



EPSOM INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Sixth Form Information

2022-23

Introduction to the *Sixth Form*

The Sixth Form at Epsom provides a challenging and exciting two years' study. There are around 70 students across the two year groups and this allows everyone to receive tailored individual attention while being part of a lively, varied and vibrant community.

Each week all students engage in a rich array of activities. Academic aspiration is the central focus and all students are encouraged to become inquisitive, independent learners who will prosper at university and beyond. To this end every student has a personal academic tutor who monitors performance, agrees targets and ensures best working practices are being followed: there are frequent one-to one conversations between student and tutor but, importantly, the student owns the process.

Standards are high with the overwhelming majority of students securing places at leading universities around the world.

The details of the academic subjects available for formal study in the Sixth Form are contained in this booklet.

Meet The *Sixth Form*



MR PHIL PEDRO
HEAD OF SIXTH FORM

Mr Pedro oversees the running of the ECiM Sixth Form. He is responsible for ensuring that the transition from GCSE to A-level is as smooth as possible. He helps students to make the right subject choices and monitors their progress as they move through the Sixth Form. He is available for students to discuss both academic and pastoral issues and liaises with Housemasters, Housemistresses and parents about any issues or concerns. Mr Pedro is very keen for the ECiM Sixth Form to be a place where students are able to explore and develop their interests. It is a place where academic success is highly valued but must be coupled with a curiosity about the world beyond the College.



MRS CATHERINE CARDEN-BROWN
DIRECTOR OF ADMISSIONS & HIGHER EDUCATION

Mrs Carden-Brown is responsible for supporting students in getting on to the course of their choice and to their favoured universities, whatever country it may be. She works with the Sixth Form in organising visiting universities, researching courses and universities, writing personal statements, supporting interview preparation and selecting offers, as well as considering future careers after university. She believes strongly that ECiM has a responsibility to its students beyond achievement in A-levels and always encourages full participation in the College's CCA programme, to prepare students for university life and beyond.

Comments From The Heads of College (2022-23)

TIHA HEAD GIRL OF COLLEGE

Epsom College in Malaysia has empowered me to achieve many goals that I believed I wouldn't reach. I was able to explore outside of my comfort zone due to the wide range of opportunities. From leading presentations to introducing new events and ideas to the school, it has taught me many things about myself such as my strengths and weaknesses. As a result, I am able to hone my leadership, teamwork and interpersonal skills. The welcoming community in Epsom acted as a pillar of support and through this community I was able to create everlasting memories.

One of the biggest hurdles as a sixth former is choosing universities and creating a personal statement. Here at Epsom, our tight-knit community makes it easier for students to communicate with teachers and counsellors for help. Furthermore, numerous weekly events are held in the Grayling Centre ranging from students sharing their passion in certain subjects to university talks where you would get the chance to directly speak with university's admission staff. I would like to thank Epsom and express my gratitude for helping me develop into the person I am today. I know that no matter where I go, the skills I learnt in Epsom will help me to achieve far in the future.

AIDAN HEAD BOY OF COLLEGE

My experience of being an Epsom College sixth form student has been second to none- never have I felt my academic progress improve so drastically since I joined for my A levels. I have been exposed to countless opportunities and insights in the forms of engaging talks and courses hosted in our sixth form centre, support here is constant and refreshing with a knowledgeable and dedicated teaching faculty. I am also grateful for the opportunity to lead the student community whilst contributing to Epsom's wide range of events and activities.

Epsom greatly encourages extracurricular activities outside the classroom- they emphasise on a healthy balance between life and work which I think is of paramount importance. I am forever indebted to Epsom College for passing onto me skills and lessons that I will carry forward into university and life.



Comments From The Deputy Heads of College (2022-23)

KEIA DEPUTY HEAD GIRL OF COLLEGE

Before Epsom, I was homeschooled. Epsom introduced me to a culture that I have never been exposed to before. It has taught me to be kind, to initiate ideas and has been an adventure of growth and exploration. I joined in Year 5 (Prep-school) and have been here for almost 8 years. I definitely gained a lot of confidence from my subjects, such as drama and extra-curriculars. I can explore any subject of my interest, with teachers and staff providing me with an abundance of support in whatever I do. If I have taken away one piece of advice, it would be that we never stop learning. I have never seen a school value and really appreciate a student's thinking as well as Epsom does. Here in 6th form, students are exposed to endless opportunities, from initiating events, to creating societies and improving the overall quality of life at Epsom. The grayling centre creates a great environment for students to interact. I would say the best part about Epsom is the community. Teachers, peers and the prefects are all here to help assist you in whatever you do.

I feel free to grow here and be myself. We get a lot of support when figuring out what to do in the future. The possibilities are endless. I look forward to what's coming next and am forever grateful for the support and love I have received from Epsom all these years.

AFIQ DEPUTY HEAD BOY OF COLLEGE

I have been in Epsom since year 7 and since I am a full border this means I have spent more time in school than at home for the past 5 years. At the weekend, the school brings us out for ice skating, to the cinema, to the beach and much more. This boarding experience has taught me a lot of lessons, like being independent and finding interpersonal skills. Epsom has provided me with countless opportunities in different parts of the school like sports, drama, leadership and more.

In the sixth form, classes are very small, this allows me to confront the teacher easily with a topic I don't understand. Since the sixth form as a whole is quite small, the head of the sixth form and head of higher education can help individual students with pupil's university applications and personal statements to students' dream universities. I am genuinely grateful for the opportunities that taught me to be the person I am today.

Curriculum

The curriculum structure at Epsom College is based on students studying up to four Principal Subjects to A-level, supplemented with an option from the Core Curriculum (EPQ or IELTS) which provides breadth and develops key skills essential for the student's future.

In addition to timetabled lessons, all students have the opportunity to lead a lively intellectual life outside of the classroom. The Sixth Form curriculum will allow time to be involved in the College's co-curricular programme, societies, clubs and workshops. Students will be able to participate in a series of Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) lectures and seminars which will develop the students' well-being covering a range of topics including academic, cultural and social issues pertinent to modern teenage life.

SUBJECTS OFFERED

Art & Design	Geography
Biology	History
Business	Mandarin
Chemistry	Mathematics &
Computer Science	Further Mathematics
Design Technology	Music
Drama	Politics
Economics	Physical Education
English Literature	Physics
French	Psychology
	Spanish





Beyond the *Classroom*

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

ECiM has the highest academic expectations of our Sixth Form students. Students are challenged in all areas of the academic programme through a wide range of teaching methods, including seminar discussions, debate, practical experimentation, external trips and lectures. In some sessions, students will engage with the Oxbridge-style tutorial method, which encourages student-led discussion on a one-to-one basis with teaching staff.

The College was delighted with the performance of our cohort of graduates who achieved their grades in August 2020. Over 80% of all results secured A*-B grades, 70% of all A-level grades scored either an A* or A grade, 38% of all A-level grades attained an A*. This is an outstanding set of results from students from a range of academic backgrounds and clearly demonstrates that the College is adding considerable value to these students' attainment levels.

THE GRAYLING CENTRE

The Grayling Centre has been designed to replicate more closely what it is like to study at university. This area is where students spend most of their time during the school day and features tutorial rooms that allow A-level teachers and students to conduct small group seminars and one-to-one tutorials; a lecture space for academic talks, visiting speakers and discussion groups; a study area which has been furnished with a range of different working environments conducive to different styles of learning; the social area has been furnished with beanbags and a new sound system, giving the students the opportunity to relax after a hard day's work.

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

There is a programme of distinguished visiting speakers and a growing number of societies such as the Medical Review Society, the Business Society, the Humanities Society and the Language Society. There are frequent assemblies to which students are encouraged to contribute with their own short, stimulating talks, lectures and presentations. Students are encouraged to pursue musical interests through House competitions, participation in choirs and ensembles, House soirées, charity events and

an extensive programme of concerts and recitals.

In addition to this, there is a strong drama department and students may participate in theatrical productions either as a performer or as part of the production team.

Epsom has a tradition of sporting excellence and engagement. Superb facilities in its beautiful grounds mean that all students are engaged in purposeful and competitive sporting activity on site throughout the entire week.

The study facilities are excellent, both in the Houses and in the impressive Library. The Sixth Form Centre gives students a chance to relax, drink coffee, read the papers, discuss issues with friends and study in a less formal atmosphere.

CAREERS

There is an extensive programme of careers events during the Lower Sixth in preparation for Upper Sixth and life beyond Epsom. The main emphasis of careers advice at Sixth Form is in selecting appropriate higher education courses. Students are encouraged to drop-in for advice informally or to make an appointment individually with our Head of Higher Education. If they have not already taken it, there is an opportunity to take the Morisby Careers Guidance Tests (similar to psychometric profiling used by graduate employers). All students are enrolled in this programme from year 10. The Lower Sixth are also enrolled into Mabecs University support programme, a hybrid platform that supports their research into the next stage of their careers, whether this is looking at universities, or investigating scholarships. Mabecs also enables students to work and prepare early on all aspects of their life post-Epsom.

Finally, Epsom works together with prominent international companies to offer valuable work experience to our students and help them build a portfolio of evidence that will help them enter top universities around the world.

Subject Options

The main aims of the Core Curriculum are to provide academic breadth and to develop key skills essential for the students' future. In addition to choosing three Principal Subjects, students will be invited to choose from a range of Core Curriculum options. Only one Core Curriculum option is timetabled alongside the Principal Subjects although in some circumstances it may be possible to add a second option later on. Not all combinations of Principal Subjects and Core Curriculum options can be guaranteed and, therefore, students will be requested to indicate a first and second choice.

EXTENDED PROJECT QUALIFICATION (EPQ)

In a world where technology and the workplace are constantly evolving it is vital that students are able to learn independently and develop skills such as time and project management, problem-solving and critical thinking. Lifelong learning starts at school and the EPQ will make students better at picking up these essential skills later in life.

In their EPQ A-Level course, students research a topic of particular interest to them to produce a dissertation or artefact and a research report, together with a presentation and a project log. The emphasis of the EPQ is on autonomy and the ability to manage a research project and the course runs from September of the Lower Sixth with students aiming to submit their projects to the exam board (AQA) in the following May.

ENGLISH

Students wishing to pursue their studies in English without taking a full A-level may opt to take the International English Language Testing System (IELTS). The IELTS is designed to assess the language ability of people who want to study or work where English is the language of communication. It is recognised and accepted by over 10,000 organisations worldwide, including universities, employers, professional bodies, immigration authorities and other government agencies.

Students learn to analyse and interpret imaginative literature through the careful reading and critical analysis and interpretation of representative works from various genres and periods.





Subjects

Art & Design

“The creative industries are the fastest growing economic sector in the UK, responsible for 5.6% of jobs, and worth £76.9bn to the UK economy”
- UK GOV

COURSE CONTENT

Art & Design at Epsom enables students to explore a broad range of 2D and 3D approaches. The initial emphasis is on developing a working knowledge of materials, practices and technology in disciplines that include drawing, painting, sculpture and new media. The course also develops an understanding of the place of art, craft and design in history and contemporary society. In the latter stages there is an open, creative approach and students are encouraged to develop individual skills as fully as possible through personal projects and study. Students are not advised to take this course alongside A-level Design Technology/3D Design.

EXAM INFORMATION

Cambridge International AS & A Level Art & Design (9479)

Component 1

Coursework - 100 marks

Candidates research, develop and realise a project from one area of study in the syllabus content. There are two parts to the coursework:

- a portfolio and
- a final outcome.

Externally assessed

25% of the A Level

Component 2

Coursework - 100 marks

Candidates choose one starting point to develop into a personal response. There are two parts to the assignment:

- ∇ supporting studies, created during the preparation period and
- ∇ a final outcome, produced during a supervised test of 15 hours" total duration.

Externally assessed

25% of the A Level

Component 3

Personal Investigation - 100 marks (weighted 200 marks)

Candidates investigate a theme, idea, concept or a process that is personal to them. There are two parts to the investigation:

- practical work and
- written analysis (1000-1500 words))

The practical work and written analysis must form an integrated submission.

Externally assessed

50% of the A Level

RECOMMENDED ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

GCSE Art grade C and above, or a portfolio of work which demonstrates an aptitude for creative expression and an enthusiasm for visual arts.

WHY CHOOSE ART?

- The internet has created an explosion of opportunity for digital designers and multimedia artists.
- Fine artists can reach a worldwide market at the click of a button.
- High school students can achieve recognition while studying.
- Those with a wide skill set have an advantage, in any career.
- Art marks are not solely dependent on an exam.
- According to a study carried out by James Catterall, a leading professor and Chair of Faculty at UCLA, studying Art improves performance in other subjects. His research demonstrates that involvement in the arts (both Visual and Performing) is associated with higher levels of attainment in both secondary school and university. Art enhances fine motor skills, hand-eye coordination, problem solving skills, lateral thinking, complex analysis and critical thinking. No matter what career you choose, those who can arrange, present and display material in a way that is aesthetically pleasing have an advantage.

- Arts students are highly sought-after by employers. Many employers now actively seek those who have studied the arts. Steve Jobs, founder of Apple, was fond of saying his success was due to his hiring artists and musicians fascinated by technology rather than computer geeks. Top talent management agency, The Curve Group concurs: “Employees with an arts degree have developed more quickly in their roles from the start. They have discipline, confidence and can accept criticism.”

HE & CAREER ASPIRATIONS

A-level Art is a well-respected course at most universities. If you are in any doubt contact the institution you are interested in. The usual progression to Art and Design courses at university is via an Art Foundation course. It can lead to careers in design, advertising, publishing, events organisation, architecture, museums, theatre work, gallery work, marketing, photography and the media. The study of Art and Design will also help you develop transferable skills in visual communication which you can take into any career.



Biology

COURSE CONTENT

Put simply, Biology is the scientific study of life: as such it encompasses the investigation of living organisms and life processes from the molecular, through cells and individual organisms to populations and whole communities of animals and plants.

EXAM INFORMATION

Assessment

You will be assessed at the end of the Sixth Form.

Assessment will be done by external examinations as follows:

Paper 1: Molecules, Diet, Transport, and Health.

- Externally assessed.
- Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes.
- 40% of the total International Advanced Subsidiary.
- 20% of the total International Advanced Level.

Paper 2: Cells, Development, Biodiversity & Conservation.

- Externally assessed.
- Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes.
- 40% of the total International Advanced Subsidiary.
- 20% of the total International Advanced Level.

Paper 3: Practical Skills in Biology.

- Externally assessed.
- Written examination: 1 hour 20 minutes.
- 20% of the total International Advanced Subsidiary.
- 10% of the total International Advanced Level.

Paper 4: Energy, Environment, Microbiology and Immunity.

- Externally assessed.
- Written examination: 1 hour 20 minutes.
- 20% of the total International Advanced Subsidiary.
- 10% of the total International Advanced Level.

Paper 5: Respiration, Internal Environment, Coordination and Gene Technology.

- Externally assessed.

- Written examination: 1 hour 45 minutes.
- 40% of the total International Advanced Level 2.
- 20% of the total International Advanced Level.

Paper 6: Practical Skills in Biology II.

- Externally assessed.
- Written examination: 1 hour 20 minutes.
- 20% of the total International Advanced Level 2.
- 10% of the total International Advanced Level.

RECOMMENDED ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

IGCSE Biology or equivalent.

WHY CHOOSE BIOLOGY?

Studying Biology gives you the skills and opportunities to advance human knowledge and understanding in today's world, in order to make a difference to tomorrow's world.

HE & CAREER ASPIRATIONS

Studying biology teaches us to ask questions, make observations, evaluate evidence, and solve problems. These transferable skills open a lot of job opportunities and gives you a level of employability that not many other subjects do.

Biologists learn how living things work, how they interact with one another, and how they evolve. They may study the evolution, natural history, and conservation of plants and animals; investigate the interactions of living organisms with light, the environment, or each other; or have careers in pharmaceuticals, biotechnology or medical research.

Business

COURSE CONTENT

Students of this course will study business in a variety of contexts (eg large/small, UK focused/global, service/manufacturing) and consider:

- the importance of the context of business in relation to decision making;
- the interrelated nature of business activities and how they affect competitiveness; the competitive environment and the markets in which businesses operate;
- the influences on functional decisions and plans including ethical and environmental issues; the factors that might determine whether a decision is successful e.g. the quality of data and the degree of uncertainty;
- how technology is changing the way decisions are made and how businesses operate and compete; the impact on stakeholders of functional decisions and their response to such decisions;
- use of non-quantitative and quantitative data in decision making (including the interpretation of index numbers and calculations such as ratios and percentages).

The study of strategic decision making should build on the study of decision making in the functional areas.

Students should consider:

- the impact of technology on strategic decision making;
- the influences of Corporate Social Responsibility, ethical and environmental issues on strategic decisions;
- the difficulties in forecasting future trends;
- the importance of assessing feasibility and risk when making strategic decisions;
- the impact on stakeholders of strategic decisions and their response to such decisions.

The topics lend themselves to studying and engaging with the business world. The specification and assessment should encourage students to follow business developments and think critically about contemporary business issues. Most of the assessment material is based on real business situations. By examining and thinking critically about real business situations as they study the subject, students will gain an insight into different contexts which will help them to understand the key issues in any situation and compare and contrast this with other situations and apply their understanding.

EXAM INFORMATION

CIE AS & A Level Business (9609)

Paper 1 - Business Concepts 1

1 hour 15 minutes, 40 marks

- Section A: Four short answer questions. There are two parts to the first three questions.
- Section B: One essay from a choice of two. There are two parts to each essay.
- Externally assessed.
- 40% of the AS Level, 20% of the A Level

Paper 2 - Business Concepts 2

1 hour 15 minutes, 40 marks

- Two data response questions. There are six parts to each question.
- Questions are based on the AS Level subject content.
- Externally assessed.
- 60% of the AS Level, 30% of the A Level

Paper 3 - Decision Making

1 hour 45 minutes, 60 marks

- Five questions based on a case study. There are three parts to Question 3 and two parts to Question 4.
- Questions are based on the A Level subject content; knowledge of material from the AS Level subject content is assumed.
- Externally assessed.
- 30% of the A Level

Paper 4 - Business Strategy

1 hour 15 minutes, 40 marks

Two essay questions based on a case study. Questions are based on the A Level subject content; knowledge of material from the AS Level subject content is assumed.

RECOMMENDED ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

None at all.

HE & CAREER ASPIRATIONS

To develop high order thinking skills for students which include analysis, critical thinking and problem solving. These skills help them to present ordered and coherent arguments which will be an asset to them in any undergraduate course.

A-level business studies looks great to any employer as it shows you have background information on how a business works, so you are automatically considered for higher positions.

Possible career choices with A-level business studies include management, marketing, finance, accounting, banking, retailing, manufacturing and local government.



Chemistry

COURSE CONTENT

Chemistry is the study of matter and materials, and the changes that they undergo. It helps us understand the natural world and gives solutions to numerous problems faced by humanity. It enables us to make products that enhance and enrich our everyday lives – including medicines, materials for electronics, clothing, cosmetics, toiletries, polymers, fuels and food.

EXAM INFORMATION - EDEXCEL GCE

Assessment

There is a total of six papers, three to be taken at the end of Year 12 and three at the end of Year 13.

Unit 1: Structure, Bonding and Introduction to Organic Chemistry Unit 2: Energetics, Group Chemistry, Halogenoalkanes and Alcohols Unit 3: Practical Skills in Chemistry I	Examinations at the end of Year 12
Unit 4: Rates, Equilibria and Further Organic Chemistry Unit 5: Transition Metals and Organic Nitrogen Chemistry Unit 6: Practical Skills in Chemistry II	Examinations at the end of Year 13

RECOMMENDED ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

At least a B grade in both Chemistry and Mathematics at IGCSE.

WHY CHOOSE CHEMISTRY?

Chemistry underpins a broad range of disciplines and a career in the chemical sciences offers many opportunities that can be extremely rewarding, both personally and financially.

HE & CAREER ASPIRATIONS

Chemistry is important today, but it will be even more so in tomorrow's world. Science and science-based jobs are needed to create a sustainable future for the planet. Chemistry will be vital to meet the challenges we face such as green energy sources, ensuring clean water is available to all, meeting the growing demands for food and raw materials for an ever-increasing population. As society changes, the knowledge and skills that chemical scientists possess will ensure that they are always in high demand.

The student of chemistry also learns lots of skills that are highly valued by employers. Numeracy, problem-solving, data handling, analysis, observation, team working and report writing are all developed and strengthened through studying chemistry. It opens doors to careers in healthcare, teaching, aerospace, law, telecommunications, publishing, business and finance, and information technology.

With the increasing globalisation of economies, the skills acquired in chemistry will also allow greater mobility in the global jobs marketplace. Growing economies such as India and China have strong science-based industries.

Computer Science

“Everyone should learn how to code, it teaches you how to think.”

- STEVE JOBS

“Computers are going to be a big part of our future...and that future is yours to shape.”

- BARACK OBAMA

COURSE CONTENT

In the past ICT was about how to use computers and software effectively. Computer Science is not the same! Computer Science is the subject of understanding how computers work, and learning skills and techniques to build and change their programs. This has two aspects to it: theory and programming.

On the theory side you will gain a solid understanding of how computers and technology work, from how the processor and memory work together to run applications to how the computer builds documents, images, sounds and videos by using electronic signals. You will also gain an understanding of different types of hardware, communication technology and networks, security, privacy and data integrity.

On the programming side you will break down problems into manageable solutions and design and create algorithms to help you successfully build a program for specific needs. You will learn and develop your programming skills using the language Python, and understand how other languages work and can be used for different types of developments.

EXAM INFORMATION

CIE International A-level Computer Science (9618)

Paper 1 - Theory Fundamentals

- 1 hour 30 minutes - 75 marks
- Paper 1 will assess sections 1 to 8 of the syllabus content.
- Written paper.
- Externally assessed. Candidates answer all questions.

- 50% of the AS Level
- 25% of the A Level

Paper 2 - Fundamental Problem-solving and Programming Skills

- 2 hours - 75 marks
- Paper 2 will assess sections 9 to 12 of the syllabus content.
- Candidates will need to write answers in pseudocode.
- Written paper.
- Externally assessed. Candidates answer all questions.
- 50% of the AS Level
- 25% of the A Level

Paper 3 - Advanced Theory

- 1 hour 30 minutes - 75 marks
- Paper 3 will assess sections 13 to 20 of the syllabus content.
- Written paper.
- Externally assessed. Candidates answer all questions.
- 25% of the A Level

Paper 4 - Practical

- 2 hours 30 minutes - 75 marks
- Paper 4 will assess sections 19 to 20 of the syllabus content, except for low-level and declarative programming.
- Candidates will submit complete program code and evidence of testing.
- Candidates will be required to use either Java, VB.NET or Python programming languages
- Externally assessed. Candidates answer all questions on a computer without internet or email facility.
- 25% of the A Level

RECOMMENDED ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

It is not a requirement to have studied Computer Science at GCSE, however a grade B or higher at Maths is needed to study the course.

WHY CHOOSE COMPUTER SCIENCE?

Like it or not you're living in it – this is the Digital Age. Computer programmes have infiltrated every aspect of our lives. Computer scientists theorise, design, develop, and apply the software and hardware

for the programmes we use day in and day out. The course is designed to develop skills that will prove useful in all aspects of your life. You will learn more about the technology you already use on a day to day basis, both how it works and how you can program it for different purposes. If you have an interest in technology, want more of an understanding of how it works and learn skills to change and program it, then this is the course for you!

HE & CAREER ASPIRATIONS

Every industry uses computers so naturally computer scientists can work in many fields. Problems in science, engineering, healthcare, and so many other areas can be solved by computers. It is up to the computer scientist to figure out how, and design the software to apply the solution.

The computer science course will teach you problem solving skills and independent working techniques that will support any course at university.

Did you know:

- Computer Science graduates are among the highest earners in the UK.
- Computer Science is recognised by all Russell Group universities as a credible and worthwhile qualification.



Drama & Theatre

“A broad education in the arts helps give children a better understanding of their world... We need students who are culturally literate as well as math and science literate.” - PAUL OSTERGARD, VICE PRESIDENT, CITICORP

COURSE CONTENT

Drama & Theatre A-Level is a balanced (and brilliant) mixture of theory and practical work packed full of transferable skills. Whether you want to be a doctor, a lawyer, a CEO, a designer, a director or a performer; this course offers you the ability to develop crucial skills that will help prepare you for a very wide range of degrees and professions. It can really make you stand out from a purely academic crowd.



EXAM INFORMATION

CIE A Level Drama (9482)

Component 1:

Written Exam - 60 marks

Candidates answer two questions: one question from Section A and one question from Section B. Open book exam. **Externally assessed**

Component 2:

Practical Drama - 60 marks

There are two compulsory parts: devising and performing. Candidates work in a group to devise and perform a play based on the stimulus prescribed in the syllabus. There are two parts to the devising coursework:

- 110–15 minute devised piece
- 3 minute self-evaluation

Candidates work in a group to prepare and perform an extract from a published play of their own choice. There is one part to the performing coursework:

- 110–25 minute scripted performance

Internally assessed and externally moderated

Component 3:

Theatre Making and Performing - 60 marks

There are two compulsory parts: devising and performing. Candidates work in a group to devise and perform a play inspired by one of the theatre practitioners, traditions or styles prescribed in the syllabus. There are two parts to the devising coursework:

- 15–20 minute group devised performance
- 800 word analysis and evaluation

Candidates individually create a programme of thematically linked materials and perform it. There is one part to the performing coursework:

- 6–8 minute individual performance

Internally assessed and externally moderated

Component 4:

Theatre in Context - 60 marks

Candidates explore performance texts, a theatre genre, a theatre practitioner's work or a performance style. There is one part to the research coursework:

- 2250–3000 words research essay

Externally assessed

RECOMMENDED ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- GCSE Drama can be an advantage but not essential.
- Some prior experience with drama or theatre (e.g. school play).
- B or above in English (Language or Literature).

WHY CHOOSE DRAMA?

- Suitable for a range of future professions and specialisms.
- Develop transferable skills: confidence and self-presentation, analytical skills, self-discipline and an ability (hopefully) to handle criticism. You will also be used to working in a team and will have developed good research skills, as most courses tend to involve a major research project or dissertation.
- Explore and develop expertise in the theory and practice of the theatre.
- Extend your creative skills (performance, set, puppetry, lighting or sound design).
- Do something different - make your working week more interesting, develop a life-long passion and stand out from the crowd.

HE & CAREER ASPIRATIONS

- In a recent study of 3 top UK universities, 60% of law undergraduates had studied Drama A-level.
- A visiting university recruiter for medical school commented that he would consider Drama A-Level as a positive additional A-level as it suggests students have the empathy and public speaking skills to work well with patients and present at conferences etc.
- As part of balanced selection, Drama & Theatre does not shut off any options and can be an advantage for a wide range of careers including (but not limited to): Medicine, Law, Business/Economics, Psychology, Literature, International Relations, Management, Languages and of course Drama and other creative industries.
- Essentially it is a great choice for anything creative; anything requiring research, empathy or collaboration and anything where you might have to actually talk to other people or consider their perspective!

Economics

COURSE CONTENT

Economics: the branch of knowledge concerned with the production, consumption, and transfer of wealth. Economics is about choice and the impact of our choices on each other. It relates to every aspect of our lives, from the decisions we make as individuals or families to the structures created by governments and firms. An economic way of thinking can help you make better choices. In Theme 1 and Theme 2 you will be introduced to the nature of economics, how markets work and why they fail. You will also consider the role of government and the UK economy. In Theme 3 and Theme 4 you will explore how businesses grow and compete, the labour market and how the government intervenes to make markets work better. You will also explore international trade, inequality within and between countries, emerging and developing economies, and the public finances. You will also have an opportunity to consider the role and impact of the financial sector.

The aims and objectives of the Pearson Edexcel Level 3 Advanced GCE in Economics A are to enable students to:

- develop an interest in, and enthusiasm for, the subject;
- appreciate the contribution of economics to the understanding of the wider economic and social environment;
- develop an understanding of a range of concepts and an ability to use those concepts in a variety of different contexts;
- use an enquiring, critical and thoughtful approach to the study of economics and develop an ability to think as an economist;
- understand that economic behaviour can be studied from a range of perspectives;
- develop analytical and quantitative skills, together with qualities and attitudes that will equip them for the challenges, opportunities and responsibilities of adult and working life.

EXAM INFORMATION

Edexcel Advanced GCE in Economics A (9EC0)

Paper 1:

Markets and business behaviour, 2 hours, 35% of the total qualification

Paper 2:

The national and global economy, 2 hours, 35% of the total qualification.

Paper 3:

Microeconomics and macroeconomics, 2 hours, 30% of the total qualification.

RECOMMENDED ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade A at both IGCSE Mathematics and IGCSE English and a fondness for conceptual thinking.

WHY CHOOSE ECONOMICS?

“Economics is fascinating to study because it is so applicable to everyday life. Why is the economy taking so long to recover from the financial crisis? Will the government be able to repay its mountain of debt? There are very few subjects that you can study during the day and see the relevance of what you’ve learned on the news at night.”

- Karen Ward Senior Global Economist, HSBC

“Economics is the most powerful of the social sciences. Its principles provide us with unparalleled analytical tools to interpret the world around us and to shine a light on all of the great challenges that face humanity – how to grow economies, tackle unemployment, grapple with environmental issues, reduce crime and even understand demographic change. If you are interested in current affairs, politics, history, business or finance, you must study economics.”

- Allister Heath, Deputy Editor, The Daily Telegraph

HE & CAREER ASPIRATIONS

Studying economics will help you develop transferable skills that will prepare you for studying at university or moving into the world of work. These include skills in data interpretation and essay writing. Suitable higher education courses include economics degrees or degrees in applied economics such as environmental economics, labour economics, public sector economics or monetary economics. You might choose to study business economics, econometrics or a business and management degree. Economics students can follow a wide range of careers in industry, commerce, finance and the civil service.

English Literature

*“We shall not cease from exploration
And the end of all our exploring will
be to arrive where we started and
know the place for the first time.”*

- T.S. ELIOT, *FOUR QUARTETS*

COURSE CONTENT

- We study eight texts over the course of the Sixth Form.
- We study four texts in each year and students will sit three exams at end of Upper Sixth; they will also prepare two coursework essays in the final months of the first year and first months of the second
- We study two units of poetry; two plays; two pre-twentieth century texts plus two novels.

EXAM INFORMATION

AQA/Oxford Literature in English:

- The assessment objectives carry equal weight within each component.
- Components are marked holistically using the same mark schemes.
- Units 1 and 2 are each worth 20% of the total marks; Units 3 and 4 (coursework) are each worth 30%.

RECOMMENDED ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Ideally a B/6 at both English (First) Language & English Literature IGCSE. Most importantly you must like to read, be challenged by it, and then enjoy writing about what you read.

WHY CHOOSE ENGLISH LITERATURE

Studying English Literature helps learners bridge the gap between the next stage of education and the world of work. We encourage our students to be:

- confident in working with information and ideas of their own and those of others;
- responsible for themselves, responsive to, and respectful of others;
- innovative and equipped for new and future challenges;
- engaged both intellectually and socially and ready to make a difference.

Successful Literature students develop a lifelong understanding and enjoyment of literary texts, and, importantly, gain a range of essential skills including:

- the ability to write clearly and effectively
- the ability to develop arguments
- the ability to research and manage information
- the ability to analyse complex texts in different forms and styles.

HE & CAREER ASPIRATIONS

Literature is a preferred entry requirement for professions such as: law, journalism, politics, media, marketing and advertising. It is a future proof qualification that shows clear evidence of research and creative personal engagement.

As A-level English teachers, we aim to make our students better readers, writers, listeners, and speakers. We encourage them not merely to read for literal meaning, but to think critically and interpretively about an author’s audience, background, purpose, and rhetorical strategies. Put simply - we learn to take pleasure in the construction of a writer’s imagination.

We teach students to read a wide range of essays, novels, plays and poems. They learn to write not only by adhering to conventions of rhetoric, spelling, grammar, and paragraph structure, but also by finding and displaying their emerging voices in compositions that express clear, distinctive ideas.

We teach our students to proofread, edit, and revise their work. They learn the principles of research; how to actively weigh the quality of sources and accurately document those sources.

We strive to shape our classroom into seminars where groups of students pay close attention to texts, learn to make perceptive contributions to class discussion and listen to each other while inquisitively sharing responses to literature. In a climate of collaboration and respect, our students learn how to think, write, and speak independently with logic, conviction, and imagination.



Extended Project Qualification

COURSE CONTENT

WHAT IS IT?

The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) is designed to give students the opportunity to undertake independent research. Everyone who completes an EPQ submits a production log, a written report and does a presentation. In addition, students can choose to make an artefact such as a dress, a play or a computer programme. Those doing only the written dissertation write a 5,000-word research report (the word count is reduced if an artefact forms part of the project). It provides a level 3 qualification equivalent to half an A-level and consequently it is possible to attain an A* which carries a value of 28 UCAS points. The best projects are often considered to be as good as a University dissertation.

WHAT SKILLS ARE TAUGHT?

Students choose a topic of interest to them and then pose a research question or design brief which will be answered through the medium of the project. Some of the key skills taught include:

- developing an idea into a research question and managing a research project.
- Learning to write in a formal and critical style
- Learning how to research literature and evaluating the credibility of sources.
- Learning how to use the Harvard system of citation presentation skills.

HOW IS THE COURSE STRUCTURED? There are two strands to the course. The first strand is learning how to do a project and is delivered in one timetabled lessons per week. The second strand is individual supervision: once the research question has been chosen, the teacher takes on the role of project supervisor providing a combination of small group and individual supervision and support. Much of the EPQ is completed in the student's own time, so a good work ethic and a high level of organisation is a pre-requisite for this course. The course begins in the September of the Lower Sixth and students are given the opportunity to develop their initial ideas into a research question or design brief before the formal skills and supervision sessions commence. All students should submit their projects for assessment in the April of Lower Sixth.

WHAT TOPIC CAN BE CHOSEN?

The topic of the research can be anything, but should involve a problem solved through research rather than a simple descriptive account. It could be an area of personal interest or related to a future university course. Typically, students opt to answer their research question through a dissertation style report, but increasing numbers create their own brief to produce an artefact accompanied by a shorter report. There has been an extremely diverse range of topics in recent years including dissertation discussing:

- To what extent has the USA breached the rights of Guantanamo Bay detainees in terms of living conditions, legal matters and interrogation?
- What interpretation of quantum mechanics is most valid in the explanation of the Schrodinger's Cat Paradox?
- To what extent do psychopaths adhere to the modern values of UK citizenship?

And artefacts:

- 'Evacuated from Home.' A novel following those evacuated from Gibraltar to England.
- A painting reflecting the cultural experience of 1st generation British Indian women influenced by the artists, Amrita Sher-Gil and Bikash Bhattacharjee.
- A Business Plan for the Thoroughbred Racing industry.
- 'Dream In Manipulation'- A Graphic novel in the traditional black-and-white manga style.
- 'Le Monstre Glouglou'- A children's storybook in French.
- 'Grayce's Place'- A Musical on the personification of death.

WHO CAN DO AN EPQ?

It is open to anyone with strong GCSE qualifications although a strong work ethic as well as self-discipline are essential. Students report that it proves very valuable and is a contributing factor towards the offer of a place. Universities are very interested in the EPQ and some are making reduced offers if an EPQ is successfully completed. The EPQ adds a strong intellectual dimension to the personal statement, students can talk at interviews about their research and they are far better prepared for the demands made on them when they eventually enter university.

Geography

COURSE CONTENT

“Geography is not only up-to-date and relevant, it is one of the most exciting, adventurous, and valuable subjects to study today. So many of the world’s problems boil down to Geography, and need the geographers of the future to help us understand them.”

-Michael Palin, President of Royal Geographical Society

Global warming; food and energy security; water conflicts; the degradation of land and soils from overuse and misuse; the spread of disease; the causes and consequences of migration; and the impacts of economic change on places and communities. These are just some of the challenges facing current and future generations, which geographers must help to overcome. Students are also encouraged to participate in essay competitions, such as the Royal Geographical Society’s Young Geographer of the Year; Cambridge Humanities Writing Competition; and Oxford’s Stanton Essay Prize.

EXAM INFORMATION

Candidates for **CIE AS Level Geography** study the following topics:

Core Physical Geography

- Hydrology and fluvial geomorphology
- Atmosphere and weather
- Rocks and weathering

Core Human Geography

- Population
- Migration
- Settlement dynamics

Candidates for **CIE A Level Geography** study the AS Level topics and **two** options from:

Advanced Physical Geography Options

- Coastal environments
- Hazardous environments
- Hot arid and semi-arid environments

and two options from:

Advanced Human Geography Options

- Production, location and change
- Environmental management
- Global interdependence
- Economic transition

REQUIRED ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

B grade at GCSE Geography; B grade at GCSE Maths and Sciences.

WHY CHOOSE GEOGRAPHY?

Geographers are highly employable due to the wide variety of skills that they have developed and it is often those skills that have been developed, rather than the subject knowledge itself, that leads geographers into those jobs. Through studying Geography, students develop skills that include: essay-writing; problem-solving; numerical analysis; spatial data analysis; self-management; presenting; computer modelling; data collection; creative thinking through debating moral and ethical issues; articulating abstract concepts; teamwork; and ICT. Fieldwork is an essential part of the A-level course, which is why we travel to Langkawi for a few days each year. Here, students enjoy experiencing and studying the coastal landscape, while also appreciating the changes that have occurred to the human environment in recent years and the changes that are currently occurring.

HE & CAREER ASPIRATIONS

The Russell Group names Geography as one of the eight facilitating A-level subjects. This is a subject most likely to be required or preferred for entry to degree courses and choosing facilitating subjects will keep more options open to students at university. Some students use Geography as an extra science subject; some use it as an extra arts subject; while others use it to bridge a combination of both sciences and arts. The Telegraph newspaper identified Geography as one of ten “recession-proof” subjects at university, due to the wide range of skills that are developed and, as a consequence, the low unemployment rate amongst Geography graduates. These skills are highly sought after by companies and Geography graduates enter a wide range of fields on completion of university. Geography graduates enter a wide range of professions: law, accountancy, banking, journalism, publishing, administration, retailing, education, resource management - the list is almost limitless. Overall, Geography is renowned for its academic robustness and for helping young people into the world of work.



History

COURSE CONTENT

A-level History provides a broad, coherent and satisfying course of study for students. The specification requires student to study:

- The history of more than one country or state or the history of more than one period.
- Aspects of the past in breadth, through periods or themes.
- Significant individuals, societies, events, developments and issues within a broad historical context.
- Developments affecting different groups within the societies studied.
- A range of appropriate historical perspectives, for example: aesthetic; cultural; economic; ethnic; political; religious; scientific; social or technological.
- It contains a substantial British History requirement and a study of Russian History covering more than 100 years.
- It promotes an understanding of change and development over time.
- The Historical Enquiry unit is deliberately left until late in the course, when students have the intellectual maturity to benefit fully from the exercise, which will also prepare students for progression to higher education.

A-level assessment is a combination of a written examination and a piece of coursework which is internally marked and externally moderated.

EXAM INFORMATION

AQA A-level History (7042)

Paper 1: Breadth Study - Tsarist and Communist Russia (1855-1964)

This option allows students to study in breadth issues of change, continuity, cause and consequence in this period through the following key questions:

- How was Russia governed and how did political authority change and develop?
- Why did opposition develop and how effective was it?
- How and with what results did the economy develop and change? What was the extent of social and cultural change?
- How important were ideas and ideology?

- How important was the role of individuals and groups and how were they affected by developments.

Assessment:

Written Paper, 2 hours 30 minutes, 80 marks, 40% of final grade.

- One compulsory question linked to historical interpretations (30 marks)
- Two essay questions from a choice of three (25 marks each)

Paper 2: Depth Study - The Making of Modern Britain (1951-2007)

This option provides for the study in depth of the key political, economic, social and international changes which helped to mould Britain in the second half of the 20th century. It explores concepts such as government and opposition, class, social division and cultural change. It encourages students to reflect on Britain's changing place in the world as well as the interrelationship between political policies, economic developments and political survival.

Assessment:

Written Paper, 2 hours 30 minutes, 80 marks, 40% of final grade

- One compulsory question linked to primary sources (30 marks)
- Two essay questions from a choice of three (25 marks each)

Paper 3: Historical Investigation

A personal study based on a question of the students' choice. This should take the form of a question in the context of approximately 100 years. This year, students focused on the role of government during the Tudor period.

Assessment:

Coursework essay 3000-3500 words (40 marks)
Marked by teachers and moderated by AQAQA

RECOMMENDED ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Ideally B grade or above at GCSE History and B in English GCSE.

WHY CHOOSE HISTORY?

Key Skills

The ideal student has recently been defined as someone who is adaptive, responsible and reflective, as well as having high level analytical and problem solving skills. A number of key skills have been identified which have both intrinsic value and are regarded by employers as vital for the workplace.

- Communication (verbal and written).
- Analytical skills.
- The use of management information technology.
- Learning to learn; improving one's own learning and performance; working with others.
- Numeracy/ application of numbers.

Learning History, Learning Skills

History places particular stress on the development of independent thought and analytical skills, and requires excellent communication skills, namely high levels of literacy and oral presentation. Consequently, students following history courses will be expected to do a great deal of independent work and independent thinking, as well as a good deal of reading and writing. You have to present the results of research both in independent work and in the context of group discussions. The need to come to terms with unfamiliar periods and areas facilitates reflective and adaptable skills, empathy and imaginative insight within critical and methodological constraints. Learning to understand the political forces behind the development of Britain in the 20th Century or the Russian peasant in Russia is not only fascinating in itself, but a complex exercise and nurtures multiple skills, not least enabling you to learn to understand unfamiliar cultures and belief systems. These topics are therefore as relevant in terms of skills as the most recent history of your own country. In making your choices you should bear these factors in mind. For those who come convinced that only Twentieth Century History is relevant, think again!

You are required to master a variety of concepts in both halves of the course, in different formats, learning to deal with a wide intellectual and cultural range. Courses vary from general overviews at one extreme, to in-depth primary-source studies at the other. The former encourages understanding of historical process, with its mix of continuity and change; the latter sharpens the analysis of documentary and other material, developing research methods.

The History course requires students to interact with the political as well as social; early modern as well as contemporary; history of ideas as much as history of events. Each level, each topic, provides specific tasks and stretches the student in a different direction. Collectively, they reinforce each other and nurture the acquisition of complementary skills. History A-levels aims to widen the student's experience and develop qualities of perception and judgement, while fostering intellectual independence, sharpness and maturity

HE & CAREER ASPIRATIONS

History is an adaptable subject and therefore suits many careers, here are a few:

- Heritage manager.
- Historic buildings inspector or conservation officer.
- Museum education officer.
- Museum or gallery curator.
- Museum or gallery exhibitions officer.
- Secondary school teacher Academic librarian
- Archaeologist.
- Archivist.
- Broadcast journalist.
- Civil Service administrator.
- Editorial assistant Information officer.
- PPC specialist.
- Politician's assistant.
- Solicitor.
- Law.

Mandarin Chinese

COURSE CONTENT

A Level Chinese aims to:

- develop the ability to understand Chinese from a variety of registers
- enable students to communicate confidently and clearly in Chinese
- form a sound base of skills, language and attitudes required for further study, work and leisure
- develop insights into the culture and civilisation of the countries where Chinese is spoken, including the study of literary texts where appropriate
- encourage positive attitudes to language learning and a sympathetic approach to other cultures and civilisations
- support intellectual and personal development by promoting learning and social skills.

EXAM INFORMATION - CIE

All textual material used in the examinations will be drawn from the topic areas below, with reference to the country or countries where Chinese is spoken.

- Human relationships
- Family
- Generation gap
- Young people
- Patterns of daily life
- Urban and rural life
- The media
- Food and drink
- Law and order
- Philosophy and belief
- Health and fitness
- Work and leisure
- Equality of opportunity
- Employment and unemployment
- Sport
- Free time activities
- Travel and tourism
- Education
- Cultural life/heritage
- War and peace
- Social and economic development
- Scientific and medical advances
- Technological innovation
- Environment
- Conservation
- Pollution
- Contemporary aspects of the country or countries where Chinese is spoken

Students are required to study the set texts below.

1. Selected poems by Gu Cheng 顾城诗选
The following poems are to be studied:
《远和近》 / 《一代人》 / 《感觉》 / 《弧线》 / 《案件》 / 《生命幻想曲》 / 《摄》 / 《我是一座小城》 / 《自信》 / 《我们去寻找一盏灯》 / 《简历》 / 《不是再见》 / 《回家》 / 《我是一个任性的孩子》
2. "Shanghai wuyan xxia" by Xia Yan
《上海屋檐下》 夏衍
3. "Liuqing"/"Fengsuo" by Zhang Ailing
《留情》 张爱玲
《封锁》 张爱玲
4. "Hong Gaoliang Jijiazhu" by Mo Yan
《红高粱家族》 莫言
Chapter one to be studied 第一章 《红高粱》
5. "Bian Cheng" by Shen Congwen
《边城》 沈从文
6. "Taipei ren" by Pai Hsien-yung
《台北人》 白先勇
The following stories to be studied:
《永远的尹雪艳》 / 《冬夜》

RECOMMENDED ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

B Grade or above at GCSE First language

WHY CHOOSE A LEVEL CHINESE

Skills gained:

- the ability to communicate confidently and clearly in Chinese
- a sound understanding of the nature of language study, and of the skills and abilities required for further study, work and leisure
- insight into the culture and contemporary society of countries where Chinese is spoken
- better integration into communities where Chinese is spoken
- a positive attitude towards language learning, towards the speakers of other languages, and towards other cultures and societies
- skills which can be used in other areas of learning, such as analysis and memory skills.



Mathematics & Further Mathematics

COURSE CONTENT

The breadth of the applicability of mathematics is enormous, and for a large number of degree courses an A-level in Mathematics is an essential or desirable qualification. The study of Mathematics offers opportunities for creativity, team-working and communication, and for many careers it is the ability to explain complicated concepts clearly to a nonmathematical audience that is in demand.

EXAM INFORMATION

This is a two year linear course (Edexcel) and will be assessed in the Summer of the Upper Sixth. There is no coursework component.

**A-level Maths consists of 3 papers:
Course code (9MA0)**

Paper 1: Pure Mathematics 1

- 33%, 2 hours, 100 marks

Paper 2: Pure Mathematics 2

- 33%, 2 hours, 100 marks

Paper 3: Statistics and Mechanics

- 33%, 2 hours, 100 marks
- Section A: Statistics 50 marks
- Section B: Mechanics 50 marks

**A-level Further Maths consists of 4 papers:
Course code 9FM0**

Paper 1: Further Pure Mathematics 1

- 25%, 1 hour 30 mins, 75 marks

Paper 2: Further Pure Mathematics 2

- 25%, 1 hour 30 mins, 75 marks

Students will have a choice of two of three optional papers:

Further Statistics 1, Further Mechanics 1 and Further Pure Mathematics 1

Paper 3: FM Option 1

- 25%, 1 hour 30 mins, 75 marks

Paper 4: FM Option 2

- 25%, 1 hour 30 mins, 75 marks

RECOMMENDED ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Minimum of grade 7 at IGCSE Maths and a love for the subject.

WHY CHOOSE MATHEMATICS & FURTHER MATHEMATICS?

The skills gained from studying a science, technology, engineering or mathematics (STEM) subject at A-level or degree level are in demand by employers. Graduates with STEM degrees earn on average 5% to 10% higher salaries than the mean for all graduates.

A wide range of STEM and non-STEM subjects are underpinned by mathematics. Having a broad mathematical knowledge and secure technical ability will help the transition from sixth-form to higher education. Together with good mathematical skills, employers are looking for the ability to work in a team, communicate effectively and show initiative.

Find out more: <http://www.mathscareers.org.uk/>

HE & CAREER ASPIRATIONS

A-level Mathematics - a "facilitating" subject

"Mathematics & Further Mathematics are "facilitating" subjects. This means they are among a list of A-level subjects which are asked for most frequently by universities."

- Source: <https://www.mathscareers.org.uk/degree-courses-a-level-mathematics/>

Mathematics & Further Mathematics are an adaptable subject and therefore suit many careers, here are a few:

- Mathematician.
- Engineer.
- Statistician.
- Analyst.
- Programmer.
- Accountant.
- Astronaut.
- Professor.
- Finance.
- Teacher.

Modern Languages

COURSE CONTENT

INTRODUCTION

The ability to speak another language and to communicate with those from other cultures is an ever-growing expectation in a world in which geographical distances are reduced by technology and media, and Epsom College prides itself on reflecting its international outlook in the teaching of Modern Languages. In the employment market, a second or even third language, and the associated increase in cultural awareness, are often the factors which make an applicant stand out. Therefore, combined courses with a language are increasingly popular and have become more common at universities in recent years. A degree in Modern language combined with other subjects can lead to a wide spectrum of careers, for example in Law (especially Commercial Law), International Banking or Finance, Accountancy, Business, Exports, the Foreign Office, the Armed Services etc., indeed any walk of life which has an international dimension. Applicants for such jobs are often asked to give details of any foreign languages they speak and their degree of expertise in them and, in some cases, it might well be a prerequisite for an interview. Our mission is to teach languages as a life-long skill, which will be a practical help to all, and an academic inspiration.

Studying real-life cultures and the writings they inspire provides a unique understanding of their society, our own and the one of French or Spanish speaking countries, its past, present and possible future evolution.

The topics require students to develop and express their opinions on a varied range of topics pertaining to the fields of Politics, History, Ethics, the Arts (literature, media and music).

EXAMINATION BOARDS

- Pearson/EDEXCEL A-Level French
- Pearson/EDEXCEL A-Level Spanish

RECOMMENDED ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

All courses are a natural progression from GCSE courses, and a strong grade at GCSE/IGCSE will enable students to find their feet quickly. A keen interest in all aspects of the culture and the country studied, as well as in current affairs, are essential to a candidate's success.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

- Enhancing your linguistic skills and develop your capacity for critical thinking on the basis of knowledge and understanding of the language, culture and society of the country or countries where the language is spoken.
- Developing control of the language system to convey meaning, using spoken and written skills, including an extended range of vocabulary, for both practical and intellectual purposes as increasingly confident, accurate and independent users of the language.
- Engaging critically with intellectually stimulating texts, films and other materials in the original language, developing an appreciation of sophisticated and creative uses of the language and understanding them within their cultural and social context.
- Developing knowledge about matters central to the society and culture, past and present, of the country or countries where the language is spoken.
- Gaining transferable skills such as autonomy, resourcefulness, creativity, critical thinking, and linguistic, cultural and cognitive flexibility that will enable you to proceed to further study or employment.

COURSE CONTENT

All courses will develop comprehension and production skills, as well as increase cultural awareness. The main content of each course is set out as follows:

FRENCH

- Theme 1: Les changements dans la société française.
- Theme 2: La culture politique et artistique dans les pays francophones.
- Theme 3: L'immigration et la société multiculturelle française.
- Theme 4: L'Occupation et la Résistance.
- One film and one literary text in French, such as La Haine and Un sac de billes.

SPANISH

- Theme 1: La evolución de la sociedad española.
- Theme 2: La cultura política y artística en el mundo hispanohablante.
- Theme 3: La inmigración y la sociedad multicultural española.
- Theme 4: La dictadura franquista y la transición a la democracia.
- One film and one literary text in Spanish, such as Todo sobre mi madre and El coronel no tiene quien le escriba.



Politics

COURSE CONTENT

Any student who wants a full understanding of the world around them should consider Politics as an A-level subject. Consider the following:

- Is the UK actually democratic?
- Who should have the final say: politicians or judges?
- Why can't the UN manage to solve global crises?
- Which is the biggest threat facing the world today: climate change or terrorism?

The issues addressed in the A-level Politics course are the same as those facing the world today. On this basis, students gain an invaluable understanding of life beyond school and university. As well as knowledge of key political issues, students are trained in key transferable skills of debate and discussion, analysis of complex information and building a strong argument.

EXAM INFORMATION

Edexcel Politics (9PLO)

Component 1:

UK Politics - Written examination:

2 hours, 33.5% of the qualification, 84 marks.

Content overview:

Political Participation:

Students will study democracy and participation, political parties, electoral systems, voting behaviour and the media.

Core Political Ideas:

Students will study conservatism, liberalism, socialism.

Assessment overview:

Section A:

Political Participation One

30-mark question from a choice of two (each question uses a source) – students must complete one of these. Plus one 30-mark question from a choice of two.

Section B:

Core Political Ideas One 24-mark question from a choice of two.

Component 2:

UK Government - Written examination:

2 hours, 33.5% of the qualification, 84 marks

Content overview:

UK Government:

Students will study the constitution, parliament, Prime Minister and executive, relationships between the branches.

Non-core Political Ideas:

Students will study one idea from the following: anarchism, ecologism, feminism, multiculturalism, nationalism.

Assessment overview:

Section A:

UK Government One (30-mark) question from a choice of two (each question uses a source) – students must complete one of these. Plus one 30-mark question from a choice of two – students must complete one of these.

Section B:

Non-core Political Ideas One 24-mark question from a choice of two.

Component 3:

Comparative Politics (Global Politics option) -

Written examination:

2 hours, 33.5% of the qualification, 84 marks.

Content overview:

Students who study Global Politics will study sovereignty and globalisation, global governance: political and economic, global governance: human rights and environmental, power and developments, regionalism and the European Union, comparative theories.

Assessment overview:

- Section A: One 12-mark question from a choice of two.
- Section B: One compulsory 12-mark question focused on comparative theories.
- Section C: Two 30-mark questions from a choice of three.

RECOMMENDED ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

A grade B in English and a study of GCSE History would be desirable but not necessary.

WHY CHOOSE

Students will:

- Develop knowledge and an informed understanding of contemporary political structures and issues in their historical context, both within the United Kingdom (UK) and globally.
- Develop a critical awareness of the changing nature of politics and the relationships between political ideas, institutions and processes.
- Develop knowledge and an informed understanding of the influences and interests which have an impact on decisions in government and politics.
- Develop knowledge and an informed understanding of the rights and responsibilities of individuals and groups.
- Develop the ability to critically analyse, interpret and evaluate political information to form arguments and make judgements.
- Develop an interest in, and engagement with, contemporary politics.

HE & CAREER ASPIRATIONS

As a Politics student there will be many job options available to you when you graduate, both inside and outside the political world. Your studies will teach you how to be analytical, develop your writing and research ability, boost your confidence in expressing opinions articulately, provide political knowledge and deepen your understanding of human psychology and society. All of these things are invaluable to a range of employers, across many sectors. However, just because you study politics doesn't mean that you have to work in politics: 60% of graduates are in jobs not directly related to their degree subject. As a Politics student your grasp of psychology and society could fit you for a management trainee scheme, your writing skills for journalism or advertising, or your ability to construct an argument for law. More importantly, however, your studies will help you to develop into an active citizen, with the knowledge and enthusiasm to engage with the political system and make a difference in the world around you.

Some possible career paths:

- Civil Service fast streamer Government social research officer Politician's assistant.
- Public affairs consultant.
- Public relations account executive Social researcher.
- Charity officer.
- Diplomatic Services operational officer.
- Forensic accountant.
- Human resources officer.
- Local government officer.
- Market researcher.
- Marketing executive.
- Newspaper journalist.
- Public relations officer.
- Stockbroker.

Physical Education

COURSE CONTENT

Physical Education at A level standard is a fantastic mix of many different aspects, from physics, chemistry, maths and biology to psychology, marketing, analysis and critical thinking all with the focus on physical activities, sports, sports science as well as developing and promoting a healthy lifestyle. The focus throughout the course is on the development of knowledge, application of knowledge, competence and confidence in a wide variety of skills. The course will help students learn how Physical Education affects and contributes to society and also how to apply your knowledge from this course to any number of different practical situations or career choices.

EXAM INFORMATION- EDEXCEL AQA A-level Physical Education 7582

There are 3 parts to this subject.

Paper 1: Factors affecting participation in physical activity and sport

What's assessed

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

How it's assessed

- Written exam: 2 hours
- 105 marks
- 35% of A-level

Questions

- Section A: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing (35 marks)
- Section B: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing (35 marks)
- Section C: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing (35 marks)

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

What's assessed

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

How it's assessed

- Written exam: 2 hours
- 105 marks
- 35% of A-level

Questions

- Section A: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing (35 marks)
- Section B: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing (35 marks)
- Section C: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing (35 marks)

Non-exam assessment: Practical performance in physical activity and sport

What's assessed

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

How it's assessed

- Internal assessment, external moderation
- 90 marks
- 30% of A-level

RECOMMENDED ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

IGCSE PE and an interest in sport.

WHY CHOOSE

Studying PE at A level will help the students gain a deeper understanding of the science behind sport. The level and knowledge of science required is a significant step up from IGCSE level but this will aid their grasp of what is needed for continued improvements in their sport of choice. The knowledge students will gain from a course such as this will only grow in importance and relevance. The focus on being active and the issues surrounding obesity are currently very topical and the in-depth knowledge students will gain from this course will assist them not just for the duration of this course, but also as the building blocks to living a well balanced, healthy life. The mental aspect of sport and physical activity must also not be overlooked and this is a key focus in the course. The transferable skills you learn, such as decision making and independent thinking, working in a team environment, performance analysis and communication are useful in any career path you choose to take. Students considering Sports Science degrees should combine PE with at least one science

subject.

HE & CAREER ASPIRATIONS

PE is adaptable for many different careers but is also good to help build awareness for a healthy lifestyle and for those wishing to pursue a career as a professional sports person. Some of the careers are:

- PE Teacher.
- Physiotherapist.
- Professional sports person.
- Sports journalist.
- Health and Nutrition consultant.
- Sports Coach or consultant.
- Video analyst.
- Personal trainer.
- Sports management.



Physics

COURSE CONTENT

Unlike the other sciences, Physics has no limits. Everything in your life, on this planet, on other planets, to the far reaches of this universe and beyond is in physics' job description. Physics deals with the big questions: are there parallel universes? Will we ever travel back in time? What is dark matter?

EXAM INFORMATION- EDEXCEL

The course contains the following units:

Unit 1: Mechanics and Materials

Unit 2: Waves and Electricity

Unit 3: Practical Skills in Physics Knowledge and understanding of experimental procedures and techniques that were developed in Units 1 and 2.

Unit 4: Further Mechanics, Fields and Particles

Unit 5: Thermodynamics, Radiation, Oscillations and Cosmology

Unit 6: Practical Skills in Physics II

- Units 1, 2, 4 and 5 are assessed by written examination, each are 90 minutes and worth 20% of the A Level.
- Units 2 and 6 are assessed by written examinations, each are 80 minutes and worth 10% of the A Level.
- Each paper assesses the knowledge and understanding of the experimental procedures and techniques that were developed in Units 1 and 2 or Units 4 and 5 respectively.

Practical Endorsement

You will also be required to complete a series of 'core practicals' and demonstrate a level of competency when doing investigative work. This is compulsory to successfully completing the course.

RECOMMENDED ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade 6 in both Physics and Mathematics at IGCSE

WHY CHOOSE

Do you want to investigate the limits of space, the beginning of time and everything in between? How about understanding how the technology around you works? Want to save the planet or maybe just help people get better when they are ill? Or maybe you just want to earn lots of money? Whatever you do, the

knowledge and skills you gain by studying physics will be useful. Physics is more than a subject – it trains your brain to think beyond boundaries.

Many students choose to combine physics with one of the other sciences such as chemistry or biology, while others who are thinking of becoming an engineer or architect combine physics with design-technology or art.

HE & CAREER ASPIRATIONS

Physics is a seriously useful subject for the majority of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) careers and you'll find physicists everywhere, in industry, transport, government, universities, the armed forces, the secret service, games companies, research labs and more.

Physics is especially helpful for jobs that involve building things and developing new technologies, including: engineering (flight, buildings, space, you name it...), astronomy, robotics, renewable energies, computer science, communications, space exploration, science writing, sports and games technology, research and nanotechnology (that's engineering on a seriously tiny molecular scale).

Physics is highly valued by universities as an A-level choice. The Russell Group names Physics as one of the eight facilitating subjects. This is a subject most likely to be required or preferred for entry to degree courses and choosing facilitating subjects will keep more options open to you at university. In fact, physics is second to only mathematics in required subjects for degree courses (according to the Russell Group's guide entitled Subjects Required for Different Degree Courses).

Psychology

COURSE CONTENT

Psychology A-Level will provide insights into motivations, thought process, the influences of groups you interact with and many other aspects of human behaviour that will ultimately help you gain a better understanding of yourself. This course covers social, cognitive, biological, clinical and child psychology as well as learning theories.

Students will develop a range of skills including research, essay writing, communication, data analysis and evaluation skills. Students can go on to study a range of subjects at university having studied this subject to A-Level.

EXAM INFORMATION

You will be assessed at the end of the Sixth Form.

Assessments will be done by external examinations as follows:

Paper 1: Foundation in Psychology

Written examination: 2 hours (90 marks)

35% of the total qualification

- Topic 1: Social Psychology
- Topic 2: Cognitive Psychology
- Topic 3: Biological Psychology
- Topic 4: Learning Theories

Externally assessed

Paper 2: Application of Psychology

Written examination: 2 hours (90 marks)

35% of the total qualification

- Topic 6: Criminological Psychology
- Topic 7: Child Psychology
- Topic 8: Health Psychology

Externally assessed

Paper 3: Psychological Skills

Written examination: 2 hours (80 marks)

30% of the total qualification

- Topic 9: Psychological Skills

Externally assessed

RECOMMENDED ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

None at all.

WHY CHOOSE PSYCHOLOGY?

Psychology sheds light on human behaviour and helps us understand why we act the way we do. The field offers insights into our human experiences, helps us connect with others, and can mean the difference between a life well-lived and a life of challenges.

HE & CAREER ASPIRATIONS

There is so much we don't know about human behaviour and the brain that powers it. The more we understand the human brain, the more we can unlock our potential as well as appreciate other animals and even plant life.

Psychology is integral to other fields—for instance artificial intelligence and cognitive science. Learning about how the brain processes data, responds to stimuli, and takes in information can help us build efficient machines with human-like characteristics. Some specialisms within psychology offer insight into human well-being within communities; these include, but are not limited to, clinical psychology, psychological counselling, educational psychology, forensic psychology, occupational psychology, sport and exercise psychology.



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