and values, including their own.
5. Become apt in the use and application of skills and technologies through your geographical studies.
6. Be inspired by the world around you, and gain enjoyment and satisfaction from your geographical studies.

COURSE CONTENT

The Eduqas course comprises of three examinations and an independent investigation. The following content is spread over the two year course. It is a linear course with all exams taken at the end of year 13.

Component 1: Changing Landscapes and Changing Places (20.5% of qualification)

Section A: Changing coastal landscapes.

Section B: Changing places.

Component 2: Global Systems and Global Governance (27.5% of qualification)

Section A: Global systems (water and carbon cycles).

Section B: Global governance challenges. **Section C:** 21st Century challenges.

Component 3: Contemporary Themes in Geography (32% of qualification)

Section A: Tectonic hazards.

Section B: Development in the African Context and ecosystems

Component 4: Independent Investigation (20% of qualification) - One 3000-4000 word investigation based upon primary and secondary data collection on any of the themes covered to date.

HOW IT'S ASSESSED

Component 1: Written exam 1 hour 45 minutes - all questions are compulsory and vary in length from 2 - 15 marks.

Component 2: Written exam 2 hours - combination of compulsory and optional questions, these vary in length from 2 - 20 marks.

Component 3: Written exam 2 hours 15 minutes - combination of compulsory and optional questions, three in total, each is a 45 mark essay question.

Component 4: Non examination based investigation submitted in school and marked by external moderators.

IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE I SHOULD KNOW?

Field trips are an integral part of the geography department at St Mary's. It is a vital and valuable component of the compulsory phase of every student's school experience. Four days of fieldwork opportunities are organised to enable students to experience and test theory learnt in the classroom in a variety of contexts.

PROGRESSION ROUTES

Geography is highly regarded and considered a 'facilitating subject' for the top universities in the country, regardless of the degree that you wish to study. It provides an excellent grounding for those wishing to progress onto Law and other traditionally 'humanities' subjects but also for Medicine and Veterinary Science as well as Business or Management. Previous students have gone on to study Geography at university, as either a science or in the arts faculties. Your skills of data analysis, interpretation and your ability to present logical arguments match the skills required in today's workplace. Geographers are highly skilled in both literacy and numeracy, and employers recognise the abilities A Level Geographers possess.

A geographical background is beneficial in the following careers: Crime Intelligence Analyst, Travel Writer, Environmental Manager, Teaching and Engineering.

German

A Level
Level 3

Are you a linguist? Are you a good communicator? Do you enjoy travelling to new places? Are you interested in people and other cultures? Then you should be considering studying German to A2 Level!

More and more universities are asking for a language qualification for their courses, irrespective of your chosen career path.

At A level, you will benefit from one hour per week which builds specifically on your grammar knowledge from GCSE. In all lessons, your teacher will speak German as often as possible and you will use a variety of media to research the topics. The internet will be exploited to give you access to authentic materials and you will also be given the opportunity to go on a work experience placement in Germany which will enable you to use your language in real life situations.

You will study a two year course full A Level. Throughout the course, you will develop and refine your listening, speaking, reading and writing skills as well as revising and building on the grammar already learnt at GCSE to improve the complexity and fluency of your language. In addition you will learn about the culture of Germany and the life of people in Germany and the German speaking world.

There are two areas of study which are taught at A Level; 'Social issues and trends' and 'Political and/or intellectual and/or artistic culture'. You will study a theme per year across both years of the A Level. Also you will study literature and cinema from the German speaking world.

ASSESSMENT

A Level - two year qualification

Exams taken at the end of Year 13

Paper 1: 50% Listening, Reading and Translation into English and into German

Paper 2: 30% Critical response in writing; two essays on both books or book and film studied

Paper 3: 30% Speaking exam: discussion from a speaking stimulus and presentation on an individual research project (21-23 minutes)

PROGRESSION ROUTES

German is highly regarded and considered a 'facilitating subject' for the top universities in the country, regardless of the degree that you wish to study. It provides an excellent grounding for those wishing to progress onto Law and other traditionally 'humanities' subjects but also for Medicine and Veterinary Science as well as Business or Management. The Advanced GCE in German can lead to further study of languages at degree level and can easily be combined with other courses such as Law, English, Business, International Studies or other languages that can be taken up at university such as Chinese and Japanese. Current popular career choices for students of languages include Translation and Interpreting, Business, Journalism, Computing, Law, Publishing, Marketing, as well as Teaching, both in the UK and abroad. Linguists are sought after employees for many types of Business and Industry.

On average, people who use languages in their jobs earn 8% more than their non-linguist colleagues.

Government & Politics

A Level
Level 3

Politics is about power. Who has it? How did they get it? How can it be transferred to others? What is this power being used for? If you are interested in how our government runs our country and how their decisions affect your life and community then you should consider studying Government and Politics.

Through this course you will firstly study the answers to the questions above in relation to the UK and USA. You will consider how the political systems might be improved. You will also study different ideas about how power should be shared, controlled and used in a society.

This course will help students to develop knowledge and understanding of the role politics plays in relation to current local, national, and global issues, as well as studying key thinkers and political ideas. Each topic in the specification is fully detailed, providing you with the full range of breadth and depth of knowledge.

Ideas like socialism, liberalism, conservatism and anarchism all offer different ways to organise and regulate power in societies so that life is as good as it can be. You will get the opportunity to use your knowledge of these ideas to start to form your own opinions about politics and political ideology.

Later in the course you will look at the systems which exist in other countries, like the USA, and make comparisons with the UK. You will also look at other ideas which affect our world, like feminism and nationalism.

It is not necessary to already have a great deal of knowledge about government and politics in order to study this subject. However, it is essential that you have an interest in what is happening in the country right now and to be willing to keep up to date with current affairs through watching the news and reading newspapers/ articles.

ASSESSMENT

A Level - two year qualification
Exams taken at the end of Year 13

Component 1: UK Politics (*Component code: 9PLO/01)

Written examination: 2 hours

33¹/₃% of the qualification

84 marks

- Democracy and Participation
- Electoral Systems
- Political Parties
- Voting Behaviour and the Media
- Liberalism
- Conservatism
- Socialism

Component 2: UK Government (*Component code: 9PLO/02)

Written examination: 2 hours

33¹/₃% of the qualification

84 marks

- The Constitution
- Parliament
- Prime Minister and Cabinet
- Relationships between the Branches
- Anarchism

Component 3: Comparative Politics (*Component code: 9PLO/3A or 3B)

Written examination: 2 hours

33¹/₃% of the qualification

84 marks

Students study USA (9PLO/3A)

- The US Constitution and federalism
- US Congress
- US Presidency
- US Supreme Court and US civil rights
- US democracy and participation
- Comparative theories.

PROGRESSION ROUTES

The vast majority of our Government & Politics students' progress onto university and many take related degrees: Government, International Relations or Public Administration. This subject is particularly useful if you are looking for a career in Law, Civil Service, Local Government or the Police. It also develops numerous transferable skills such as communication skills, diplomacy, critical thinking. Universities regard all these as highly desirable so even those students who do not intend to pursue further studies of Politics can still benefit greatly from this course.

Health & Social Care

BTEC
Level 3

Are you a good communicator? Do you care about other people and how our society develops? Are you interested in pursuing a career working with children, older people or in the NHS? Health and Social Care can give you these opportunities.

The **Edexcel BTEC Extended Certificate** is equivalent to one A Level. It is a natural progression from the BTEC L2 in Health & Social Care and is designed to further develop you into an independent learner. You can still study L3 Health & Social Care if you have not studied it before.

Throughout the course you will study a variety of topics and build upon your knowledge and understanding of the world of Health, Social Care and Early Years. The nature of the course not only gives you the opportunity to develop your knowledge and understanding but it also allows you to improve your research and application skills, organisational skills and time management. You will develop personal skills and attitudes essential for successful performance at university and in working life.

HOW IS THE COURSE STRUCTURED?

The BTEC Level 3 in Health & Social Care is run over two years and content is broken down into four units, with two being externally assessed. The size of each unit is determined by how many guided learning hours (GLH) have been set for delivery and to successfully complete the course, you must complete a total of 360 GLH. You must complete the selected four units in order to fulfil the course requirements.

Units studied over the 2 years:

Unit 1: Human Lifespan Development (90 GLH)

Unit 2: Working in Health & Social Care (120 GLH)

Unit 5: Meeting Individual Care and Support Needs (90 GLH)

Unit 14: Sociological Perspectives (60 GLH)

ASSESSMENT

Units 1 and 2 are externally assessed units. Both Unit 1 and Unit 2 will be a written examination consisting of a 1.5 hours paper each. Both exams must be passed to achieve this qualification. All other units are assessed through completion of assignments. Each of these internally assessed units has a number of tasks to complete in order to fulfil the individual unit requirements.

Within assignments, tasks will be completed to PASS, MERIT or DISTINCTION level. Each individual assignment must be completed to at least a pass level in order to pass the whole unit.

On successful completion of a unit, points are awarded depending upon the level of completion and the size of the unit (GLH). At the end of the course, the points will be added from all four units to make a combined total points score.

Overall PASS - Equivalent to E grade

Overall MERIT - Equivalent to C grade)

Overall DISTINCTION - Equivalent to A grade

Overall DISTINCTION* - Equivalent to A* grade

IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE I SHOULD KNOW?

The Edexcel BTEC Level 3 in Health & Social Care can be studied with a variety of other subjects to suit the needs of the student. Many students combine with A Levels in Psychology, Sociology and English or BTEC's in Children's Play, Learning and Development and Applied Science. It is widely accepted by universities and during the UCAS application process, students will need to provide details on attainment/ expected attainment within individual units.

PROGRESSION ROUTES

Many students who study Health & Social Care go on to university to study Nursing, Midwifery, Social Work and Teaching. The Level 3 course is excellent preparation for entering university or going directly into Social Care/Early Years employment.

Health & Social Care

BTEC
Level 3

Are you a good communicator? Do you care about other people and how our society develops? Are you interested in pursuing a career working with children, older people or in the NHS? Health & Social Care can give you these opportunities.

The **Edexcel BTEC Level 3 Diploma** is equivalent to two A Levels. It is a natural progression from BTEC Level 2 in Health & Social Care and is designed to further develop you into an independent learner. You can still study Health & Social Care at Level 3 if you have not studied it before.

Throughout the course you will study a variety of topics and build upon your knowledge and understanding of the world of Health, Social Care and Early Years. The nature of the course not only gives you the opportunity to develop your knowledge and understanding but it also allows you to improve your research and application skills, organisational skills and time management. You will develop personal skills and attitudes essential for successful performance at university and in working life.

HOW IS THE COURSE STRUCTURED?

The BTEC Level 3 in Health & Social Care is run over two years and content is broken down into eight units, with three being externally assessed. The size of each unit is determined by how many guided learning hours (GLH) have been set for delivery and to successfully complete the course, you must complete a total of 720 GLH. You must complete all the units in order to fulfil the course requirements.

Units studied over the 2 years:

- Unit 1:** Human Lifespan Development (90 GLH)
- Unit 2:** Working in Health & Social Care (120 GLH)
- Unit 4:** Enquiries into Current Research in Health & Social Care (120GLH)
- Unit 5:** Meeting Individual Care and Support Needs (90 GLH)
- Unit 7:** Principles of Safe Practice in Health & Social Care Settings (90GLH)
- Unit 8:** Promoting Public Health (90 GLH)
- Unit 10:** Sociological Perspectives (60 GLH)
- Unit 12:** Supporting individuals with additional needs (60GLH)

ASSESSMENT

Units 1 and 2 are externally assessed units. Both Unit 1 and Unit 2 will be a written examination consisting of a 1.5 hours paper each. Unit 4 is also externally assessed and consists of a set task provided by the exam board. You must pass the exams to achieve the qualifications.

All other units are assessed through the completion of assignments. Each of these internally assessed units has a number of tasks to complete in order to fulfil the individual unit requirements. Within assignments, tasks will be completed to PASS, MERIT or DISTINCTION level. Each individual assignment must be completed to at least a pass level in order to pass the whole unit.

On successful completion of a unit, points are awarded depending upon the level of completion and the size of the unit (GLH). At the end of the course, the points will be added from all eight units to make a combined total points score.

- Overall PASS - Equivalent to E grade**
- Overall MERIT - Equivalent to C grade)**
- Overall DISTINCTION - Equivalent to A grade**
- Overall DISTINCTION* - Equivalent to A* grade**

IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE I SHOULD KNOW?

The Edexcel BTEC Level 3 in Health & Social Care can be studied with a variety of other subjects to suit the needs of the student. Many students combine with Psychology, Sociology and English. It is widely accepted by universities and during the UCAS application process, students will need to provide details on attainment/expected attainment within individual units.

PROGRESSION ROUTES

Many students who study Health & Social Care go on to university to study Nursing, Midwifery, Social Work and Teaching. The Level 3 course is excellent preparation for entering university or going directly into Social Care/Early Years employment.

History

A Level
Level 3

Are you interested in finding out how society has developed over time? Are you looking for a chance to further develop your analysis and interpretation skills? Have you got a passion for the past? Then you should strongly consider choosing to study History at A Level.

History at A Level is a highly esteemed qualification which offers genuine opportunities to develop important personal skills as well as enabling students to keep their options open in terms of Higher Education and career choice. Studying History at A Level involves students becoming involved much more in the actual work of historians than GCSE. There will be opportunities for original research and for participating in wider debates about the fundamental features of human society.

You will study the Edexcel qualification and as the course is linear, with the four key units (three examinations and one piece of coursework) being studied across Years 12 and 13 and then all are examined at the end of Year 13.

ASSESSMENT

Unit 1 – Britain, 1625 – 1701: conflict, revolution and settlement (30% of qualification)

The focus of study is on developments and changes over a broad timescale and so the content is presented as themes spanning a significant duration: 1625–88. This option also contains a study in depth of historical interpretations on a broad question that is contextualised by, and runs on from, the themes: how revolutionary, in the years to 1701, was the Glorious Revolution of 1688–89?

Unit 2 – Russia in revolution, 1894 – 1924 (20% of qualification)

Students will gain an in-depth understanding of revolutionary activity in Russia in the years 1894 to 1917, the response of successive governments to opposition to their rule, and the reasons for the successful consolidation of the revolution of October 1917 under Lenin and the Bolsheviks.

Unit 3 – Germany 1871 – 1990: united, divided and reunited (30% of qualification)

This option comprises two parts: the Aspects in breadth focus on long-term changes and contextualise the aspects in

depth, which focus in detail on key episodes. Together, the breadth and depth topics explore the ways in which Germany evolved as a new state in Europe undergoing dramatic changes of fortune, set within broader long-term social and economic developments (after 1945, these focus on West Germany). A dynamic empire ended in a brutal war and defeat; out of the ashes of imperial Germany, first a democratic republic and then an extraordinary dictatorship came into being, followed once again by democracy and finally a new unity in 1990.

Unit 4 – Coursework essay on the appropriateness of Appeasement in the 1930s (20% of qualification)

The purpose of the coursework assignment is to develop skills in the analysis and evaluation of interpretations of history in a chosen question, problem or issue as part of an independently researched assignment. The focus is on understanding the nature and purpose of the work of the historian. You will be required to form a critical view based on relevant reading on the question, problem or issue. You will also be specifically required to analyse, explain and evaluate the interpretations of three historians.

PROGRESSION ROUTES

Studying History enables students to keep their options open when going into university and choosing careers. Previous students have gone into teaching, accounting, journalism, politics and many other realms. With History A Level being such a challenging subject, universities value the traits of dedication and commitment needed to succeed in the subject at Key Stage 5. History students are able to analyse evidence, evaluate information, write in a clear and concise manner, make judgements confidently and be able to see through the ploys and tactics of others; all of these being skills valued by any potential employer.

BTEC Tech Award in Digital Information Technology gives students the opportunity to develop sector-specific knowledge and skills in a practical learning environment, including:

- development of key skills that prove their aptitude in digital information technology, such as project planning, designing and creating user interfaces, creating dashboards to present and interpret data
- processes that underpin effective ways of working, such as project planning, the iterative design process, cyber security, virtual teams, legal and ethical codes of conduct
- knowledge that underpins effective use of skills, processes and attitudes in the sector, such as how different user interfaces meet user needs, how organisations collect and use data to make decisions, virtual workplaces, cyber security and legal and ethical issues.

HOW WILL MY WORK BE ASSESSED?

There are a total of three components. Two of the components are internally assessed and worth 60% of the overall grade. One component is externally assessed and worth 40% of the overall grade.

Candidates must complete all three components, achieving at least a Level 1 Pass in each, over the year in order to gain the full award equivalent to one GCSE.

The components for this qualification are graded as Level 1 Pass, Level 1 Merit, Level 1 Distinction, Level 2 Pass, Level 2 Merit, Level 2 Distinction and Level 2 Distinction*. The overall grade is calculated by adding the number of points achieved in each of the three components, the total points will equate to one of the grades.

Component 1: Explore

Exploring User Interface Design Principles and Project Planning Techniques World

Aim: how to project plan the design and development of a user interface

Assessment: internally assessed assignment

Weighting: 30% of total course

During Component 1, you will:

- explore user interface design and development principles
- investigate how to use project planning techniques to manage a digital project
- discover how to develop and review a digital user interface.

Component 2: Develop Collecting, Presenting and Interpreting Data

Aim: process and interpret data and draw conclusions

Assessment: internally assessed assignment

Weighting: 30% of total course

During Component 2, you will:

- explore how data impacts on individuals and organisations
- draw conclusions and make recommendations on data intelligence
- develop a dashboard using data manipulation tools.

Component 3: Apply Effective Digital Working Practices

Aim: explore how organisations use digital systems and the wider implications associated with their use

Assessment: scenario-based external 1hr 30 min written exam where students demonstrate their knowledge to propose digital solutions to realistic situations

Weighting: 40% of total course

To achieve this aim, you will:

- explore how modern information technology is evolving
- consider legal and ethical issues in data and information sharing
- understand what cyber security is and how to safeguard against it.

PROGRESSION ROUTES

- A Levels as preparation for entry to higher education in a range of subjects
- Study of a vocational qualification at Level 3, such as a BTEC National in IT, which prepares students to enter employment or apprenticeships, or to move on to higher education by studying a degree in the digital sector.

The new BTEC Nationals 2016 course has been developed in collaboration with employers and representatives from higher education and relevant professional bodies. It ensures that the content is up to date and includes the knowledge, understanding, skills and attributes required in the IT sector.

Throughout the course you will study a variety of topics and build upon your knowledge and understanding of the world of Computing. The nature of the course not only gives you the opportunity to develop your knowledge and understanding, but it also allows you to improve your organisational skills, time management and the ability to apply learning to a vocational context. You will develop personal skills and attitudes essential for successful performance at university and in working life.

HOW WILL MY WORK BE ASSESSED?

There are a total of four units (three mandatory and one optional). Two of the units are internally assessed and worth 42% of the overall grade. Two units are externally assessed and worth 58% of the overall grade.

Candidates must achieve four units over two years in order to gain the full award equivalent to one A Level.

The units from this qualification are graded as Pass, Merit or Distinction. The total of each unit will determine the overall grade for the course. The overall grade equivalents are detailed below:

PASS - Equivalent to E grade

MERIT - Equivalent to C grade

DISTINCTION - Equivalent to A grade

DISTINCTION * Equivalent to A* grade

Unit 1: Information Technology Systems (33%)

This is a mandatory unit that is externally assessed by an unseen paper-based examination. You will explore the relationships between the hardware and software that form an IT system, and the way that systems work individually and together, as well as the relationship between the user and the system. You will examine issues related to the use of IT systems and the impact that they have on organisations and individuals. In this unit you will draw on your learning from across your programme to complete assessment tasks. This unit will give you a fundamental and synoptic understanding of all areas of IT, supporting your progression to an IT-related higher education course.

Unit 2: Creating Systems to Manage Information (25%)

This is a mandatory unit that is externally assessed under supervised conditions. You will study the design, creation, testing and evaluation of a relational database system to manage information. You will examine the structure of data and its origins, and how an efficient data design follows through to an effective and useful database. You will examine a given scenario and develop an effective design solution to produce a data-base system. You will then test your solution to ensure that it works correctly. Finally, you will evaluate each stage of the development process and the effectiveness of your database solution.

Unit 3: Social Media in Business (25%)

This is a mandatory unit that is internally assessed. You will explore different social media websites, the ways in which they can be used and the potential pitfalls when using them for business purposes. You will develop a plan to use social media strategies for business purposes to achieve specific aims and objectives. You will then implement the plan, developing and posting content and interacting with others. Finally, you will collect data on the businesses, use of social media and review the effectiveness of your efforts.

Unit 6: Website Development (17%)

This is an optional unit that is internally assessed. In this unit, you will review existing websites – commenting on their overall design and effectiveness. You will use scripting languages such as Hypertext Mark-up Language (HTML), Cascading Style Sheets (CSS) and JavaScript® and a simple text editor, or rapid application development tools. Finally, you will reflect on the website design and functionality using a testing and review process.

IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE I SHOULD KNOW?

The new BTEC Level 3 Nationals in ICT have been designed to accredit candidates' achievement in a modern and practical way that is relevant to the workplace. There is no requirement for candidates to have achieved a Level 2 ICT qualification before progressing to this award.

PROGRESSION ROUTES

- Employment in an ICT related role - for example Supervisory or Management Trainee;
- Entry to college or university for further study;
- Work towards work-related and vocational qualifications

Mathematics

A Level
Level 3

Do you enjoy a challenge and want an A Level that is highly regarded by universities and employers alike? To study Mathematics at advanced level you must have a determination to succeed and a passion for successfully solving problems. The course is based on Edexcel Mathematics. There are three areas of study for the exam – Pure Mathematics, Statistics and Mechanics.

The focus of the Pure Mathematics aspect is to further develop elements of the mathematics that you will have explored at GCSE. It will be a continuation of work on topics such as solving quadratic equations, factorising, sketching curves, vectors and trigonometry. You will also extend your mathematical knowledge further by learning how to differentiate and integrate; fundamental to Calculus.

Statistics explores some of the handling data GCSE topics that you have already seen, but to a further level. You will complete calculations that will help you better explore the spread of data, correlation shown on scatter graphs and whether hypothesis are deemed to be plausible.

Mechanics is the study of motion. It looks at the way that a physical body moves when subjected to a force. Much of the work is based around Newton's three laws of motion.

Statistics and Mechanics allow you to apply Mathematics to real life scenarios.

ASSESSMENT

A2

3 exams:

Paper 1: Pure Mathematics - Written examination: 2 hours, 33.33% of the qualification, 100 marks.

Paper 2: Pure Mathematics - Written examination: 2 hours, 33.33% of the qualification, 100 marks.

Paper 1 and 2 content: Proof, Algebra and functions, Coordinate geometry in the (x, y) plane, Sequences and series, Trigonometry, Exponentials and logarithms, Differentiation, Integration, Numerical methods, Vectors.

Paper 3: Statistics and Mechanics - Written examination: 2 hours, 33.33% of the qualification, 100 marks.

Paper 3 content: Section A (Statistics) - Statistical sampling, Data presentation and interpretation, Probability, Statistical distribution, Statistical hypothesis testing.

Section B (Mechanics) - Quantities and units in mechanics, Kinematics, Forces and Newton's laws, Moments.

For A Level Mathematics students must complete all assessment in May/June in any single year.

IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE I SHOULD KNOW?

The exam board recommend the Casio fx991-EX. This can be purchased through the school in order to get the best price. There is no coursework in A Level Mathematics.

PROGRESSION ROUTES

Mathematics is highly regarded and considered a 'facilitating subject' for the top universities in the country, regardless of the degree that you wish to study. It provides an excellent grounding for those wishing to progress onto Law and other traditionally 'humanities' subjects but also for Medicine and Veterinary Science as well as Business or Management. Mathematics A Level is an essential requirement for many mathematics and science based courses at degree level. It is also a highly regarded and valuable qualification for a wide range of professions including Engineering, Computing, Economics, Accountancy and Actuarial work and is a suitable qualification for undergraduate courses in subjects such as Psychology, Law, Medicine and Business & Management Studies.

Further Mathematics

BTEC
Level 3

Further Mathematics is an A Level qualification which both broadens and deepens the mathematics covered in A level Mathematics. It is designed to be learnt alongside A Level Mathematics.

Any student planning to take a mathematics-rich degree (this covers a very wide range of academic areas - Engineering, Sciences, Computing, Finance/Economics, etc., as well as Mathematics itself) will benefit enormously from taking Further Mathematics. Students who are not planning to study for mathematics-rich degrees but who are keen on mathematics will find Further Mathematics a very enjoyable course and having a Further Mathematics Qualification identifies students as having excellent analytical skills, whatever area they plan to study or work within.

Further Mathematics introduces new topics such as matrices and complex numbers that are vital in many mathematics-rich degrees. Students who have studied Further Mathematics find the transition to such degrees far more straightforward. Studying Further Mathematics should also boost your performance in A Level Mathematics. To study Further Mathematics at advanced level you must be studying A Level Mathematics, and should have a very high grade from GCSE Mathematics. The course is based on the Edexcel Further Maths A Level. You will study three areas of mathematics if you choose to take Further Maths. These are currently Pure Mathematics (compulsory), Mechanics and Statistics however there are also options to study Further Pure Mathematics or Decision Mathematics. These options are decided by the Mathematics department each year based on the cohort.

ASSESSMENT

A2

Four exams

Paper 1: – Core Pure Mathematics 1: Written examination - 1 hour and 30 minutes, 25% of the 3 qualification, 75 marks.

Paper 2: – Core Pure Mathematics 2: Written examination - 1 hour and 30 minutes, 25% of the qualification, 75 marks.

Paper 1 and 2 content: Proof, Complex numbers, Matrices, Further algebra and functions, Further calculus, Further vectors, Polar coordinates, Hyperbolic functions, Differential equations.

Paper 3: - Further Statistics 1: Written examination - 1 hour and 30 minutes, 25% of the qualification, 75 marks.

Paper 3 content: Probability distributions, Hypothesis testing, Chi squared tests, Central Limit Theorem, Probability generating functions, Quality of tests.

Paper 4: – Further Mechanics 1: Written examination: 1 hour and 30 minutes, 25% of the qualification, 75 marks.

Paper 4 content: Momentum and impulse, Work, energy and power, Elastic collisions in one and two dimensions, Elastic strings and springs and elastic energy.

For A Level Further Mathematics students must complete all assessment in May/June in any single year.

IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE I SHOULD KNOW?

You should only be choosing A Level Further Mathematics if you are also taking A Level Mathematics and have a deep love of Mathematics as it will be 2/3s of your A-levels. A calculator may be used in all examinations. The exam board recommend the Casio fx991-EX. This can be purchased through the school in order to get the best price. There is no coursework in A Level Further Mathematics.

PROGRESSION ROUTES

Further Mathematics qualifications are highly regarded and are strongly welcomed by universities. Students who take Further Mathematics are really demonstrating a strong commitment to their studies, as well as learning mathematics that is very useful for any mathematics-rich degree.

Creative Digital Media

BTEC
Level 3

The Level 3 Btec National Extended Certificate in Creative Digital Media Production provides a coherent introduction to the study of creative digital media world. Students develop an understanding of the media industry through analysing media representations and pitching and producing media projects. It is designed for post-16 learners who aim to progress to higher education and ultimately to employment, possibly in the media industries. The course is built around a series of tasks and assignments that enables students to develop a portfolio of skills including technical skills, audio-visual skills, presentation skills, communication skills and team work.

The course of Study is made up of three mandatory units and one optional unit;

Unit 1: Media Representations (External Exam Unit) Students will explore how different media representations are constructed by media producers to create meaning, messages and values. They will study a range of media from different sectors, such as music videos, short film extracts, animation, news programmes, websites, digital games and print adverts. It provides an introduction to fundamental media theory and analysis that is the basis for many progression routes at higher education level. This unit is assessed through an onscreen two hour examination set and marked by Pearson.

Unit 4: Pre-Production Portfolio Students study the requirements of planning and delivering a digital media product, carrying out essential pre-production tasks and creating a pre-production portfolio. Students will gain an understanding of the requirements of the planning stage, from finance and logistics to regulations. They will develop the pre- production skills and experience needed to carry out your own tasks and to produce a digital media product.

Unit 8: Responding to a Commission Students study the requirements of planning and delivering a digital media product, carrying out essential pre-production tasks and creating a pre-production portfolio. Students will learn how to respond to a commission brief with ideas based on the required content, style, audience, purpose and approach proposed by the client. This unit is assessed through a task set and marked by Pearson. Part A is pre-released and will

give students a commission for a media production for which they will carry out research activities into the subject. Part B contains the supervised assessment task which will be completed under controlled conditions.

Unit 10: Film Production This focuses on the process of producing a short narrative film or film extract that uses generic conventions. Students will investigate how conventions of narrative storytelling are used by filmmakers, looking at formats and generic conventions. They will then prepare for a film production by creating and bring together a range of elements camera, lighting, acting, direction and sound during the production phase, and successfully use post-production techniques to produce a final product.

ASSESSMENT

Units 1 and 8 are externally set and assessed units and make up 60% of the overall grade. Units 4 and 10 are internally assessed. The assessment for these units is made through the completion of assignments. Tasks will be completed to PASS, MERIT or DISTINCTION level.

Each individual assignment must be completed to the minimum required standard in order to pass the whole unit. On successful completion of a unit, points are awarded depending upon the level of completion and the size of the unit. At the end of the course, the points will be added from all three units to make a combined total points score.

Overall PASS- Equivalent to E grade
Overall MERIT- Equivalent to C grade
Overall DISTINCTION- Equivalent to A grade
Overall DISTINCTION*- Equivalent to A* grade

Future Progression BTEC qualifications are fully accepted by universities, higher education institutions and employers across the country. The level 3 course is excellent preparation for entering university courses in Digital Media, Media Production, Media and Communications and Film Studies or for entering straight into the industry.

Music

BTEC
Level 3

This subject is a Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma in Music: Performance, offered through the Rock School Exam board, which also offers instrumental exams in contemporary styles for a range of instruments/voice. This two year course gives musicians the chance to develop their musical skills beyond GCSE level. Whilst there is an obvious focus on performance, units are selected to give a range of experiences including composition and theory work alongside activities such as eportfolio design and Music Video making.

With the focus of the course being performance, students need to be competent performers, who can play an instrument to a good standard (we are generally aiming for a Grade 5 and above standard).

There will be a mixture of written and practical work and regular recording events to present coursework both in and out of school time. The language and traditions of music from many cultures is studied, as well as examples from a huge range of styles including Classical, Rock, Electronic, Folk and Jazz.

HOW IS THE COURSE STRUCTURED?

The Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma in Music (Performance) is run over two years and content is broken down into units. Each unit is worth a specific amount of credits and to successfully complete the course, you must complete 90 Credits. Each assignment has a specific vocational context and a scenario in order to allow students to relate their studies to the working environment.

ASSESSMENT

All assessment is made through completion of assignments and coursework, with a formal performance scenario that students must record between January and March in Year two for external assessment; all other units are internally assessed and externally moderated over the two years. Each unit has an assignment to complete in order to fulfil the individual unit requirements. Within assignments, tasks will be completed to PASS, MERIT or DISTINCTION level. Each individual assignment must be completed to at least a pass level in order to pass the whole unit.

On successful completion of a unit, points are awarded depending upon the level of completion and the credit value of the unit. At the end of the course, the points will be added from all completed units to make a combined total points score.

Overall PASS - Equivalent to E grade Overall
MERIT - Equivalent to C grade Overall
DISTINCTION - Equivalent to A grade Overall
DISTINCTION * - Equivalent to A* grade

IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE I SHOULD KNOW?

Due to the course content it is advisable to have studied Music; however, promising musicians who have a good standard of performance but have not studied the subject in Year 11 should talk to the Music staff about their suitability for the course.

PROGRESSION ROUTES

The qualification can provide the UCAS points required to allow access to higher education courses including degrees and foundation degrees. Potential occupations include opportunities in teaching, promotions, performance, studio work, publishing, music therapy and the media.

Performing Arts (Acting)

BTEC
Level 3

This course is a BTEC Extended Certificate in Performing Arts, equivalent to an A Level. Spread over two years, the Performing Arts course covers a wide spectrum of performance based units in order for learners to experience every medium of drama and theatre.

Learners will develop the technical and interpretative skills necessary to work in many areas of the performing arts. Learners will explore the means and processes of characterisation, interpret texts, develop material for performance through rehearsal as well as participating in performances of rehearsed material. Although the emphasis is on practical work, the course does contain elements of both theory and written work.

ASSESSMENT

Assessment is carried out over the two years of the course through practical drama sessions, written projects, presentations, essays and performances. There are two externally assessed units as part of the course. You will have the opportunity to discuss possibilities for pathways through two core units plus two Specialist Units.

UNITS TO BE COMPLETED:

Unit 1: Investigating Practitioners' work.

This is an externally assessed unit. Learners investigate the work of performing arts practitioners and develop critical analysis skills and contextual understanding of how practitioners communicate themes in their work. In this unit, you will develop skills that allow you to investigate the work of influential performing arts practitioners. Additionally you will draw on your learning from across your programme to complete assessment tasks.

Unit 2: Developing Skills and Techniques for Live Performance.

Learners will explore technical performance skills with a focus on developing techniques in at least two performances. This unit serves as an induction into the performing arts where you will develop the appropriate skills and techniques in one or more of the performance disciplines of acting, dance, musical theatre, physical theatre and variety/popular entertainment.

Unit 3: Group Workshop Performance.

This is the second externally assessed unit of the BTEC course. Learners explore and integrate creative, physical and vocal skills and techniques, working collaboratively to create a performance in response to a given stimulus. In this unit, you will learn how to respond to a given stimulus as part of a group, using research, discussion and practical exploration to develop performance material and later present an informal presentation of the work to an invited audience.

Unit 19: Acting Skills. Learners develop acting methods by exploring different acting styles.

This unit will introduce you to the basic differences of a range of styles of theatre and the approaches of theatre practitioners. You will take part in workshops that explore acting styles, techniques and practices used by different theatre practitioners in their work. This will enable you to create character, interpret lines and develop your vocal and physical skills while rehearsing and performing a text or devising original work.

Assignments must be completed for each unit, within set deadlines. On completing this award pupils will be awarded either a Pass, Merit or Distinction grade. All units must be completed and passed in order to achieve the final award.

Overall PASS - Equivalent to E grade

Overall MERIT - Equivalent to C grade

Overall DISTINCTION - Equivalent to A grade

Overall DISTINCTION * - Equivalent to A* grade

PROGRESSION ROUTES

The Performing Arts course is an excellent preparation for the further study of Drama or Acting at Drama School or university, as well as for a wide range of other related areas within the Theatre Industry. Further employment opportunities include teaching, acting, theatre, drama therapy and the media.

Performing Arts (Dance)

BTEC
Level 3

This course is a BTEC Extended Certificate in Performing Arts, equivalent to an A Level. Spread over two years, the Performing Arts course covers a wide spectrum of performance based units in order for learners to experience every medium of dance.

Learners will develop the technical and interpretative skills necessary to work in many areas of the performing arts. Learners will explore the means and processes of characterisation, interpret texts, develop material for performance through rehearsal as well as participating in performances of rehearsed material. Although the emphasis is on practical work, the course does contain elements of both theory and written work.

ASSESSMENT

Assessment is carried out over the two years of the course through practical drama sessions, written projects, presentations, essays and performances. There are two externally assessed units as part of the course. You will have the opportunity to discuss possibilities for pathways through two core units plus two Specialist Units.

UNITS TO BE COMPLETED:

Unit 1: Investigating Practitioner's work.

This is an externally assessed unit. Learners investigate the work of performing arts practitioners and develop critical analysis skills and contextual understanding of how practitioners communicate themes in their work. In this unit, you will develop skills that allow you to investigate the work of influential performing arts practitioners. Additionally you will draw on your learning from across your programme to complete assessment tasks.

Unit 2: Developing Skills and Techniques for Live Performance.

Learners will explore technical performance skills with a focus on developing techniques in at least two performances. This unit serves as an induction into the performing arts where you will develop the appropriate skills and techniques in one or more of the performance disciplines of acting, dance, musical theatre, physical theatre and variety/popular entertainment.

Unit 3: Group Workshop Performance.

This is the second externally assessed unit of the BTEC course. Learners explore and integrate creative, physical and vocal skills and techniques, working collaboratively to create a performance in response to a given stimulus. In this unit, you will learn how to respond to a given stimulus as part of a group, using research, discussion and practical exploration to develop performance material and later present an informal presentation of the work to an invited audience.

Unit 12: Contemporary Dance Technique.

This internal unit explores the technical and expressive skills and qualities required for a contemporary dancer. Learners will be developing and refining dance works, showing the correct sense of style, alignment and musicality of the work. This will prepare them for a career in the dance world.

Assignments must be completed for each unit, within set deadlines. On completing this award pupils will be awarded either a Pass, Merit, Distinction grade or Distinction*. All units must be completed and passed in order to achieve the final award.

Overall PASS - Equivalent to E grade

Overall MERIT - Equivalent to C grade

Overall DISTINCTION - Equivalent to A grade

Overall DISTINCTION * - Equivalent to A* grade

PROGRESSION ROUTES

The Performing Arts course is an excellent preparation for the further study of Dance or performance at university, as well as for a wide range of other related areas within the performing arts industry. Further employment opportunities include teaching, choreographer, theatre and therapy.

Sport

The Edexcel BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Sport is equivalent to one A Level. It is a natural progression from the Edexcel BTEC Level 2 First Award in Sport and is designed to further develop you into an independent learner. Throughout the course you will study a variety of topics and build upon your knowledge and understanding of the world of sport. The nature of the course not only gives you the opportunity to develop your knowledge and understanding of aspects of sport but it also allows you to improve your organisational skills, time management and the ability to apply learning to a vocational context. You will develop personal skills and attitudes essential for successful performance at university and in working life.

HOW IS THE COURSE STRUCTURED?

The BTEC Level 3 in Sport is run over two years and content is broken down into units. There are four units and each unit is worth a specific amount of points depending on its size. To successfully complete the course you must complete all four units. Two of the units are externally assessed and the other two units are internally assessed. You must complete all units to at least Pass level to gain the qualification overall

Units studied over the two years

Unit 1: Anatomy and Physiology in Sport (120 GLH)

Unit 2: Fitness Testing and Programming for Health, Sport and Wellbeing (120 GLH)

Unit 3: Professional Development in the Sports Industry (60 GLH)

Unit 4: Sports Leadership (60 GLH)

ASSESSMENT

There are three methods by which this course will be assessed:

A written examination set and marked by the examining body (**Unit 1**).

A task set and marked by the examining body (**Unit 2**);

An assignment set and marked internally (**Unit 3 and 4**);

On successful completion of a unit, points are awarded depending upon the level of completion and the size (number of GLH) of the unit. At the end of the course, the points will be added from all four units to make a combined total points score.

BTEC
Level 3

Overall PASS - Equivalent to E grade

Overall MERIT - Equivalent to C grade

Overall DISTINCTION - Equivalent to A grade

Overall DISTINCTION * - Equivalent to A* grade

IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE I SHOULD KNOW?

The Edexcel BTEC Level 3 in Sport can be studied with a variety of other subjects to suit the needs of the student. It is widely accepted by universities and during the UCAS application process; students will need to provide details on attainment/expected attainment within individual units.

PROGRESSION ROUTES

Many students who study PE continue their sporting studies at university. The Level 3 course is excellent preparation for entering university courses such as Sports Science, Physiotherapy, Sports Development, Sports Coaching and PE Teaching

Physics

A Level
Level 3

You will gain an awareness of the on-going development of new ideas in physics and of the application of in-depth knowledge of well-established topics such as electricity. Particle physics introduces you to the fundamental properties and nature of matter, radiation and quantum phenomena. In contrast, the study of electricity builds on and develops previous GCSE knowledge and understanding and provides opportunities for practical work and looks into important applications. You will also explore the mechanics, materials and waves that builds on the knowledge and skills gained at GCSE. At A Level you will further develop skills and understanding of mechanics and complement this with topics relating to magnetic and electrical fields that naturally leads into studying capacitors and how quickly they charge and discharge through resistors.

COURSE CONTENT

Year 12 Units

1. Measurements and their errors.
2. Particles and radiation.
3. Waves
4. Mechanics and materials.
5. Electricity.

Year 13 Units

6. Further mechanics and thermal physics.
7. Fields and their consequences.
8. Nuclear physics.

Optional Units (only 1 selected)

9. Astrophysics
10. Medical physics
11. Engineering physics
12. Turning points in physics
13. Electronics

ASSESSMENT

As with Biology and Chemistry, Physics is taught as a linear course that is assessed by examinations in June of Year 13.

Paper 1: Sections 1-5 and 6.1, 2 hours, 85 marks, 34% of A-Level. 60 short and long answer questions split by topic. 25 multiple choice questions.

Paper 2: Sections 7.8 & 6.2 with assumed knowledge from sections 1-5. 2 hours, 85 marks, 34% of A-Level. 60 short and long answer questions split by topic. 25 multiple choice questions.

Paper 3: Practical skills, data analysis and option module. 2 hours, 80 marks, 32% of A-Level. 45 marks of short and long answer questions on practical skills and data analysis.

PROGRESSION ROUTES

Physics is highly regarded and considered a 'facilitating subject' for the top universities in the country, regardless of the degree that you wish to study. It provides an excellent grounding for those wishing to progress onto Law and other traditional 'humanities' subjects but also for Medicine and Veterinary Science as well as Business or Management.

Physics is a good choice for students looking to progress into careers such as Engineering, Electronics, Education, IT and Software Design, Medicine, Domestic Energy Supply, Dentistry and Veterinary Science.

Psychology

A Level
Level 3

This subject is offered as an A Level course. Psychology is the scientific study of human behaviour and mental processes and how these have an impact on an individual's or group's physical and mental state. The goal of psychology is to understand, predict and modify human behaviour. The A level Psychology course allows you to study behaviour, including aggression, gender and abnormality, as well as psychological theories and research. You will develop research skills, as well as developing skills of analysis, interpretation and evaluation. The course explores different areas of Psychology, including Cognitive, Social and Developmental Psychology; Approaches in Psychology, including, psychodynamic theory, behaviourism, social learning theory and bio-psychology. You will also explore ethical issues in psychological research.

ASSESSMENT

There is no coursework in psychology, although you will be given the opportunity to conduct practical investigations. There are three external examinations that will be taken at the end of the second year. You will be assessed at the end of the first year by an internal mock examination. Your progress is continuously monitored throughout the course at different assessment opportunities.

You will study:

1. Social influence: This explores the influence of others on our behaviour. You will study the topics of obedience and conformity in depth. Why do some people obey even if it causes harm to others? Why do some refuse to obey? What makes us conform and follow the crowd?
2. Memory: You will explore how our memory works, taking an in-depth look at short and long term memory. You will be investigating eye witness testimony and how false memory can lead to wrongful convictions in law. Attachment: You will learn about different types of attachment and how our early relationships can impact our mental health and future relationships. You will investigate the link between criminality and attachment type.
3. Approaches in Psychology: You will learn different theories. These will include psychodynamic, cognitive, behavioural, social psychology, and the biological approach, and how there are competing explanation for

the same behaviour.

4. Psychopathology: this will explain mental health disorders such as phobias, depression and OCD including explanations and treatments.
5. Schizophrenia: An in-depth look at this major psychological disorder including competing explanations and treatments.
6. Gender: An in-depth exploration into gender including the nature/nurture debate. Is our gender biological or is it learnt?
7. Aggression: An in-depth investigation into the different causes of aggression. How can group dynamics lead to aggressive behaviour? What links are there between prison aggression and conformity? How do prison riots start?
8. Research Methods: You will explore the process of conducting psychological research such as experiments, observations, interviews and questionnaires. You will be conducting small scale investigations and interpreting data.

PROGRESSION ROUTES

The subject combines well with English, Biology, Maths, Sociology, Religious Studies and History. A degree in Psychology offers graduates a wide choice of future employment opportunities such as Clinical/Occupational/Developmental/Forensic/Sports Psychologist roles, Teaching, the Police, Nursing, Social Work, as well as providing valuable transferable skills that can apply to a wide range of occupations.

Philosophy & Ethics

A Level
Level 3

This subject is offered as an A Level course. The study of Philosophy and Ethics involves thinking critically to explore big questions about life and the universe. It focuses on the decisions made by people every day, and how we approach solving dilemmas whether that be through ethical or religious ideas.

The subject covers a wide range of topics, from attempting to answer questions such as 'Why does God allow evil and suffering to be a feature in our world?' to a variety of ethical debates. The course introduces students to the foundations of Philosophy and Ethics, covering key areas such as the philosophical arguments surrounding the existence of God and the study of ethical concepts and dilemmas. Students will also focus on an in-depth study of Christianity, learning about its history, as well as key teachings and how they are applied. The course aims to engage students thoroughly and develop an interest in the study of religion which extends beyond the classroom and can be applied to the world.

The beauty of Philosophy & Ethics is that it allows for personal reflection, discussion, and the debating of relevant ethical ideas. Lessons will allow students to deepen their thoughts, ideas, challenge traditional concepts and arguments.

This qualification is designed to develop a greater understanding and appreciation of religious beliefs and teachings, as well as the disciplines of ethics and philosophy of religion. Students will develop their skills of critical analysis in order to construct balanced, informed arguments and responses to religious, philosophical and ethical ideas.

HOW IS THE COURSE STRUCTURED?

Component 1: Philosophy and Ethics covers topics such as philosophy of religion, the design, cosmological and ontological arguments for the existence of God, evil and suffering, miracles, life and death, ethical theories, meta ethics, free will and moral responsibility, and Bentham and Kant.

Component 2: Christianity is concerned with sources of wisdom and authority, the afterlife, expression of religious identity, religion, gender and sexuality, religion and science, and religion and religious pluralism.

IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE I SHOULD KNOW?

There is no coursework in Philosophy & Ethics. Philosophy & Ethics is designed to teach you to develop your analytical and evaluative ability and is therefore useful to study alongside any subject.

PROGRESSION ROUTES

The skills of evaluation and analysis that Philosophy & Ethics teaches is applicable to almost any walk of life.

According to AGCAS - the Association of Graduate Careers Advisory Service. RE/Theology graduates go into a wide range of careers. However, they and employers, feel that it particularly prepares students for the following careers:

- Financial Services sector
- Legal sector
- Medicine
- Politics
- Consultancy
- Journalism
- Media sector
- Education sector
- Publishing sector
- Social Care sector
- Voluntary sector
- Social & Pastoral Care
- Community work

Applied Science

BTEC
Level 3

This Edexcel BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate in Applied Science is equivalent to one A Level.

This course is for students interested in learning about the Applied Science sector alongside other fields of study, with a view to progressing to a wide range of higher education courses. This course can be taken as part of a programme of study that includes other BTEC Nationals or A Levels. An optional unit is also studied to broaden the students' understanding and to support any future career aspirations.

HOW IS THE COURSE STRUCTURED?

The BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate in Applied Science is equivalent to one A Level and is comprised of four units. Three of these units are mandatory:

Principles and Applications of Science
Practical Scientific Procedures and Techniques
Science Investigation Skills

The remaining unit is optional and can be selected from choices such as Genetics and Genetic Engineering or Electrical Circuits and their Application.

ASSESSMENT

There are three methods by which this course will be assessed:

Assignments set and marked internally;
Tasks set and marked by the examining body;
Written examinations set and marked by the examining body.

The mandatory Unit 2 and the optional unit are assessed using assignments which are set and marked internally usually involving practical projects. Mandatory Unit 1 is assessed using a written examination set and marked by the examining body which will require students to recall and apply technical knowledge. The remaining mandatory Unit 3 is assessed via tasks set and marked by the examining body which will involve applying their learning to 'real life' situations.

The grading of this course ranges from Pass through to Distinction* which are equivalent to A Level grades and will have a specific number of UCAS points associated with them.

Overall PASS - Equivalent to E grade
Overall MERIT - Equivalent to C grade
Overall DISTINCTION - Equivalent to A grade
Overall DISTINCTION * - Equivalent to A* grade

PROGRESSION ROUTES

Applied Science is a good choice for students looking to progress into careers such as Nursing, Healthcare, Sport Science, Support Services, Laboratory Technician, assisting with Chemical, Biological and Physical Research, Education and Manufacturing Industries.

Sociology

A Level
Level 3

This subject is offered as an A Level course. Sociology entails the study of human society. Sociology explores the way that individuals influence society and how society shapes individuals. Sociology looks at factors such as social class, ethnicity and gender and the impact of these on our life chances. Sociology is topical and political. You will explore contemporary issues such as changing patterns in crime and deviance and fundamentalism. It also investigates social areas such as Education, The Family, Power and Politics, Crime and Deviance, Poverty, The Media, Religion and Research Methods. Sociology causes debates. Taken for granted assumptions are investigated and challenged. The study of Sociology leads to the understanding of complex issues and it is a good basis for university level study in all disciplines. This course requires a hungry mind and a desire to want to get beneath the headlines that often shape our opinions.

ASSESSMENT

There is no coursework in sociology, although you will be given the opportunity to conduct practical investigations. There are three external examinations that will be taken at the end of the second year. You will be assessed at the end of the first year by an internal mock examination. Your progress is continuously monitored throughout the course at different assessment opportunities.

You will study:

1. Family: including its changing shape and patterns. You will explore different types of family in the UK, and the reasons for changes to its composition including government policies and changing social attitudes. You will learn different sociological theories and their explanation of family life including Marxism and Functionalism. You will learn about how capitalism needs the oppressed family to survive.
2. Education: including explanations of why children from middle class backgrounds do better in education than children from working class backgrounds. You will also explore gender and ethnic differences in educational achievement and will explore whether it is family background or the schools themselves that cause the underperformance of specific social groups. You will also explore the hidden curriculum and government policies.

3. Research methods: including interviews, participant and non-participant observation, experiments, case studies and questionnaires. You will also look at ethical issues and practical issues when conducting sociological research and will have the opportunity to do your own small scale research.
4. Social Theories: such as functionalism, Marxism, Feminism, the New Right, Interpretivism and Post-Modernity, and how these competing perspectives explain society.
5. Beliefs in Society: including the reasons people join sects, cults and new age movements, the secularisation debate and the declining influence of religion, religious fundamentalism and religion and social control.
6. Crime and Deviance: including the links between social class, gender and ethnicity and crime, the links between the media and crime, gangs and gang culture, green and state crime and theoretical explanations of crime and deviance in the UK.

IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE I SHOULD KNOW?

A Level Sociology combines well with English, History, Psychology and Religious Studies.

PROGRESSION ROUTES

Many students who study Sociology go on to university to study Criminology, Sociology, Social Studies, Youth Work, Teaching, the Police, and Social Work. Graduates are able to access a wide choice of future employment opportunities in various sectors, as well as providing valuable transferable skills that can apply to a wide range of occupations.

Notes

Lined area for taking notes, featuring horizontal lines and faint star graphics.

The Application Process

You should make sure you seek advice from a range of people which could include: Subject Teachers, Form Tutors, Heads of Year, P&A Coaches, Career Connect and Parents/Carers.

Make sure you have read the Sixth Form Course Guide carefully.

Download a copy of the application form from our website - www.stmaryswallasey.com or pick up a copy at one of our information evenings.

Fill out the application form and hand into our Sixth Form Team.

We believe...

that St Mary's can offer you the very best education possible, enabling you to achieve your goals and fulfil your ambitions, whatever they may be. You will learn new skills, grow in confidence, become more independent and more fully developed as an individual. Most importantly, you will have had a brilliant time in the process.

You can achieve...

great things through hard work, commitment and dedication. We will offer you outstanding support and guidance during your time with us. Our shared goal is to stimulate and challenge you to use all your gifts positively.

Our aim is to...

inspire curiosity, creativity and compassion; enrich spiritually, socially and culturally and encourage independence, responsibility and confidence.

Travel Routes to College

Train Routes

We are fortunate to have two train stations on our doorstep. Just follow the Wirral Line to Wallasey Village or Wallasey Grove Road, home of St Mary's Sixth Form College.

Bus Routes

The following dedicated bus routes serve our College;
655 656
657 658

Car Routes

We are 5 minutes from the M53 J1 and 10 minutes from the Wallasey Tunnel.





📍 St Mary's Catholic College, Wallasey Village, Wallasey, Wirral, CH45 3LN

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