



SIXTH FORM



FORT PITT

GRAMMAR
SCHOOL



CURRICULUM INFORMATION





**FORT
PITT**
GRAMMAR
SCHOOL

A warm welcome to our Sixth Form

Dear Students,

At Fort Pitt Grammar School, we are incredibly proud of our Sixth Form students and all that they achieve. Our aim is to facilitate the development of the whole student to achieve the very best results both academically, socially and in relation to their onward destinations.

We are an inclusive Sixth Form with an aspirational ethos. Many of our Y11 students will decide to stay on with us through Key Stage 5 but we are also able to offer places to external students including boys. Students from other schools settle well with us and quickly become valued members of our school community.

Our Sixth Form has capacity for 300 students across Years 12 and 13. This number enables us to be large enough to offer a wide variety of courses at Key Stage 5 and small enough to ensure we know our students well and can support and challenge in the appropriate ways at the necessary times.

Our expert subject staff deliver outstanding teaching and learning across over 28 different courses in the Sixth Form. Teaching staff are experts in their fields and are committed to ensuring students receive the very best provision in their subjects to enable them to achieve the best possible outcomes. Teachers' enthusiasm for their subjects ensure that students are inspired and motivated to achieve their very best.

Our curriculum offer shows our commitment to A Levels as the 'gold standard' of British education. It ensures that all students can gain the qualifications needed to secure high-quality onward destinations in a wide variety of pathways. It is broad enough to enable students to take a very individualised approach to choosing their own learning pathway. All of our A Level subjects are linear which means some students will choose 3 A Levels to study over the two-year period; others may choose to study 4 A Levels in Y12 and take one AS Level at the end of the first year and continue with 3 A Levels while some may choose to continue with four A Levels to the end of Y13.

Students are also offered a range of opportunities to enhance and enrich their curriculum. We offer the EPQ which teaches students key study skills such as project management, research and citation, critical analysis of academic arguments, structure and coherence of written work and evaluation and reflection. In Y12 and Y13 students follow a bespoke Enrichment programme which assists them in developing the skills needed to ensure success at A Level along with providing them with time and guidance to support them in taking their next steps into the world.

We offer a huge range of super and extra-curricular activities to facilitate the development of the whole student. These include both internal and external opportunities which allow students to develop skills of leadership, team work and a sense of community.

We also have a range of opportunities for students to access aspirational careers advice and guidance. This is provided both in-house and from external bodies through our Enrichment programme. Students also have the opportunity to take up high quality work experience placements.

We hope you agree that Fort Pitt Grammar School Sixth Form will provide you with a unique experience as you continue into Key Stage 5 and we look forward to welcoming you into our school community.

How should I choose my options?

Choosing your pathway

Our differentiated curriculum guide offers some advice about how many subjects and what you may wish to choose at A Level. If you are likely to achieve grades 9 - 7 in all of your subjects, you would be advised to study 4 subjects in Y12 at least 3 of which would be facilitating subjects at A level and you will be encouraged to continue your education at a prestigious university such as Oxford or Cambridge. You may also consider careers in Medicine, Dentistry or Veterinary Science which also require grades A* - A at A Level in Science/Maths subjects.

If you are likely to achieve a mixture of grades 9 - 6 at GCSE, you may wish to study 3 or 4 A Levels and broaden your choice to include facilitating and other subjects. For example, you could choose 2 facilitating subjects and 2 other subjects giving you more choice as you move towards your Russell Group and/or Medicine, Dentistry or Veterinary Science university applications.

For those students who may gain a range of results from 9-4, you may feel that 3 A levels would be appropriate. You may be considering a range of career pathways such as Criminology, Economics, Law, Child Nursing, Art or other creative careers. Whatever your chosen pathway, we have a range of subjects and the necessary support to ensure you achieve your goal.

Our curriculum guide is here to assist you in making the choices that will ensure success at A Level. However, if you meet the entry requirements, you are free to choose any of the courses we offer.

Choosing your subjects.

Moving from GCSE to A level study will mean a major reduction in the number of subjects you will study. For some students this choice is easy but for others this can be more difficult.

Firstly, you need to think about the career you would like to go into. You may not have a definite career aspiration yet but you may know the 'field' of work that appeals to you most. This should guide your options in the first instance.

Secondly, you need to consider which subjects you enjoy the most. Research suggests that enjoyment plays a large part in success at A Level. It is better to study subjects that you enjoy which will enable you to be successful.

Thirdly, seek advice from relevant staff (you can find out who is available for you in the Support and Guidance section). It is important that you discuss your options with family and friends to make sure you have thought your options through thoroughly.

We are here to help you throughout your decision-making process. If you would like any additional support, please contact sdoran@fortpitt.medway.sch.uk.

Best wishes,

Sally Doran

Assistant Headteacher KS5

Entry Requirement and Application Process

Entry Requirements

- Students will need to have achieved at least five 9 – 4 grades at GCSE which must include at least a level 4 in both English and Mathematics. We do not offer resit courses in the Sixth Form.
- You will also need to read the entry requirements for each course you wish to take at A Level, usually this will require a grade 6 in the subjects you wish to study and a minimum of 7s in science and Maths.
- You will need to have shown that you have been committed to your school in relation to attendance and punctuality and evidence of commitment to learning e.g. involvement with school activities.
- If you are offered a place in our Sixth Form, it is an expectation that you will attend and fully participate in our Induction Programme.

Application Process for Internal Students

- Sixth Form Open Evening will take place on **Thursday 14th October 6-8pm.**
- We also hope to have a Careers Focus Day, where you will be introduced to the possible pathways you can take at Post-16, including a taster day in our Sixth Form. This will of course be dependent upon the ever changing COVID-19 situation.
- You will then make your application using the link to our online application form, which can be found on our Sixth Form Open Evening information page and which must be submitted no later than **Friday 10th December 2021.**

Application process for External students

- Sixth Form Open Evening will take place on **Thursday 14th October 6-8pm.**
- You will have the opportunity to learn about courses with dedicated subject staff and the Sixth Form Team.
- You can apply using the link to our online application form, which can be found on our Sixth Form Open Evening information page.
- Once your application has been received, we will contact your school for confirmation of predicted grades and a reference. The closing date for external applications is **Friday 10th December 2021.**

Suggested Curriculum Pathways

Career Pathway	Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D
Oxbridge	Biology English Literature Computer Science Fine Art	Chemistry History French Further Maths Biology	Maths Geography German	Physics Spanish Maths Chemistry Politics
Medicine/Veterinary Science/Dentistry	Biology	Chemistry Further Maths Biology	Maths	Physics Maths Chemistry
Languages	English Literature	French	German	Spanish
Law	English Literature Sociology Psychology	History English Literature and Language	Psychology	Sociology Politics
Business and Finance	Computer Science	Further Maths Economics	Maths Business	Maths
STEM	Computer Science	Further Maths Chemistry	Maths	Physics Maths
Health	Biology Psychology	Biology	Psychology	PE
Creative	Graphics/Fine Art Music	English Literature and Language	Drama Textiles	

Suggested Curriculum Pathways

Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D
Biology	Chemistry	Maths	Physics
English Literature	History	Geography	Spanish
Computer Science	French	Psychology	Maths
Psychology	Further Maths	German	Chemistry
Music	Biology	Business	Sociology
Art and Design – Fine Art	PLE	Drama	Film
Art and Design – Graphics	English Literature and	Textiles	Politics
Sociology	Language		PE
	Economics		

Additional Opportunities

Our aim at Fort Pitt Grammar School is to promote the development of well-rounded individuals who are fully prepared for the next steps in their own lifelong educational journey. To facilitate this, we offer a vast array of additional opportunities for students to engage in whilst in the Sixth Form.

Super-curricular activities

Through our bespoke Enrichment Programme, students are introduced to super-curricular opportunities. These include our own subject specific overview of Super-curricular activities which provides a range of tasks to guide students to undertake wider reading and additional study in each subject area. Students are advised to complete at least 4 of these tasks per subject per year.

Students are also introduced to the Future Learn website which houses 'MOOCs' which students can undertake in their own time. These Massive Open Online Courses are provided by universities allowing students to choose subject specific courses or to complete modules that are of interest to them and their future aspirations.

Extra-Curricular activities

The range of extra-curricular activities on offer at Fort Pitt Grammar School Sixth Form is second to none. We have annual visits from The National Citizenship Service which offer students the opportunity to volunteer at national and local level. Alongside these visits we also provide students with opportunities to support within school. Roles such as Subject Prefect allow Sixth Form students to become more involved with the subjects they study and inspire younger students to feel the same.

Peer Mentors are there to support students at all levels in the school who may be struggling at certain times. Sixth Form students can also join the School Council and represent the views of their Form Group along with Steering Groups in Character Education and Equalities and Diversity.

We also have a vibrant House System and Sixth Form students can apply to become a Head Student or part of the House Leadership Team at the end of Y12. They then lead their Houses through events such as our annual Sports Day Parade, House Arts and House Charities as well as supporting their Head of House with other House events.

Other extra-curricular activities may include the Diversity Alliance, Duke of Edinburgh and Amnesty International.

Enrichment

Our Enrichment Programme underpins our Sixth Form. The programme delivers a wide range of additional skills and experiences which are valuable to Sixth Form students. Examples include how to develop an A Level Mind-set, understanding current affairs, goal setting and how to make those all-important onward applications to Universities, Apprenticeships and Further Education.

Raising Aspirations

At Fort Pitt Grammar School Sixth Form, we want our students to be confident and prepared to successfully achieve their aspirations. We aim to facilitate this in a number of ways:

Through our Enrichment Programme students are presented with career opportunities and pathways from the very outset in Y12. These include Oxbridge, Russell Group and other universities, employment and higher apprenticeships. Students are also given time and guidance to seek out and apply for high quality relevant work experience which they undertake at the end of Y12.

During Terms 5 and 6 in Y12 we introduce students to the UCAS application process and to 'Unifrog'- an online platform which supports students in finding the right courses and apprenticeships for them.

Students in Y13 are also supported to make their applications for university early in Term 1 and we offer parents the opportunity to come in for our UCAS Information Evening, where we outline the process of making applications, the support the school provides and aim to answer any individual questions parents may have.

Our targeted provision comes in the form of the Sixth Form Team, with other staff focusing on our Oxbridge Programme, and our Medics/Dentist and Vets Programme. For students who may need more support in relation to career aspirations they should refer to their Head of Year in the first instance.

Support

We recognise that A Level study can, at times, be a very stressful stage of a student's educational career. To help students through this we offer a range of support and guidance which can be accessed throughout the school day and beyond.

Our thriving House system enables support from students and staff alike. Form Tutors can provide guidance and support on a wide range of issues including subject choices, study patterns and revision and exam technique. Heads of Year work within the Sixth Form where pastoral issues arise and are both trained safeguarding leads.

Subject staff and Heads of Department offer detailed and subject specific advice in relation to how to achieve the very highest grades. Our staff are highly skilled and provide a wide variety of support and challenge to ensure all students are able to excel.

Miss Freemantle is our Key Stage 5 Administrator who will be able to help with any questions or queries relating to the application process, as well as being on hand for students throughout Key Stage 5. Miss Freemantle oversees the administration of the UCAS process through Y12 and Y13.

As Head of Sixth Form, Mrs Doran oversees the provision in the Sixth Form. If you have any issues or questions relating to the Sixth Form generally, she will be more than happy to assist.



Mr Blight
Head of Year 12



Mr Jennings
Head of Year 13



Miss Freemantle
Sixth Form Manager

Subjects List

Subject	Examination Board	Key Contact
Biology	OCR	Dr Vesey
Business Studies	Edexcel	Mrs Commons
Chemistry	OCR	Mr Blight
Computer Science	OCR	Mr Pitman
Drama	Eduqas	Mrs Reeves
Economics	Edexcel	Mrs Commons
English Language & Literature	Edexcel	Mrs Page
English Literature	Edexcel	Mrs Page
Extended Project Qualification	AQA	Mrs Doran
Film	Eduqas	Mrs Hayward
Fine Art	Edexcel	Ms Melhuish
French	AQA	Mrs Burrows
Further Maths	Edexcel	Mrs Brownridge
Geography	Edexcel	Miss Smith
German	AQA	Mr Higbee
Graphics	Edexcel	Miss Melhuish
History	AQA	Ms Kirsopp
Maths	Edexcel	Mrs Brownridge
Music	Eduqas	Mrs King
Philosophy and Ethics	Edexcel	Mr Roche
PE	AQA	Miss Tickner
Physics	Edexcel	Mr Lionnet
Politics	Edexcel	Mr Ost
Psychology	AQA	Ms Hillman
Sociology	AQA	Mrs Doran
Spanish	AQA	Mr Higbee
Textiles	Edexcel	Miss Melhuish

Entry Requirements

Students will need to have achieved a grade 7 in Triple Science Biology at GCSE, or a grade 7:7 in Combined Science (including a grade 7 for both Biology papers) Additionally, students will need a grade 6 in Mathematics GCSE. It is vital that the Mathematics grade is achieved due to the extensive calculations and analysis that is required.

Why should I study Biology?

Biology involves the study of a wide range of exciting topics, ranging from Molecular Biology to the study of ecosystems and from microorganisms to Mammoths. Biology is never far from the headlines either. The human genome has been sequenced and we know the complete arrangement of the three thousand million bases that make up human DNA. In Kenya 350 people die every day from AIDS and in South East Asia the skies are dark with smoke as the last Bornean rainforests are burned to grow oil palms. Biologists are concerned with all these issues. They work in the fields of cell biology, medicine, food production and ecology... and the work they do is vital to us all. If you have an interest in the Biological world around you, and enjoyment of Biology at GCSE, then A Level Biology could be the choice for you.

What will the course involve?

The linear A Level in Biology involves three examinations at the end of Y13. Two papers are 2 hour and 15 minutes long and one paper is 1 hour and 30 minutes long. These cover the overarching themes of:

- Biological Processes
- Biological Diversity
- Unified Biology

There is no coursework element to the linear A Level. However, students will be required to complete 12 core practicals throughout the course that cover specific skills and techniques. These are given a pass/fail grade alongside the A Level grade achieved at the end of the course and often form part of a university offer to study biological degrees as an undergraduate. It is possible to take an AS Level examination in Biology at the end of Year 12.

How might this course complement others?

A Level Biology works well in combination with Chemistry, Maths and Psychology.

How will this subject be useful in the future?

Biology is a great choice of subject for people who want a career in health and clinical professions, such as Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Science, Physiotherapy, Pharmacy, Optometry, Nursing, Zoology, Marine Biology or Forensic Science. Many students who study Biology at A level enjoy the subject so much they eventually choose a biologically related degree course. Others go on to careers in Law, Computing, Accounting or Teaching.

Entry Requirements

Students will need to have a grade 6 in English Language and Mathematics at GCSE.

Why should I study Business?

A Business A level is a desirable qualification regardless of whether your next step is further education or employment. The skills you will develop will be an asset for any academic course, but the subject knowledge will be relevant to degrees in Business, Management, Economics, Accounting, Marketing, Psychology, Sociology, Politics and Geography to name but a few. The value of business-related subjects is demonstrated by their prevalence within joint honour degrees. This course provides a breadth of knowledge that will enable you to understand the interrelationships between various business functions, increasing your chances of making an impact in the workplace, whether you choose to work for someone else or start your own company.

What will the course involve?

You will learn about the most effective ways of meeting customers' needs, how to manage people, and how to plan and manage a company's finances. You will also learn about the strategic decisions made by multinationals and the global factors that influence them.

The linear A Level in Business involves learning about:

- Marketing people and global business
- Business activities, decisions and strategy
- Investigating business in a competitive environment

Assessment is through 3 x 2-hour examinations.

How might this course complement others?

Business Studies goes extremely well with English, Economics, Mathematics, Sociology, Politics, Philosophy, Psychology and many others.

How will this subject be useful in the future?

Whichever profession you choose, it is likely to involve some element of Business Management and this course will assist you in progressing your career.

Entry Requirements

Students will need to have a grade 7 in Triple Award Chemistry at GCSE OR grade 7:7 in Combined Science (with grade 7 in the Chemistry papers). Additionally, a grade 6 in Mathematics GCSE will be expected. It is vital that the Mathematics grade is achieved due to the extensive calculations and analysis that is required.

Why should I study Chemistry?

Chemistry is the study of materials, what they are made of, how they interact and what role they play in living things. From the moment you are born and throughout your whole life you are surrounded by chemistry; in the air you breathe, the food you eat and the clothes you wear. From space research to the depths of the oceans, chemists are involved in collecting valuable information that helps us to have a better understanding of the world we live in. Chemists are working to solve the problems we face every day.

If you have an interest in and enjoyment of Chemistry, are up for a real challenge, and enjoy serious problem solving involving a subject at the fore front of modern technological advances, then A Level Chemistry could be the choice for you.

What will the course involve?

The linear A level in Chemistry involves three examinations at the end of Y13. Two papers are 2 hours and 15 minutes long and one paper is 1 hour and 30 minutes long. These cover overarching themes of:

- Periodic table, elements and physical Chemistry
- Synthesis and analytical techniques
- Unified Chemistry

There is no coursework in the linear A level. However, practical competency is assessed through a number of core practicals which are then used to report overall proficiency of practical skills at the end of the course. The theory behind the practical techniques will be assessed in the written examination papers. It is possible to take an AS Level examination in Chemistry at the end of Year 12.

How might this course complement others?

A level Chemistry works well in combination with Biology and Physics as well as Maths, Further Maths and Psychology.

How will this subject be useful in the future?

Chemistry is a preferred subject for the degree level study of more courses than any other subject. Chemistry is essential or highly recommended for the following careers: Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Veterinary Science, Food science, Forensics and Biochemistry. In fact, there are chemists working in every field imaginable – from military logistics to accountancy in the City.

Entry Requirements

Students will need to have at least a grade 6 in GCSE Computer Science and/or at least a grade 6 in GCSE Maths.

Why should I study Computer Science?

Computer Science is a practical subject where you can apply the academic principles learned in the classroom to real world systems. It is an intensely creative subject that combines invention and excitement, that can look at the natural world through a digital prism. OCR's Computer Science will value computational thinking, helping you to develop the skills to solve problems, design systems and understand the power and limits of human and machine intelligence.

What will the course involve?

The aims of this course are to enable you to develop:

- an understanding of, and ability to apply, the fundamental principles and concepts of computer science including; abstraction, decomposition, logic, algorithms and data representation
- the ability to analyse problems in computational terms through practical experience of solving such problems, including writing programs to do so
- the capacity for thinking creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically
- the capacity to see relationships between different aspects of computer science
- mathematical skills
- the ability to articulate the individual (moral), social (ethical), legal and cultural opportunities and risks of digital technology.

Assessment is through external examination (80%) and internal assessment (20%).

How might this course complement others?

Computer Science goes extremely well with Maths, Physics, Chemistry, Sociology, Psychology and many others.

How will this subject be useful in the future?

A Level Computer Science provides a strong base for progression to university, apprenticeships or employment.

Entry Requirements

Students will need to have a minimum of a grade 6 in English Language & English Literature at GCSE, as well as a Grade 6 or above in Drama GCSE (if taken).

Why should I study Drama?

This is a very practical and creative course. You will take part in live performances, as well as studying through practical workshops a range of plays and theatre practitioners. You will have the opportunity to develop your knowledge and skills in acting and devising, as well as the visual and technical side of theatre, and will experience live theatre performances from the perspective of both audience and performer.

What will the course involve?

The linear A-Level in Drama is made up of 3 components:

- **Component 1 – Theatre Workshop** - re-interpretation of a play extract (Performance and Creative Log)
- **Component 2 – Text in Action** – devised and scripted performances based on a stimulus (Performance and Process & Evaluation Report)
- **Component 3 – Text in Performance** – Study of 2 set texts, plus an extract from a third (Written Exam)

Assessment is by performance of both devised and scripted work, as well as supporting documentation and a written examination.

It is possible to take an AS Level examination in Drama. This is worth 40% of the A Level.

How might this course complement others?

Drama will be complemented by the study of any other creative subject, for example Art & Design, Music, Film Studies and Media Studies as well as English Literature, Sociology and Psychology.

How will this subject be useful in the future?

This qualification supports progression into further education, either for specific vocational training in the Performing Arts, or through a more academic approach via a university degree in Theatre Arts. The self-confidence built through the course is invaluable when embarking on your selected career path, performing arts related or otherwise.

Entry Requirements

Students will need to have a grade 6 in Mathematics and English Language GCSE.

Why should I study Economics?

Are you a curious person who wishes to learn more about issues like immigration, poverty and government failure? Are you open-minded and prepared to go beyond press headlines to learn the real story? Would you like to experience a whole new way of looking at the world and learn a new vocabulary to go alongside that evolving understanding? Then Economics could be the right choice for you.

You will learn how to use economic models to help you make sense of the very complicated world in which you live. You will study the government's involvement in the economy (Politics) and the way the economy has evolved over time (History). We also study human behaviour (Psychology and Sociology), spend time analysing data (Mathematics and Statistics), and take a global perspective on important issues such as poverty (Geography, GPR, Ethics and International Relations). Economics is complementary to many other courses and you will be actively encouraged to bring your own knowledge and experience to the lessons.

What will the course involve?

The linear A level in Economics involves the study of

- Markets and Business Behaviour
- The National and Global economy
- Microeconomics and Macroeconomics

Assessment is by examination only comprising of three 2-hour long examinations.

It is possible to take an AS Level examination in Economics.

How might this course complement others?

Economics goes well with History, Geography, Sociology, Business Studies, Politics, Philosophy, Psychology and Mathematics.

How will this subject be useful in the future?

Many students who study Economics decide to continue with the subject at University. The list of organisations that employ economists is very long indeed. There is the financial sector: - Stockbroking, Banking, Insurance, Accounting and Finance. Economists are also employed by most large business corporations, the Civil Service and the NHS. Not all students choose to go to university and most find that an A level in Economics helps them on their way to finding good trainee positions.

Entry Requirements

Students will need to have a grade 6 in either English Language or English Literature GCSE.

Exam Board

Students follow the course accredited by Edexcel.

Why should I study English Language and Literature?

The combined Language and Literature course is an exciting opportunity if you enjoy both analysing literary texts and are interested in producing your own examples of fiction and non-fiction writing. You will work collaboratively with others, having opportunities to be independent, active learners, yet at the same time knowing that you are supported by our teaching and commitment to your achievement.

You will take from this course highly developed abilities to express ideas fluently, appreciating your own and others' use of language.

What will the course involve?

Component 1: Voices in Speech and Writing

Written examination: 2 hours 30 minutes. Open Book. 40% of the total qualification

Section A One comparative essay on an unseen text and one text from a pre-studied anthology

Section B Tennessee Williams' A Streetcar Named Desire – one essay question based on an extract

Component 2: Varieties in Language and Literature

Written examination: 2 hours and 30 minutes. Open Book. 40% of the total qualification

Section A: One essay question based on a chosen theme

Section B: A comparative essay on two texts

Possible themes are: Society and the Individual, Love and Loss, Encounters and Crossing Boundaries

Possible texts studied are: Great Expectations (Dickens), The Great Gatsby (Fitzgerald), The Bone People (Hulme), Othello (Shakespeare), Enduring Love (McEwan), Betrayal (Pinter), The Bloody Chamber (Carter), Wuthering Heights (Bronte), Dracula (Stoker), North (Heaney)

NEA (Coursework). 20% of the total of the qualification

Assignment 1: two pieces of original writing – one piece of fiction writing and one non-fiction

Assignment 2: one analytical commentary reflecting on the pieces of writing produced

Word count: 2500 – 3250 (to include both assignments)

Students will study existing literary texts before constructing their own – for example the theme of 'places' might involve students exploring texts such as 'Rebecca' by Daphne du Maurier and the travel writing of Bill Bryson.

Entry Requirements

Students will need to have a grade 6 in English Literature at GCSE.

Exam Board

Students follow the course accredited by Edexcel.

Why should I study English Literature?

As someone who enjoys thinking, talking and writing about an exciting range of literary texts, drawn from different genres and literary traditions, this is the ideal course for you. You will work collaboratively with others, having opportunities to be independent, active learners, yet at the same time knowing that you are supported by our teaching and commitment to your achievement. You will take from this course highly developed abilities to express ideas fluently, appreciating your own and others' use of language.

What will the course involve?

Component 1 Drama. Shakespeare plus 1 other text – exploring Comedy and Tragedy

Written examination: 2 hours 15 minutes. Open Book. 30% of the total qualification

Section A Shakespeare's The Taming of the Shrew incorporating ideas from wider critical reading

Section B Tennessee Williams' A Streetcar Named Desire

Component 2 Prose. Two prose texts from a chosen theme

Written examination: 1 hour and 15 minutes. Open Book. 20% of the total qualification

One comparative essay question on two texts.

Possible themes are: Childhood, Science and Society, The Supernatural, Women and Society

Possible texts studied are: Hard Times (Dickens), Atonement (McEwan), The Color Purple (Walker), Frankenstein (Shelley), Never Let Me Go (Ishiguro), The Handmaid's Tale (Atwood), The Picture of Dorian Gray (Wilde), Dracula (Stoker), Wuthering Heights (Bronte), The Little Stranger (Waters)

Component 3 Poetry. Students will study a literary period or a named poet within a period

Written examination: 2 hours and 15 minutes. Open Book. 30% of the total of the qualification

For Example: Medieval poetry or Chaucer, The Metaphysical poets or John Donne, The Romantics or Keats, The Victorians or Rossetti

NEA (Coursework). 20% of the total of the qualification.

May be selected from poetry, drama, prose or literary non-fiction

Word count 2500-3000

There is a lot of choice here so students are able to write about a text that they have chosen on a task that they want to write about. This gives students a chance to explore texts that they are passionate about.

Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

Entry Requirements

Students will need to have at least five 9 – 5 grades at GCSE, including grade 5 in English and Maths

Why should I complete an Extended Project Qualification?

The Extended Project Qualification allows you to expand your learning beyond the boundaries of your curriculum study by completing a research project on a topic of your choosing. You might decide to research something you've always been interested in; create something you've always wanted to attempt or conduct your own investigation into something you're curious about. Through the EPQ taught element you will develop useful transferable skills that will make you a highly suitable candidate for Higher Education. The fact that it is student led means that the scope of your project is only limited by your own imagination and hard work.

What will the course involve?

There are 30 taught hours through which you will learn

- Academic writing skills
 - Project Management
 - Time Management
 - Analysing Resources
 - Note Taking
 - Presentation Skills
- And any other skills relevant to the project you choose to complete

You will be assessed on either a 5000-word written essay/ report or an artefact accompanied by a 1000-word written report.

This will be completed over the course of two years with the guidance of supervised tutorial sessions. You will also need to make a presentation of your project and submit a production log with it.

How might this course complement others?

The EPQ taught element will help you to develop transferable skills that will be required in many of your other subjects, in particular the time management skills should help you to cope with the pressures of Sixth Form.

How will this subject be useful in the future?

Universities do not only acknowledge the EPQ, many actively encourage applicants to complete one, provide resources to help students complete it, and you may even get a more favourable university offer because of your EPQ. The EPQ allows you to gain a maximum of 28 UCAS points and you will learn important skills to help you through Sixth Form, Higher Education and the rest of your working life. You will also gain specialist subject knowledge in the research area of your project that may even help you to decide on your future path.

Entry Requirements

Students will need to have a grade 5 in English Language at GCSE.

Why should I study Film Studies?

Many consider film to be the main cultural innovation of the 20th century. You will study a range of influential mainstream and independent American and British films from the past and the present, as well as more recent global films, both non-English language and English language. A sense of the development of film from its early years to its still emerging digital future will also be gained, through the study of silent film and significant film movements, such as European avant-garde and new wave cinemas in Europe and Asia. Documentary, experimental and short films will also provide breadth to your learning experience. Furthermore, production work is a significant part of this course; you will have the opportunity to create high quality film and screenplay work.

This course will provide you with exciting opportunities to broaden your knowledge and understanding of film alongside your own passion and enthusiasm. You will work collaboratively and independently, whilst being fully supported by our teaching and commitment to your achievement.

What will the course involve?

Component 1: American and British film (written examination) 35% of qualification

Three sections:

- **Hollywood 1930-1990 (comparative study)** e.g. *Casablanca* and *Bonnie and Clyde*
- **American Film since 2005** (two-film study) e.g. *Boyhood* and *La La Land*
- **British film** (two-film study) e.g. *Trainspotting* and *Shaun of the Dead*

A total of six feature length films

Component 2: Global Film-Making Perspectives (written examination) 35% of qualification

Four sections:

- **Film movements – Silent Cinema:** Buster Keaton films
- **Documentary** e.g. *Amy*
- **Global film** (two-film study) e.g. *Pan's Labyrinth* & *City of God*
- **Film Movements – Experimental Film:** e.g. *Pulp Fiction*

Component 3: NEA (non-exam assessment) 30% of qualification

One production and its evaluative analysis. You will produce:

- A short film (4-5 minutes)
- An evaluative analysis (1600-1800 words)

How might this course complement others?

This subject complements other essay-based subjects, such as English Literature and History, and creative subjects such as Art and Drama, and it is fully respected and valued by universities.

How will this subject be useful in the future?

Studying Film at A Level will provide invaluable knowledge and experience prior to undertaking Film Studies at degree level. The ability to discuss, analyse and to present your interpretation in written and creative form is a useful life skill and complements many career paths.

Entry Requirements

Students will need to have a grade 6 in Art and Design at GCSE.

Why should I study Fine Art?

At Fort Pitt our Fine Art course provides a broad base of creative study which is planned carefully to embed understanding of the formal elements whilst developing skills in a wide range of materials and techniques. These include the obvious essential components of drawing and painting, as well as sculpture; photography; print making; mixed media and experimental work with combinations of these. The main focus underlining all that we do is creativity.

At all stages of the course there will be opportunities to generate and develop ideas, research primary and contextual sources, record practical and written observations, experiment with media and processes, and refine ideas towards producing personal resolved outcome(s). An extensive range of extra-curricular activities will be arranged to enrich the classroom experience such as artists coming into school, trips to galleries and exhibitions and visual research expeditions.

What will the course involve?

Component 1 - Personal Investigation 60% of final marks

During the first year, students will be set a series of projects, which consolidate their skills and knowledge. At the end of this year each individual identifies a focal area (in conjunction with their teacher) for an in-depth Personal Investigation for completion by the end of January in Y13. This project brings together previous learning and also provides a vehicle for students to really develop their interests in one specialist area.

Component 2 - Externally Set Assignment 40% of final marks

Students will be issued with a theme, with several suggested starting points set by Edexcel in February of their second year, from which they will be required to develop a portfolio of preparatory studies culminating in a timed test of 15 hours when they will be required to produce a final outcome under examination conditions.

How might this course complement others?

Fine Art students find their course can be partnered with a wide range of other subjects. It has problem solving elements in common with areas such as Mathematics; expressive and creative components which are also essential to the study of Media, Drama, Music and English, as well as cultural foundations which related to History and Religious Studies.

How will this subject be useful in the future?

Those who chose to study any of the Art and Design subjects may seek a career in the creative and design industries, in areas as diverse as Architecture, Advertising, Medical Illustration, Restoration, Textiles and Fashion, Illustration and Graphic or Product Design. However, Art and Design as a vocation is not the only reason for its value. It is a student-centred subject which encourages breadth of thought, independence of approach and a critical mind-set. Those who are trained to be curious and to 'think outside of the box' are in great demand by employers in an increasingly competitive world.

Entry Requirements

Students will need to have a grade 6 or above in French at GCSE.

Why should I study French?

An A Level qualification in French will enable you to develop a wide range of skills and increase your cultural awareness of the target language country as well as developing your language skills to a high level. It will help you to stand out when applying for University courses and will give you an A Level which is not only highly regarded by employers but will also give you a skill for life. A Level language study is a varied discipline and whilst challenging at times is highly rewarding. If you have enjoyed the subject at GCSE then A Level French is an ideal course for you.

What will the course involve?

The linear A level in French will involve: The study of social issues and trends and political and artistic culture in France and other French speaking countries. Development of four main language skills (Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing). Translation – both from and into French. Study of at least one film and at least one novel / play in French from the specification list of set films and set texts.

French A level will be assessed through three examinations including a Speaking Test; Listening Reading and Writing paper and a Critical and Analytical Response in Writing paper.

It is possible to take an AS Level examination in French.

How might this course complement others?

Languages combine well with a wide range of subjects and although a challenge will equip you with skills for life. In addition to being an asset which could be useful in a range of work situations languages are always useful when travelling for pleasure.

How will this subject be useful in the future?

Universities and employers value students with language qualifications. An A Level in a modern foreign language could give you a significant advantage when applying to University or in your chosen career.

Entry Requirements

Students will need to have a grade 8 or above in Mathematics at GCSE.

Why should I study Mathematics?

Further Mathematics offers students with an aptitude in Mathematics the chance to study for a second A level in the subject. This is a challenging and fascinating course which gives the students the opportunity to take a thorough and in-depth look at mathematical modelling and problem solving.

You will need a real passion for the subject and be prepared to broaden your experience by researching various laws and techniques that you come across in the classroom.

You will need to be an outstanding Mathematician in order to fully access this course.

What will the course involve?

The A level will consist of 4 examinations, all 1.5 hours in length with 75 marks each. There is a 50:50 split in compulsory and optional elements.

Paper 1: Further Pure Mathematics 1 – Based on AS fixed core content assessed at A level standard

Paper 2: Further Pure Mathematics 2 – remaining fixed core content

Paper 3: Option 1- Decision Maths, including Algorithms, Graph Theory and Linear Programming

Paper 4: Option 2 -Mechanics - this will deepen the content of Mechanics in the A level Mathematics course.

It is possible to take an AS in Further Mathematics. There are 2 papers, both 1½ hours long and with 75 marks each. Paper 1 is AS fixed core content, assessed at AS standard and paper 2 is Mechanics and Decision Maths.

How might this course complement others?

This subject complements Psychology, Geography, Business Studies, Economics and the Sciences.

How will this subject be useful in the future?

Further Mathematics is a suitable course for a student considering studying Mathematics at University, in particular for those thinking of Oxbridge entrance or Russell Group Universities. Support will also be available for those students taking STEP and MAT papers for entry to some of the most prestigious Universities.

Entry Requirements

Students will need to have a grade 6 or above in GCSE Geography.

Why should I study Geography?

Geography can provide insights into understanding the world around us and of the issues it tackles. Statistics show that compared with other students, Geographers are the most employable. Geographers are taught a wide range of skills drawing in ideas from many sources. This ability to view issues from a wider perspective is appropriate for working in many different areas. The nature of peoples' working lives is changing. It is less likely that someone will spend all their life in one company or organisation. If your career path is to be varied, you will need to develop transferable skills and you will need to be flexible. Geography fosters these qualities and provides a firm base for life-long learning.

What will the course involve?

The linear A level in Geography involves the study of:

- Tectonic processes and Hazards
- Landscape systems, processes and change
- Globalisation
- Diverse places
- Superpowers
- Global development and connections- Migration, identity and sovereignty

Assessment is by three written examinations and an independent investigation.

It is possible to take an AS Level examination in Geography however it would require more independent study and is a standalone qualification (it does not count towards A-Level Geography)

How might this course complement others?

Geography goes well with Business Studies, Economics, Maths, Philosophy and Ethics, History and Sociology.

How will this subject be useful in the future?

Almost any issue can be looked at from a geographic perspective: Marketing, Crime, Health, Conservation, Education, Politics, Tourism, Retail, Transport and Social Services. That is why a geography background can be relevant to employment. Spatial data systems, for example, have become a basic necessity for many organisations.

Entry Requirements

Students will need to have a grade 6 or above in GCSE German.

Why should I study German?

An A Level qualification in German will enable you to develop a wide range of skills and increase your cultural awareness of the target language country as well as developing your language skills to a high level. It will help you to stand out when applying for University courses and will give you an A Level which is not only highly regarded by employers but will also give you a skill for life. A Level language study is a varied discipline and whilst challenging at times is highly rewarding. If you have enjoyed the subject at GCSE, then A Level German is an ideal course for you.

What will the course involve?

The linear A level in German will involve: Study of social issues and trends and political and artistic culture in Germany and other German speaking countries. Development of four main language skills (Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing). Translation – both from and into German. Study of at least one film and at least one novel / play in German from the specification list of set films and set texts.

German A level will be assessed through three examinations including a Speaking Test; Listening Reading and Writing paper and a Critical and Analytical Response in Writing paper.

It is possible to take an AS Level examination in German. This is worth 40% of the A Level.

How might this course complement others?

Languages combine well with a wide range of subjects and although a challenge will equip you with skills for life. In addition to being an asset which could be useful in a range of work situations languages are always useful when travelling for pleasure.

How will this subject be useful in the future?

Universities and employers value students with language qualifications. An A Level in a modern foreign language could give you a significant advantage when applying to University or in your chosen career.

Entry Requirements

Students will need to have a grade 6 or above in GCSE Art and Design.

Why should I study Graphics?

At Fort Pitt our Graphics course provides a broad base of creative study which encompasses IT skills such as Photoshop and animation, as well as giving students the opportunity to develop their skills by working with a wide range of materials and techniques. These include the obvious essential components of drawing and painting, as well as model making; photography; print making; mixed media and experimental work with combinations of these. All projects have a potential commercial application and students learn how to combine imagery with type which could be utilized in the world of business. However, the main focus underlining all that we do is creativity.

At all stages of the course there will be opportunities to generate and develop ideas, research primary and contextual sources, record practical and written observations, experiment with media and processes, and refine ideas towards producing personal resolved outcome(s). An extensive range of extra-curricular activities will be arranged to enrich the classroom experience such as artists coming into school, trips to galleries and exhibitions and visual research expeditions.

What will the course involve?

Component 1 - Personal Investigation 60% of final marks

During the first year, students will be set a series of projects, which consolidate their skills and knowledge. At the end of this year, each individual identifies a focal area (in conjunction with their teacher) for an in-depth Personal Investigation for completion by the end of January in Y13. This project brings together previous learning and also provides a vehicle for students' to really develop their interests in one specialist area.

Component 2 - Externally Set Assignment 40% of final marks

Students will be issued with a theme, with several suggested starting points set by Edexcel in February of their second year, from which they will be required to develop a portfolio of preparatory studies culminating in a timed test of 15 hours when they will be required to produce a final outcome under examination conditions.

How might this course complement others?

Graphics students find their course can be partnered with a wide range of other subjects. It has problem solving elements in common with areas such as Mathematics, expressive and creative components which are also essential to the study of Media, Drama, Music and English, as well as cultural foundations which relate to History and Religious studies.

How will this subject be useful in the future?

Those who chose to study any of the Art and Design subjects may seek a career in the creative and design industries, in areas as diverse as Architecture, Advertising, Medical Illustration, Restoration, Textiles and Fashion, Illustration and Graphic or Product design. However, Art and Design as a vocation is not the only reason for its value. It is a student-centred subject which encourages breadth of thought, independence of approach and a critical mind-set. Those who are trained to be curious and to 'think outside of the box' are in great demand by employers in an increasingly competitive world.

Entry Requirements

Students will need to have a grade 6 or above in History and English at GCSE.

Why should I study History?

History is a valuable subject in its own right. It encourages students to think critically, to read widely, to synthesise information and to question. These are skills which easily transfer to other areas of life.

What will the course involve?

The linear A level in History involves the study of two modules and a personal investigation. The two modules are externally assessed through examinations and involve the study of:

- The Age of the Crusades, c1071–1204 covering the First to Fourth Crusades.
- Religious Conflict and the Church in England, c1529–c1570 covering the monarchy's relationship with the Church from Henry VIII to Elizabeth I.

The coursework component (NEA) is assessed internally and moderated by the exam board. Students will be able to research a topic of their own choice and create their own question as long as it does not cover an area already represented in the other two modules. Currently, due to COVID, there has been a restricted choice offered of the Civil Rights Movement in America c.1865-1968 or Witchcraft in Early Modern Europe c.1500-1700. This is very good preparation for university study. The final written piece should be approximately 3500 words in length.

It is possible to take an AS Level examination in History.

How might this course complement others?

History goes well with English Literature, Business Studies, Government and Politics, Economics, Philosophy and Ethics, Psychology and Sociology.

How will this subject be useful in the future?

A degree in history is useful in many careers as the skills it teaches are very desirable. It can lead to a career in the legal sector as a Solicitor or Barrister, Analytics, Politics, Publishing, Public Service, Journalism, the Media, Education, Tourism, and Management. It is regarded as one of the most versatile degrees.

Entry Requirements

Students will need to have a grade 7 in Mathematics at GCSE.

Why should I study Mathematics?

An A level in Mathematics opens the door to many higher education courses and careers, and students with a higher qualification in Mathematics can expect to earn more than students with a similar qualification in any other subject. However, the most important reason to study Mathematics is because you enjoy it – you love the challenges it provides and are willing to take risks even if it means you get the wrong answers!

The new specification at A-Level relies heavily on you being able to think through problems and model situations with the key Mathematical concepts you learn. The Key to success is 'Practice, Practice, and even more Practice', so you should be keen to do lots of extra Maths outside of the classroom and be someone who is proactive in asking for help when you need it.

What will the course involve?

The A level will consist of 3 examinations, all 2 hours in length with 100 marks each.

Paper 1: Pure Mathematics 1 – AS content assessed at A level standard

Paper 2: Pure Mathematics 2 – remaining pure content

Paper 3: Statistics and Mechanics – Section A Statistics (50 marks), Section B Mechanics (5 marks)

It is possible to take an AS in Mathematics. There are 2 papers. Paper 1, worth 100 marks is 2 hours and is the pure content for A level paper 1, but assessed at AS standard and Paper 2, worth 50 marks is 1 hour and has 2 sections, one on Statistics and one on Mechanics and these are equally weighted.

How might this course complement others?

This subject complements many other subjects. The Statistics components support Geography, Psychology, Business and Economics for example, and the Mechanics component complements Physics. Pure maths ideas will permeate all the sciences. Mathematics is one of the most respected and valued subjects by universities.

How will this subject be useful in the future?

Mathematics is a desired subject for many courses. With Law, for example, it demonstrates an ability to problem solve, think logically, present argument coherently and have a good eye for detail and accuracy. Mathematics can give you a route into careers such as Accounting, Business, Psychiatry, Engineering and Medicine.

Entry Requirements

Students will need to have a grade 7 or above in Music at GCSE.

You should be of Grade 5 standard or higher on an instrument or voice and be a confident performer. You also need to be musically literate; it is essential that students are fluent in treble and bass clef notation and have a good knowledge of music theory. You may be asked to audition for a place on the course.

Why should I study Music?

If you have a passion for Music, then why not study it at A level?

Studying Music can give you a great mix of social, technical and business skills. Music students often have the edge over others on teamwork, good communication and self-management. Music can be thought of as part Art and part Science, which means it will help you build your problem solving, research, planning, analytical and critical thinking skills, as well as develop your creativity, not to mention discipline, composure under pressure, time management and independent working ability.

What will the course involve?

The linear course develops and assesses skills of performing, composing, listening and score analysis.

You will give a performance to a visiting examiner, playing for 10-12 minutes.

You will compose two or three compositions; one (or two) to a brief set by the exam board and one free composition.

You can choose to weight performance or composition more highly to suit your own skill set.

The Appraising unit involves listening and analysing the development of the Symphony from 1750-1900, key classical works of the Twentieth Century and Musical Theatre Songs. The examination paper requires you to write short prose and longer essays on the music you have studied, in addition to completing aural analysis.

How might this course complement others?

Music goes well with Languages, Sciences, English, Drama and Theatre Studies, and Mathematics.

How will this subject be useful in the future?

A level Music can lead to further study at university or a conservatoire, to careers in performance and areas connected with live and recorded performance, Arts Administration, Teaching, Journalism and Music Therapy. The discipline and commitment that musicians show are traits highly valued by employers, even if your career is not based in Music.

Entry Requirements

Students will need to have a grade 6 or above in GCSE RE/RS (if studied at GCSE) or a grade 6 or above in English Language. It is vital to have a keen interest in the subject as a whole.

Why should I study Philosophy and Ethics?

Philosophy and Ethics is the living study of beliefs and practice. It focusses on what is now, not what has happened in the past. To study religion is to learn about people. To study philosophy is to learn about oneself. To learn about ethics is to decide how we might act for the benefit of others.

What will the course involve?

This subject provides you with the opportunity to ask questions such as:

- “Where does morality come from?”
- “Do you need to be religious to be good?”
- “Does God exist?”
- “What influences our attitudes to gender and sex?”
- What do we mean when we describe something as ‘good’?

You will learn from a combination of whole class and individual study where you can reflect upon your own opinions and views and those of others. There is a strong focus on individual ethical, philosophical and religiously motivated choices and opinions.

How might this course complement others?

Religious Studies goes very well with Psychology, Sociology, English and History and it is a good subject to study if your other choices have a more Mathematical or Scientific focus (Both Maths and Science were considered forms of Philosophy until relatively recent history). Universities sometimes like to see a balance in your subject selection: e.g. one university where you can study medicine has said that “some preference will be given to applicants who offer a contrasting subject at AS/A Level” – Philosophy and Ethics is one of those subjects.

How will this subject be useful in the future?

Philosophy and Ethics is highly regarded by all universities including Oxford and Cambridge. Demonstrating your understanding and knowledge of different people and cultures, as well as developing logical and ethical thinking skills over the duration of this course, will be invaluable for careers in the Police, Armed Forces, Social Work, Civil Service, Banking, Nursing, Medicine, Teaching and Law.

Entry Requirements

Students will need a grade 6 or above in PE at GCSE or a grade 7 or above in Science if GCSE PE was not studied. You may also be asked to demonstrate/evidence your practical ability in this subject.

Why should I study Physical Education?

A Level Physical Education allows those with a keen interest and flair for sport to develop their theoretical understanding of the world of sport and physical activity.

What will the course involve?

The course is multidisciplinary and includes:

- Scientific components (Anatomy and Physiology, Biomechanics and Exercise Physiology)
- Psychological components (Skill Acquisition and Sport Psychology)
- Sociological components (Sport and society and any comparative issues in sport)
- The student's practical ability is assessed in one area of physical activity and coursework takes the form of a formal observation on the Evaluation and Appreciation of a practical performance.

The A Level is assessed through two examinations, one written/verbal analysis of performance and a practical performance.

Paper 1 - Factors affecting participation in physical activity and sport (Written exam: 2 hours, 105 marks, 35 % of A-level)

- Section A: Applied anatomy and physiology
- Section B: Skill acquisition
- Section C: Sport and society

Paper 2 - Factors affecting optimal performance in physical activity and sport (Written exam: 2 hours, 105 marks, 35 % of A-level)

- Section A: Exercise physiology and biomechanics
- Section B: Sport psychology
- Section C: Sport and society and technology in sport

Non-Examined Assessment: Practical performance in physical activity and sport: (Internal assessment, external moderation, 90 marks, 30 % of A-level.)

- Students assessed as a performer in the full sided version of one activity.
- Plus: written/verbal analysis of performance.

How might this course complement others?

A Level PE works well in conjunction with Biology, Psychology, and Sociology.

How will this subject be useful in the future?

The Leisure and Sport industry is still one of the fastest growing industries. There are a wide variety of related university courses and careers, for example: Sport Psychology, Physiotherapy, Sports Therapy, Sports Journalism, Sports Marketing, Sports Medicine, Sports Management, Sports Science, Coaching and Teaching to name a few.

Entry Requirements

Students will need to have achieved a grade 7 in Triple Science Physics at GCSE OR a grade 7:7 in Combined Science (including a grade 7 for both Physics papers). Additionally, students will be required to have achieved a grade 6 for Maths GCSE. It is vital that the Mathematics grade is achieved due to the extensive calculations and analysis that is required.

Why should I study Physics?

Physics is the study of everything: from a scale smaller than an atom to the entire Universe; from the recreation of events at the Big Bang to every area of our everyday lives. Physics explores and tries to understand the underlying patterns and connections between it all. If you have an interest in, and enjoyment of, Physics and you like to be challenged and enjoy recognition for serious problem solving and if you want to study a subject at the forefront of modern technological advances, then A Level Physics could be the choice for you. Physics is a demanding subject which rewards you with a deeper understanding of the Universe as we know it. The nature of the course challenges students to view the world in a different way and develop skills which are useful and applicable for whatever they choose for the future. It's fun, exciting and intellectually stimulating.

What will the course involve?

The linear A Level in Physics involves three examinations at the end of Y13. Two papers are 1 hour and 45 minutes long and one paper is 2 hours and 30 minutes long. These cover overarching themes of:

- Advanced Physics 1 including Mechanics, Electrical Circuits, Materials, Waves and Nuclear and Particle Physics
- Advanced Physics 2 including Oscillations, Thermodynamics, Space, Nuclear Radiation and Electric and Gravitational Fields
- General and Practical Principles in Physics

There is no coursework element to the linear A level however students will be required to complete a number of Core Practicals throughout the course which cover specific skills and techniques.

It is possible to take an AS Level examination in Chemistry at the end of Year 12.

How might this course complement others?

A level Physics works well in combination with Biology and Chemistry as well as Maths and Further Maths.

How will this subject be useful in the future?

The logical and mathematical skills in Physics are relevant to a vast number of careers and can be used as an entry point to a number of careers not all associated with Physics. As a working Physicist you may find yourself; trying to predict the stock market in the City, testing satellites for space missions, doing medical physics in a hospital, trying to predict the next major earthquake, developing flight simulation software, or designing an Olympic stadium. In other words, the skills developed studying Physics can be the passport to almost any career.

Entry Requirements

Students will need to have a grade 6 or above in GCSE English Language.

Why should I study Government and Politics?

Politics has a significant impact on our everyday lives. With the recent EU referendum, new Prime Minister and the US Presidential election, there has never been a better time to further your understanding of the subject. Students with an interest in the world around them and how important decisions are made should consider A Level Government and Politics.

You will take from this course the ability to consider a variety of complex arguments, and an in-depth knowledge of the UK and US political systems.

What will the course involve?

Component 1: UK Politics

Political Participation: This covers democracy and participation, political parties, electoral systems, voting behaviour and the media

Core Political Ideas: This covers Conservatism, Liberalism and Socialism

Written Paper: 2 hours – three essays to be written

Component 2: UK Government

UK Government: This covers the Constitution, Prime Minister and Executive, Parliament, relationships internal and external.

Political ideas: 1 option from Anarchism, Ecologism, Feminism, Multiculturalism and Nationalism

Written Paper: 2 hours - three essays to be written

Component 3: Comparative Politics

The United States of America

Constitution, Congress, The Presidency, Supreme Court and Civil Rights, democracy and participation, and comparative theories

Written Paper: 2 hours - two short answer questions and two essays to be written

How might this course complement others?

Government and Politics would be an ideal accompaniment to a study of History, English, Economics and Business Studies courses.

How will this subject be useful in the future?

Students can go on to study the subject at most leading universities or take up employment. Politics can be a useful choice for a wide range of careers as students develop a variety of transferable skills as they study the different political ideas and systems. The subject develops proficiency in written communication, analysis and evaluation; these skills are in great demand, and are recognised by employers, universities and colleges as being of great value.

Entry Requirements

Students will need a grade 6 or above in GCSE English, GCSE Mathematics and GCSE Science.

Why should I study Psychology?

Simply put, Psychology is the study of people, behaviour and the mind. It has recently been reclassified as a Science subject, and this is reflected in the A level curriculum.

It is a broad subject, with many different areas and a number of different approaches towards explaining behaviour. Not all psychologists agree with one another!

Psychologists observe human behaviour, create theories to explain the behaviour, and then carry out research to test these theories.

Psychology is a challenging subject, requiring commitment and hard work. Ultimately though, the hard work is rewarded with a deeper understanding of people and society, and perhaps even yourself!

What will the course involve?

An A Level in Psychology will involve:

- The study of topics such as attachment, memory, psychopathology and social influence.
- Exploring psychology in context such as different approaches, Biopsychology and research methods
- Investigating issues and options such as cognitive development, schizophrenia and Forensic Psychology

Assessment is through three examinations

How might this course complement others?

A Level Psychology goes well with Maths, Sciences (especially Biology), Sociology and English Literature.

How will this subject be useful in the future?

Psychology is a well-respected subject at A Level and many courses at universities will view your A level very positively. Discussion, negotiation, evaluation, creativity, understanding, tolerance and information technology are all essential skills involved in ANY career you choose in the future.

Entry Requirements

Students will need to have a grade 6 or above in GCSE English Language.

Why should I study Sociology?

Sociology is a brilliant subject to study. It is exciting, challenging and enjoyable. If you are interested in people, or working with people later on, then you *must* consider studying sociology. Studying sociology requires you to see people in an entirely different way. Through studying sociology many of your preconceptions about the people around you will be turned upside down. Sociologists take a critical view of the world in which we live and often come up with ways of doing things better. They analyse human behaviour and look at the forces and influences that shape our lives. As sociologists we will study Crime and Deviance, the Media, Social Class, Gender, Ethnicity, Youth Subcultures and family life. We will also study research methods and put some of these into practice. By the end of the course you will understand the society in which we live, and the reasons why people behave the way in which they do, much better. Sociology offers exciting teaching, plenty of opportunities for discussion and lots of challenging ideas. We have a history of good examination results and we are ambitious for our students. You will be pushed to reach your full potential.

What will the course involve?

The linear A level in Sociology involves the sociological study of

- Education and Methods in Context
- Culture and Identity
- Crime and Deviance
- Mass Media
- Theory and Methods

Assessment is by examination

- Paper 1 – Education with Theory and Methods
- Paper 2 – Culture and Identity and The Media
- Paper 3 – Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods

How might this course complement others?

Sociology goes extremely well with English, History, Geography, Economics, Business Studies, Politics, Philosophy, Psychology and many others. It also goes well with the Sciences, particularly Biology.

How will this subject be useful in the future?

Sociology is welcomed by all good universities for a fantastic range of courses, from Medicine and Law, to Personnel Management, Journalism and Anthropology. In recent years our A level Sociologists have gone on to study at most leading universities, including Oxford and Cambridge. Many leading professions, including Law and Medicine, require grounding in Sociology.

Entry Requirements

Students will need to have a grade 6 or above in GCSE Spanish.

Why should I study Spanish?

An A Level qualification in Spanish will enable you to develop a wide range of skills and increase your cultural awareness of the target language country as well as developing your language skills to a high level. It will help you to stand out when applying for University courses and will give you an A Level which is not only highly regarded by employers but will also give you a skill for life. A Level language study is a varied discipline and whilst challenging at times, is highly rewarding. If you have enjoyed the subject at GCSE then A Level Spanish is an ideal course for you.

What will the course involve?

The linear A level in Spanish will involve: Study of social issues and trends and political and artistic culture in Spain and other Spanish speaking countries. Development of four main language skills (Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing). Translation – both from and into Spanish. Study of at least one film and at least one novel / play in Spanish from the specification list of set films and set texts.

Spanish A level will be assessed through three examinations including a Speaking Test; Listening Reading and Writing paper and a Critical and Analytical Response in Writing paper.

It is possible to take an AS Level examination in Spanish.

How might this course complement others?

Languages combine well with a wide range of subjects and although a challenge will equip you with skills for life. In addition to being an asset which could be useful in a range of work situations languages are always useful when travelling for pleasure.

How will this subject be useful in the future?

Universities and employers value students with language qualifications. An A Level in a modern foreign language could give you a significant advantage when applying to University or in your chosen career.

Entry Requirements

Students will need to have a grade 6 or above in an Art and Design at GCSE.

Why should I study Textiles?

Studying Textiles gives students the opportunity to develop a basis of core textiles techniques through the exploration of hand and machine sewing, embroidery, embellishment and garment design. They are encouraged to develop proficiency with specialist processes like knitting, printing, weaving and the dyeing of fabrics, and to experiment with different types of fabric technologies to resolve creative problems. Students develop their own ideas through research of Fashion Designers and textiles artists to produce outcomes that range from finished garments to 3D textile installations. They learn about fashion design by studying and deconstructing every-day garments to produce original pieces. Although drawing is an essential part of any art-based course, textiles students also rely on photography to record their ideas and produce their own fashion photo-shoots to exhibit their work. The department has excellent links with the University of the Creative Arts which provides a range of opportunities to expose students to the wider industry. An extensive range of extra-curricular activities will be arranged to enrich the classroom experience, such as the Knit and Stitch Show.

What will the course involve?

Component 1 - Personal Investigation 60% of final marks

During the first year, students will be set a series of projects which will enable them to develop their skills and knowledge in their chosen specialist area. At the end of this year each individual identifies a focal area (in conjunction with their teacher) for an in-depth Personal Investigation for completion by the end of January in their second year. This project brings together previous learning, provides a vehicle for students to really develop their interests in one specialist area and also includes a written component of up to 3,000 words of critical analysis. Students will also complete a 12-hour examination at the end of their first year which is set and assessed internally.

Component 2 - Externally Set Assignment 40% of final marks

Students will be issued an examination paper by the examining board, Edexcel, in February of their second year. This will contain a theme and suggested starting points that form the basis of a body of work which culminates in a 12-hour examination, completed over two days at the end of the second year.

How might this course complement others?

Textiles A Level brings together creative and conceptual skills that work well with other subjects such as Drama, Film Studies, Media Studies or English Literature. Students are encouraged to explore advanced concepts with their practical work and their analyses of the work of others, which can complement subjects like History, Politics, Philosophy or Sociology.

How will this subject be useful in the future?

The creative industries are some of the most successful in the British economy, contributing over £84 billion each year and employing over 2 million people. Our department boasts excellent links with higher and further education institutions, providing an excellent platform for students to access a range of different careers.