



THE crest
T A C A D E M Y

SIXTH FORM

OPTION CHOICES

2017-2018

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INTRODUCTION TO THE SIXTH FORM FROM THE DIRECTOR OF KS5

We hope that the two years you will spend in the sixth form will be stimulating, challenging and rewarding. Much greater independence is offered to, and expected from you, both in terms of academic study and within daily life at The Crest Academy. Also there are many opportunities for you to assume positions of responsibility either within your year group, house or extra-curricular activities. You will notice significant changes in the style of teaching and learning and the tutorial system compared to your previous experiences. These changes, allied with the collaboration with The Crest Academy will prepare you for the challenges of moving to university life.

The examination landscape is changing, and you, as students who begin their AS/A levels in 2017, are still in the vanguard of this change. In most, but not all, A level subjects, the AS and A level exams have been decoupled. This means that the marks achieved in sitting the AS level no longer count towards your final A level mark. Instead, AS material is re-tested at the end of year 13 and your final grade will be based on this set of exams alone.

At the Crest Academy we intend to enter all students for AS exams in all their subjects, for several reasons. First, not all subjects have changed, so in some, such as maths, the AS will still count towards a final grade and therefore is still taken in year 12 as previously. Second, a good set of AS level grades on your UCAS form is something universities have said they still wish to see. Finally, if AS levels were only taken in the subject you wished to finish at the end of year 12, you would be locked in to this decision with no flexibility to change your mind at a later date!

We expect the vast majority of our students to opt to study four subjects at AS with enrichment lessons which augment these in preparation for university study. Year 12 courses are taught with an allocation of five periods per subject. We recommend that the subjects chosen should complement each other and should not be too narrowly focused. AS/A2 general studies is also available to students alongside a variety of other enrichment options.

In year 13 most students opt to take three subjects forward to A level. A few students every year opt to study four A level subjects, but only after consultation with the Director of Sixth Form, Assistant Vice Principal KS5 Achievement and subject staff.

Admission to the sixth form depends on a sound performance in GCSE; we expect our students to gain at least 5 grade Cs overall which should include maths, English and to achieve good grades (i.e. at least a B grade) in the subjects chosen for AS/A level where applicable.

Life in the sixth form demands a commitment to work, self-discipline, good time management, energy and a sincere interest in the subjects you have decided to study. There will be time every week when you are expected to use the library or a quiet study space to work independently, to research topics outside the taught specification. This more independent style of study is a preparation for life at university.

The sixth form, as the final phase of your education at The Crest Academy, is a fantastic time for the development of self and intellectual curiosity. At The Crest Academy the staff are always pleased to engage in debate, offer help, suggest reading and support initiatives - the advice offered by one of the recent group of year 13 leavers rings very true "Keep on top of the work, make the most of all the opportunities and enjoy all of it, because it goes quickly!".

This booklet contains information on all the courses currently on offer in the sixth form. We try to timetable students' choices as far as possible but occasionally the options do not fit and we will ask you to select an alternative subject. To enable the option lines to be created and the staffing to be assessed, we would like the options form completed and returned by the date indicated (or in the case of external candidates, with your acceptance of the provisional place offered). Please use the advice available from subject teachers and form tutors when making your decisions.

We are looking forward to you entering the sixth form and hope that you truly enjoy and make the most of it. We know that you are going to thrive in the sixth form at The Crest Academy and will be prepared for university life and beyond.

Vanessa McCrossen
Director of Key Stage 5

INTRODUCTION TO THE SIXTH FORM BY THE AVP KS5 PROGRESS

Joining the sixth form at The Crest Academy marks the start of the next stage in your education. It is an exciting time, full of new challenges and opportunities, during which you make the transition from school pupil to independent learner. The subjects that you choose should be ones that you really enjoy, as it is a time of intensive study. You will have the opportunity to explore ideas in greater depth than ever before, using the many resources available to you. You will develop a new relationship with your teachers, who are there to direct you in your studies and to help you to achieve your full potential.

More than this, the sixth form will give you the opportunity to develop new interests and engage in a variety of extra-curricular activities. There are many extra-curricular and leadership opportunities for sixth form students, some of which run jointly with external agencies. Whatever your interests, there is something for everyone.

You will also be given the opportunity to organise clubs and societies for younger pupils, which will help to develop leadership and communication skills. In the sixth form, you are expected to set a good example to younger members of the Academy. You will have more freedom and certain privileges, but these demand from you more responsibility, greater self-discipline and personal integrity. It is these qualities we look for in our sixth form leadership team.

During the two years you spend here, you will be thinking about your plans for higher education and future employment. It is essential that you take advantage of all the information and advice offered by the sixth form team. You will be encouraged to attend university open days, taster courses and careers talks, and to undertake relevant work experience where appropriate. Most of you will apply for admission to university in year 13 and you will be guided through the UCAS application procedure.

Your time in the sixth form should enable you to develop both intellectually and socially. We hope that you will achieve considerable academic success, and acquire the confidence to enter the adult world as a responsible citizen. The sixth form will enable you to practise the skills that you will need when you leave full time education, whilst still having the support of your teachers and friends. We look forward to overseeing your development, sharing in your progress and celebrating your achievements.

Mr P Morgan
Assistant Vice Principal KS5 Progress and Pedagogy

Main Subjects

ART AND DESIGN

Profile of an artist

- A highly self-motivated and creative individual
- A talented artist with a good eye for detail
- Prepared for a challenge and committed to the cause of art
- Literate and able to express yourself in both visual and written forms

Skills required

- Confidence in your drawing and good hand-eye co-ordination
- Critical analysis
- Independent, intelligent and creative thinking
- Time management!

What is expected?

You will be required to undertake self-directed and tutor led practical and theoretical work, connecting your ideas with the work of artists and designers past and present. You will be expected to manage your own time and work independently through the guidance of individual tutorials and workshops. You will be required to source some of your own materials and to visit exhibitions in your own time. It is essential to put in extra studio time, beyond timetabled lessons.

Why study art?

To study art at A level is excellent preparation for the independent learning required by higher education courses. It can be a complementary addition to other subjects and may ensure you stand out from the crowd.

The creative industries are some of the largest growth areas of the economy. There is a broad range of career prospects for someone with a creative background. Design careers span graphic, interior, product, 3D/furniture, jewellery, glass, textiles and fashion. Other careers could be: architect, curator, artist, teacher, auctioneer, photographer, ceramicist and many more. Art foundation courses can provide a stepping stone to a wide range of other courses.

- For architecture, consider maths and physics.
- For the history of art and fine art courses, consider classical studies and history.
- To study as a designer you may consider languages, economics, psychology or geography.

The art teachers are always on hand to help or advise.

BIOLOGY

The AS and A level biology courses involve the study of the structure of living organisms and their fundamental processes. The topics are varied and extend on those studied at GCSE as well as introducing new areas such as biochemistry, cell organisation and immunology. If you enjoyed biology at GCSE, this could be the subject for you.

Skills needed

- Enthusiasm and commitment
- An enquiring mind – you always want to know why!
- An interest in living things and the environment
- A willingness to learn detailed information and apply your knowledge in new contexts
- An aptitude for practical work

Type of work

Each group is taught by two teachers. The lessons involve both theory and practical work and you will use different study skills including making notes, preparing information for presentations, planning, executing and writing up experiments. You will be expected to revise for tests at the end of each topic and be able to apply your knowledge in short structured questions as well as longer essay-type questions. In order to further your knowledge, you should be prepared to read around the subject. You will develop your microscope skills by observing specimens and drawing diagrams.

The course

The new course builds on the biology that you have studied at GCSE. The content is divided up into topics and assessed by written papers that will include practical content. Practical work will be assessed and reported but the result will not count towards the grade.

Complementary subjects

If you wish to pursue a biological subject at university, chemistry is usually a requirement. Geography is useful for environmental and ecology-related courses. Physics, maths, computing, psychology and food are also complementary. None of these subjects is essential however and some students choose biology as their only science subject.

University courses and careers

In addition to general degree courses in the biological sciences you could apply for more specific subjects such as biochemistry, microbiology, genetics or physiology. Biology is desirable for medicine and veterinary science. It can also be combined with other disciplines such as a language or business studies.

An interest in biology can lead to an extensive range of different careers. These include careers in medicine and healthcare, education, the environment, food and drink, biotechnology and agriculture.

For further details, visit the Institute of Biology website www.iob.org

BUSINESS

What is business about?

The course provides an opportunity to study in depth how businesses operate in the modern world on a local, national and global basis. All aspects of business behaviour and the relationships between businesses and consumers are covered. The course places great emphasis on how leaders and managers in business make decisions to succeed in an ever-changing environment. Areas studied include marketing, finance, operations and human resources. The teaching is based on current events placing a premium on up-to-date issues which are accessible to students.

Key skills required

Students should be comfortable with expressing themselves in short essay form; they should also be comfortable with some financial analysis. There are no specific subject strengths required as the course content is very broad. It is, however, important that students have an interest in current affairs.

There is a strong emphasis on personal research and the ability to undertake independent investigations using periodicals, the internet and books is essential. The research is used in assignments and classroom discussions. Assessment is through two exams at the end of year 12 for AS and three exams at the end of year 13 for A level. The exams require candidates to interpret and evaluate selected current news items using their knowledge of how businesses work.

Using A level business beyond school

Direct applications of the GCE are in degrees offered by university business schools, through management-related courses in specialist areas such as marketing, finance or retailing. The discipline also fits well with social sciences and politics. It is an ideal basis for a career in business as an entrepreneur or in a senior corporate role. It is also an excellent means of gaining a better understanding of current affairs.

CHEMISTRY

Is chemistry for me?

- Do you enjoy chemistry at GCSE?
- Do you want to know more?
- Do you enjoy practical work?
- Do you (and your teacher) feel you have an aptitude for chemistry?
- Are you confident about using your maths?

If your answers to most of these questions are “yes”, you might like to consider AS or A level chemistry in the sixth form.

What does it go with?

The simple answer is anything you like!

- Those hoping to read chemistry at university should consider maths and/or physics
- Those aiming for other scientific degree courses need to be aware that some require more than one science/maths subject. Medicine and related courses need chemistry.
- Those whose main interests are in languages or arts may consider chemistry to provide breadth to their programmes.

What will the work involve?

The teaching at AS and A level is very similar to GCSE, except that each set is taught by two teachers and the pace of lessons is faster. The lessons involve both theory and practical work and you will use different study skills including: making notes, preparing information for presentations, revising for tests at the end of each topic, executing and writing up experiments. You will be expected to spend more time outside lessons consolidating the ideas and reading around them. Once we have taught you the basic theory it is necessary to practise applying it in many different situations. Most of the questions require short answers but some more extended writing is required in parts of the examinations. The use of IT is encouraged. You will extend your practical skills, again building on your experience at GCSE, with practical work being an integral part of the course.

Where will it take me?

The Royal Society of Chemistry’s posters say “Not all chemists wear white coats”. Sixth form chemistry can lead to a degree in chemistry which opens up an enormous range of career possibilities, both in and out of science. For details and ideas go to <http://www.chemsoc.org/careers>. An exciting career in chemical research is available to those who really excel at the subject. Some sixth formers find chemistry an asset in applying for courses in another scientific field, e.g. materials science, biochemistry, medicine, physiotherapy, dentistry, veterinary medicine, chemical engineering. Degree courses requiring analytical skills, such as languages, management and law, all value chemistry.

Course Information

We will follow a chemistry specification which will include familiar topics such as atomic structure, bonding, the periodic table and organic chemistry, as well introducing new ideas. The AS and A level courses will each involve taking two papers in June, and the practical assessment will take place in lessons throughout the course; this will be reported but the result will not count towards the overall chemistry grade. The course is very structured and backed up by excellent resources.

ECONOMICS

What is economics?

Economics is a social science concerned with how the resources of the world (natural, manufactured and human) are allocated. This can determine who are rich and poor, how standards of living change and the relationship between businesses and consumers. The range of study includes local activities, the national perspective and international relationships. The subject is based on theories, which are then applied to situations ranging from how prices in a UK industry are determined to how international trade works. As a subject concerned with seeking to explain events in the real world, it is constantly evolving and so case studies used vary from year to year.

Course details

The new course embraces a study of markets and business behaviour, national economies and globalisation. It also includes elements covering banking and behavioural economics to reflect important issues in current affairs.

Key skills required

You should be comfortable expressing yourself both in short essay form and in diagrams using mathematical analysis. You need to enjoy mathematics and following current affairs to consider the course. There is a strong emphasis on personal research and the ability to undertake independent investigations using periodicals, the internet and books is essential. The research is used in assignments and classroom discussions. Assessment for AS is by two exams at the end of year 12 and for A level three exams at the end of year 13. The exams require candidates to interpret data and evaluate case studies using their knowledge of economic concepts.

Using A level economics beyond school

Direct applications of the A level are in degrees covering economics, finance, accounts and management sciences. The discipline also fits well with business, languages, law, philosophy and politics. It is an ideal basis for a career in senior corporate management, the city or in government. It is also an excellent means of better understanding human activities.

ENGLISH LITERATURE

To study English literature at AS/A2 level students must love reading or have a desire to extend their reading experience. Throughout both the AS and A2 courses, the emphasis is very much upon the active, autonomous reader. Reading literature is not simply a passive task; it is one for the inquiring mind. By delving deep into the social, historical, and cultural contexts of novels, plays and poetry and by considering the many ways in which literature entertains, shocks, informs, challenges and delights readers, pupils will broaden their minds and increase their understanding of human nature.

It is a rigorous, academic A level but also thoroughly engaging and rewarding. All students will develop a vital range of skills for life: they will read, talk, argue, debate, analyse, present, explore, discuss, interpret and evaluate texts from a wide range of writers and eras. They will have the opportunity to go and see a wealth of fine dramatic productions live at regional theatres and will also develop their understanding of the history of literature, and the many issues that affect and inform this academic pursuit.

We follow the AQA English Literature spec A syllabus at AS and A-Level: this is a new syllabus that was examined for the first time at AS in May 2016 and at A Level in May 2017. AS and A level courses are structured to ensure teachers can deliver them simultaneously, giving students the option of sitting AS only after one year. All texts except one prose text studied at AS will be carried over to the full A Level.

All tasks undertaken relate to close literary analysis: understanding the relationship between the writer's purpose and methods of achieving that purpose which means building on the skills gained at GCSE. You will begin to examine the wider themes and concepts which arise in texts in more detail, developing an understanding of some of the ways in which literature is written and interpreted and your own ability to analyse, evaluate and make connections across texts. You should also be prepared to develop your own judgements and independence in responding to texts. In terms of workload, expect an essay about once a week, independent note taking and wider reading, especially in relation to coursework. Thorough preparation for lessons will be vital, as will be the enthusiasm to communicate your ideas in discussion and debate.

English is a subject which will complement other arts subjects such as history, RS and classics, but is extremely popular with linguists and scientists who enjoy a different method of study. With respect to further education, the subject is highly popular in its own right and well respected for its academic rigour, but is also useful for any arts-related courses such as journalism, law, philosophy and PPE.

Study English:

- because you enjoyed GCSE and want to explore literature more deeply
- because you like to think independently and are self-motivated
- because you enjoy expressing your ideas both in discussion and on paper
- because you have a passion for reading and discovery and a genuine interest in the way writers express their ideas.

GEOGRAPHY

Geography at both AS and A2 comprises both human and physical units in which you will learn about a wide range of topics.

- The issues that affect people and the places they live in
- How people affect the environment we all live in
- What decisions are being made about the management of resources
- An appreciation of current events and world problems such as natural hazards and the plight of refugees
- How to plan a fieldwork investigation — the collection of primary and secondary data and how to analyse it

If you study geography, the skills you will learn are wide and varied.

- You will know about local, national and global issues and be able to talk about them.
- You will have developed skills such as using maps, photographs, diagrams and statistics, explaining your ideas clearly to others.
- You will be aware of events around you and appreciate that people have different views and there are different solutions to issues.

You can combine geography with a range of other subjects. The following show some complementary subjects and the possible careers, but they are merely illustrations to stimulate your imagination and there are many, many more.

Maths, physics, chemistry + **geography** = medicine, surveying, meteorology

Economics, IT, languages, maths + **geography** = banking, planning, tourism, accountancy

Art, design, IT, maths + **geography** = architecture, cartography, graphic design

English, languages, history, IT, RS + **geography** = publishing, law, journalism

Biology, chemistry, food + **geography** = management, environmental sciences

Essential Information

AS

Unit 1

Two topics from each of the human and physical sections have been chosen.

- Physical Topics: rivers, floods and management; cold environments
- Human Topics: global population change; health issues

Unit 2

- Basic, investigative, IT, graphical, cartographical and statistical skills
- Research skills and the assessment of AS fieldwork

A2

Unit 3

Overall three topics need to be taught, one from each of the human and physical sections and then one other topic from either section.

- Physical topics: plate tectonics and associated hazards, challenges facing ecosystems
- Human topic: world cities

Unit 4

- Investigation of a geographical argument, assertion, hypothesis, issue or problem
- The process of issue evaluation

HISTORY

To study history you should be:

- well motivated and capable of working independently
- articulate with sound literacy skills
- interested in and willing to debate ideas and interpretations.

Above all, you should be genuinely interested in the past.

As well as document work, where you will be analysing historical sources, you will be expected to write essays – but that is not actually as bad as it sounds. You will be expected to read around the subject and use a wide range of materials – articles, books, films and internet sites. Willingness to chip into any discussion will also be helpful.

History complements most other subjects.

- The literary and communication skills developed fit in well with subjects like English, classics and religious studies
- The analytical skills complement maths and sciences very well
- Linguists and geographers are also very welcome – an international outlook is always useful

History is a highly regarded subject and admissions tutors will see a good grade as proof of intelligence, regardless of what you go on to do next. The skills of assimilating and analysing information and formulating and communicating arguments are ones which employers in business, law, journalism and the civil service are always keen on. Your particular expertise might also take you into areas like research, museums, the arts and teaching.

MATHEMATICS AND FURTHER MATHEMATICS

A level maths is for those who have enjoyed and excelled in the subject at GCSE. To study A level maths your algebraic skills need to be sound as the course relies heavily upon algebra. To study further maths you will normally require an A* at GCSE.

During lessons there will be regular use of interactive whiteboards, appropriate software, spreadsheets, revision DVDs/materials and web sites. You will need to have good independent study skills.

Mathematics, apart from its own inherent value, supports a wide range of subjects and can be studied to complement most other subjects.

Edexcel specifications are followed with all units examined by written papers. There is **no** coursework in this subject.

Mathematics

The course consists of three units taken in year 12, two core units of pure mathematics and one application unit of statistics. The core units deal with algebraic techniques, coordinate geometry, trigonometry, series and elementary calculus. One of the core units is examined with a non-calculator paper. Statistics is essentially about probability techniques and correlation/regression. The year 13 course extends the pure mathematics with two further units and introduces a mechanics unit. Mechanics covers forces in equilibrium and motion, kinematics and momentum.

Further mathematics

Further mathematics is also available, requiring another six units for the full advanced GCE. These will include further compulsory pure mathematics units and some choice of additional application units in statistics, mechanics or discrete mathematics. Discrete mathematics covers algorithms, graph theory, networks and linear programming. Further mathematics cannot be taken alone.

Higher education choices with mathematics

Maths and further maths are obviously needed if choosing to study maths at university. However the content studied in maths and further maths is applicable to many fields of academic study such as; geography, psychology, sports science, economics, medicine, scientific research, actuarial work, statistical services and teaching. The study of maths essentially teaches students to solve problems through application of knowledge and logical thinking, the list of academic subjects in which this skill is needed is wide-ranging.

PHYSICS

Physics helps us to understand how our world works, from the smallest particles through to the huge galaxies that make up the universe. Physics provides a broad training in skills that are valued by employers; an ability to grasp concepts quickly, a determination to find coherent answers, along with problem solving, analytical, mathematical and IT skills.

Even if you decide that you do not want to work in a physics-related industry, the skills and knowledge that you develop by studying physics will help you in whichever area you go into.

If you have enjoyed physics so far and want to know more, then consider joining us in the sixth form. The course will be varied and challenging and each group will be taught by two teachers to give you the benefit of their particular expertise and to add variety.

A physicist:

- has an enquiring mind and asks how things work, enjoys a challenge and likes problem solving
- has mathematical skills (You need to be mathematically confident. If you do not take maths at AS an extra support lesson is provided.)
- has practical skills and can relate theory to real experiments
- can write logically, expressing complex ideas clearly and concisely.

The nature of the course

You will study a number of exciting and interesting topics including:

- kinematics and dynamics
- energy and momentum
- Newton's laws of motion
- mechanical properties of matter
- electric circuits
- waves
- matter
- quantum and nuclear physics
- fields
- Einstein's equations
- astrophysics.

Assessment is by examination, although there are plenty of practical activities incorporated into the course, and some of these will be assessed and reported separately from your overall grade.

Complementary subjects

Maths is essential for anyone thinking of taking physics or engineering past school and chemistry helps to develop similar skills. Biology, geography, economics or languages often feature in the package but then so do most other subjects from art for architects to English for science journalists.

Careers

Apart from the obvious degrees in physics/engineering/maths, physics is relevant to courses such as dentistry, medicine, meteorology, physiotherapy, sports science and architecture to name but a few. Many physicists turn to accountancy and business since they have the necessary analytical and numerical skills. See the Institute of Physics website <http://careers.iop.org> for more ideas.

POLITICS

Politics students range in ability from those who have gone on to read related subjects at top universities to those who began their studies after obtaining the minimum grades at GCSE. We recommend that students should be intellectually curious, committed to rigorous work, interested in current affairs and have a good grounding in humanities subjects at GCSE as a prelude to taking on this complex but enthralling A level.

Politics is an exciting subject. It is a subject that has significance for all our lives. Each morning its complex canvas unfolds with daily papers and broadcast news; by evening new details have been painted in and the scene is subtly, sometimes dramatically changed. Politics is unpredictable, dynamic, it affects us, it is about us. In one sense the canvas **is** us; a projection of ourselves and our aspirations, a measure of our ability to live together. Politics is arguably the most important focus of study on the human condition. It is from this context that the subject is taught at A level; providing its students with a stimulating and academically challenging course of study that will equip them for both their examinations, and a deeper insight into how, why, where and when we are governed the way we are in this country and how these processes are carried out in the USA.

Politics students also have a programme of enrichment activities to support their learning, which in the last academic year included: a trip to the USA, year 13 participation at Congress to Campus 2010, an alternative General Election in the May, a hustings debate featuring the parliamentary candidates for Loughborough and a visit from two MPs. In addition there is a popular student-lead Politics Society, which meets at a lunchtime fortnightly at the grammar school.

So what will you study when you opt for politics?

As stipulated by the Edexcel examinations board you will study two units at AS and two units at A2, comprising:

Unit 1 People and Politics

Examines the key channels of communication between our government and “we the people”

Unit 2 Governing the UK

Analyses the workings & structure of our government (Just where is power in the UK and who makes the decisions that affect us all?)

Unit 3 Representation in the USA

Explores the depth and range of American democracy (How much equality is there in the “land of the free”?)

Unit 4 Governing the USA

Examines the role and relationship between the President, Congress and Judiciary (Working together in a system of mutual distrust!)

Each unit has one examination. All units are examined in the summer (units 1 and 2 in year 12, units 3 and 4 in year 13).

PSYCHOLOGY

Psychology is the scientific study of people, the mind, behaviour and experience. It is a thriving academic discipline with the opportunity to explore key features of everyday life that are of direct relevance. Psychologists and psychological research have a big impact on all aspects of public life, particularly in areas such as education, health, the economy, industry, and the criminal justice system. Students studying psychology will learn to assess and analyse research evidence for its credibility and to consider how usefully the research and results can be applied to change behaviour in a practical way

Skills required

- A genuine interest in human behaviour
- An ability to learn and critically evaluate theories and studies
- Confidence in using maths – statistics is an important part of the course

Teaching and learning methods

Each group is taught by two members of staff. The lessons will involve elements of theory and practical work. Psychology is taught using a variety of enjoyable active learning techniques including mini experiments and observations. You will be expected to revise for tests at the end of each topic and be able to apply your knowledge in short structured questions as well as longer essay style questions. You should be prepared to read around the subjects in order to develop your knowledge further.

Complementary subjects

Psychology is a useful addition to many pupils' A level portfolio. It requires both essay writing skills and the evaluation of scientific evidence, including the analysis of statistical data. To be honest, psychology goes well with any subject. It complements both science and arts subjects.

University courses and careers

Psychology offers an ideal introduction for those interested in studying psychology at degree level. It also supports applications for almost any science based degree course and an equally wide range of humanities courses. Studying psychology develops transferable and key skills that employers are looking for and can lead to a wide range of career opportunities in many areas including health and caring professions, management, education, criminology, marketing and advertising.

Essential course information

Specification: AQA Psychology

AS Unit 1- Introductory topics in psychology

Social influence (conformity and obedience), memory (types, forgetting and eyewitness testimony), attachment (child development)

AS Unit 2- Psychology in context

Psychological concepts, theory and research, biopsychology, psychopathology (abnormality – phobias, depression and OCD),

A Level will include the compulsory content above plus unit 3 which includes relationships, schizophrenia and forensic psychology.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

New course from September 2017

Do you enjoy:

- thinking about important issues and “big questions”, supporting your views and arguing your case with others?
- considering how decisions are made and trying to find solutions to the ethical problems of the 21st century?
- pondering on philosophical questions and issues?
- evaluating the reliability of certain texts and documents?
- understanding the opinions of well-known scholars?

If the answer to some of these questions is “yes”, then you will enjoy religious studies.

Through religious studies you will be able to develop your skills in reading and assimilating new material from books, articles, the media and the internet. You will become more confident in expressing your views within a discussion group and you will learn to write clear, logical and well supported answers to questions, either in paragraph or essay form.

You can combine religious studies with almost any subject; popular ones are history, English, classics or geography which require similar skills. However, many students choose to combine it with science subjects where it provides a balance of approach and style often throwing light on the ethical issues raised by science today.

You could go on to read any arts subject at university or, of course, you could read theology either on its own or combined with other subjects. The ethics content of the course makes it particularly useful in complementing science subjects and it is possible to take the subject to AS if you then wish to concentrate on other areas.

Religious studies is extremely useful for a career in law, journalism, medicine, teaching, social services and any career which involves working with people, being able to make decisions and express views about significant issues.

Essential information

- We follow the AQA course
- There is no coursework content
- Two exams are taken in the summer term
- Students will study two components which will be: Christianity and the philosophy of religion and Christianity and ethics.

GCSE religious studies is preferred but those without it may be able to take the course; they should discuss the possibility with Mrs Lewis before making a decision. Grades in similar subjects at GCSE, such as history and English, will be taken into account for those who have not studied RS at GCSE.

SOCIOLOGY

Duration: 2 years

What will I do on the course?

Sociology AS/A2 Level is a fascinating subject and helps you to think for yourself. Sociology is the study of society and people and their behaviour. You will study a wide range of topics. For example, marriage and divorce, racism, same sex relationships, crime and deviance, education, domestic violence are just some of the topic areas we cover. Sociologists are interested in patterns and trends over time, for example, how has the family changed over the last 50 years and what are the explanations for this change?

AS Level Sociology- 1 Year

You will follow the AQA specification. This involves studying Unit 1: Education and Research Methods and Unit 2: Families and Households looks at trends and patterns over time for example is there a typical family in Britain today and how have power relationships changed within the family? Education and Research Methods looks at questions such as why do some students achieve more than others? Who is more likely to achieve successful examination results and why? Why are girls generally outperforming boys? This unit also looks at how sociologists study the topics they are interested in?

You will follow the AQA specification. In Unit 1 you will study Education and Methods in Context and Theory and Methods. Unit 2 is Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods and Unit 3: Topics in Sociology looks at Beliefs in Society and Families and Households. Each Unit is worth 33.3% of the total marks.

Unit 1: Education Methods in Context and Theory and Methods

This is worth 33.3% of the final examination marks. You will be examined on this unit in a 2-hour exam in June 2017

Unit 2: Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods. This is worth 33.3% of the final examination marks. You will be examined on this unit in a 2-hour exam in June 2017

Unit 3: Topics in Sociology: Beliefs in Society and Families and Households. This is worth 33.3% of the final examination marks. You will be examined on this unit in a 2-hour exam in June 2017.

What are the entry requirements?

A GCSE grade B or above in English Language and four other GCSE's Grade C or above. A strong evidence of literacy skills is desirable.

Where will it take me?

Sociology AS/A2 level is a good general subject and an accepted academic qualification. It is a useful preparation for further degree courses in Sociology or other Humanities/Social Science subjects. It can be combined with other social sciences or with arts/humanities subjects. Sociology is particularly useful to those considering a career in business and management, teaching, social research or social planning, law, police force or any career that involves working with others.

TEXTILES

EXAMINATION BOARD: AQA

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS: For all Sixth Form courses, students must have five GCSE (or equivalent) passes at Grades A* - C, including Mathematics and English Language. Students should also have a Grade C in Textile Technology.

What will you be learning?

Textile Technology gives candidates the opportunity to develop knowledge and understanding, using contemporary and historical sources from the fashion industry. The course incorporates Designing, technical skills, awareness of the fashion industry, use of a variety of fabrics, and ICT. Students are encouraged to develop and create their own innovative styles of products in either fashion or interior Design.

Text 1 Materials Components and Application – 25% of AS level – two hour written paper. Materials and components; Design and market influences; Design in practice; communication methods; Design in the human context; individual and commercial practice; systems and control.

Text 2 Learning through Designing and Making – 25% of AS level, centre-assessed component. This is the Design and make unit – coursework project where knowledge of the AS subject content is applied to the Design and making of the candidate's own projects.

What other learning could you do?

Textile Technology provides an ideal foundation for the study of Textiles and related subjects, leading to Foundation Art and Design courses. Students can then progress to BA courses in Fashion Design, Fashion Product Development, Fashion Retail Management, Embroidery, Surface Textile Design and Costume Design.

HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE

Duration: 1 – 2 years

What will I do on the course?

Choosing to study for a BTEC Level 3 National Health and Social Care qualification is a great decision to make for lots of reasons. It is an area to work in which gives many varied opportunities for you to make a difference to people's lives in a positive way. At the same time, you are gaining skills that you can transfer to other professions later. The opportunities are endless.

The BTEC National in Health and Social Care focuses on:

- education and training for health and social care employees
- work experience opportunities within the health and social care sector

The course will give learners the opportunity to develop a range of skills and techniques, personal skills and attributes essential for successful performance in working life.

Core Units

- Developing Effective Communication in Health and Social Care
- Equality, Diversity and Rights in Health and Social Care
- Health, Safety and Security in Health and Social Care

Possible Specialist Units

- Caring for children and Young People
- Working in the Social Care Sector
- Working in the Health Sector
- Physiological Disorders
- Development Through the Life Stages

How is it assessed?

Each unit will be assessed by the tutor once the student has provided evidence that demonstrates that they have met all the learning outcomes for the unit. The grading will be a Pass, Merit or Distinction. At the end of the two-year period when all units are complete the work will be internally verified and then an external verifier will also grade the work.

After one year you will gain an AS equivalent of either a Grade E, C or A. After two years you gain an A2 equivalent qualification.

What are the entry requirements?

A minimum of 5 A*-C grades. An interest in health and social care is also an essential requirement.

Where will it take me?

This course is an excellent preparation for those who wish to pursue a career in the health and social sector. It is a useful preparation for those who wish to study Health and Social Care at Diploma or the Extended Diploma Level. Amongst other career opportunities this qualification is particularly useful for those who are considering a career in midwifery, nursing, managerial roles in the caring profession, community project worker, early years' practitioner and social worker.

APPLIED SCIENCE

What will I study?

This course covers the principles of Biology, Chemistry and Physics (at AS level equivalent) and the allows student to specialize in subject areas as diverse as Forensic Science and Ecology and many others in between. There is a strong practical element to this course and much time will be spent experimenting with different processes. The best thing is that the course draws the best from the three sciences to give you a great selection of topics.

How is the course structured and graded?

The course is assessed by a series of coursework assignments only. Students can gain Pass, Merit or Distinction grades, which equate to A Level grades E, C and A respectively. Student undertake 3 units in each year. The certificate consists of three units, whilst the subsidiary diploma consists of six units. Progression onto the full A Level equivalent Subsidiary Diploma is contingent on sufficient progress on the Certificate course.

Will this course be suitable for me?

If you love Science and wish to pursue a technical or scientific based career this is the course for you. You must be a hard worker and be prepared to express your ideas in project work and writing too. You should hold a minimum of a C grade or equivalent in GCSE Science to attempt this course. Alternatively, you may have a Pass or higher, at BTEC Level 2 from Year 11.

What could this course lead to?

This course is ideal for students wishing to go to University to study a Science or technical subject. This would be a good qualification for anyone looking for Apprenticeship too and could give access to higher level apprenticeships.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

How Can IT Help My Career?

From smartphones and Wi-Fi, to hashtags and instant messaging: over the last 20 years, technology has dramatically changed the way in which we live and communicate. Does your interest in technology extend beyond the hardware? Are you curious about how digital information is spread? Maybe you just want to know more about computers and how, when and why people use them? If so, IT could be the course for you.

What is IT?

Information Technology (IT) refers to the study of any technology that uses telecommunication to store, transmit or access digital information. It focuses on the way that modern technology affects our society and how we communicate.

Ok, so it might sound a little complicated, but if you enjoy browsing the Internet, happen to own a smartphone or often spend time watching digital television, you've already got a pretty good handle on the types of technology IT covers. Furthermore, if you've ever talked to someone on Skype, or sent an email or text rather than a letter, then you've probably also got some idea of how modern technology has changed the way we interact with each other.

What skills will I get if I study IT?

With any computer or technology based course, you're obviously going to develop some pretty solid practical skills - in this case, programming, database security and networks. Plus, IT is great at helping you build project management and numeracy skills, and it will also encourage you to think logically in order to solve problems. Best of all, these are all things that potential employers love. Sounds good, right?

What careers is IT good for?

Thanks to your impressive IT knowledge and ace analytical skills (not to mention the fact that you'll now be a whizz at problem solving) when it comes to potential careers, the world is pretty much your oyster. IT career options include: Web designer, systems analyst, computer games developer and UX (user experience) developer, whilst IT graduates could also look for employment in the media (broadcast engineer, multimedia broadcaster, sound technician) military (armed forces technical officer, intelligence officer, satellite technician) or finance (credit analyst, commodity broker, financial risk analyst). How's that for choice?

What subjects do IT and IT go with?

If you're looking for GCSE or A-level options, business studies can be a useful option because IT is important to virtually all modern businesses. Sociology and psychology can also be interesting combinations - especially given the way that communication has changed, and the amount of time we spend on our smartphones and computers. However, if you're looking for more - let's say - 'traditional' options, you can't go too far wrong with subjects like maths, economics or any one of the sciences - all of which tend to compliment the practical skills that come with IT.

ENRICHMENT PROGRAMME

The aim of our enrichment programme is to extend students' education and personal growth beyond their academic courses. It comprises a wide range of courses designed to give students the opportunity to develop new interests, learn new skills, gain new experiences and broaden their knowledge. Hugely varied and demanding, the programme calls on students to develop self-reliance, promotes citizenship and prepares them to meet the world of work or further study with confidence and commitment.

The programme supplements the extensive extra-curricular enrichment opportunities available to sixth form students and, together with their examination subjects plays a valuable part in their development as confident, well rounded adults.

EXTENDED PROJECT QUALIFICATION (EPQ)

Year 13 students can complete the AQA level 3 EPQ. The EPQ offers the opportunity to study a topic in depth and produce a final project. It is a free-standing qualification and its purpose is to add a further dimension to sixth form study and to stretch the more ambitious scholar.

Students will be required to:

- choose an area of interest
- draft a project title
- draft aims of the project
- plan, research and carry out the project
- provide evidence of all stages of project production
- deliver a presentation to a specified audience.

Students who wish to attempt the EPQ will attend an introductory set of lessons that prepare them to choose a topic and to carry out research. For much of the course they will work independently, although their progress will be monitored by a supervisor who will offer guidance and support. During the course there will be further lessons to develop the analytical skills of the students and to prepare them to write the project. Assessment of the EPQ is based on the quality of the project log which is marked internally and externally moderated.

The finished project can be a dissertation (of approximately 5,000 words), a performance, a piece of art, a community project, a CD or DVD, or even computer software.

The EPQ represents a significant additional undertaking for any A level student, so good time-management will be essential.

GENERAL STUDIES

General studies, offered in year 12, helps to bridge the skills gap between sixth form and undergraduate study. The weekly lesson broadens the sixth form curriculum and ensures all students have a balance of arts, science and social science subjects. Students follow a rotation of courses in year 12 to prepare them for the AS papers and may choose to independently study for the A2 papers in year 13. Lessons are organised to maximize student participation and to develop discussion and presentation skills. The rotation of courses may be punctuated at intervals by lectures from guest speakers, discussion panels and drama presentations.

Some university offers include general studies and the A level grade may well be taken into account by others if students do not achieve the grades or points required in their higher education offer. Attendance on the course provides evidence that a broader education programme is being followed and maintains literacy and numeracy skills for all students, irrespective of their chosen subjects.

Course details

The AQA specification A is used. The content is grouped into two areas:

- Culture and Society – units 1 (AS) and 3 (A2)
- Science and Society – units 2 (AS) and 4 (A2)

At AS the examinations contain a combination of an objective test and a written section containing structured questions. The written papers at A2 involve responding to a choice of essay titles and answering questions on a case study and an unseen passage.

Students may sit the AS units in either year 12 or 13 and the A2 units in year 13. There is no coursework. Further information is available on the AQA website www.aqa.org.uk.

PSE

In the sixth form PSE aims to address the challenges ahead both academically and socially. The weekly sessions embrace an ever changing society by exploring issues relevant to the age group, for example stress management, university and careers choices in year 12, personal safety, finance and health awareness in year 13. The programme draws upon outside agencies when required, giving students the opportunity to hear a variety of speakers throughout the year.

RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

All sixth form students take part in the recreational activities programme. There is a choice of sporting and fitness activities, which provide the opportunity to enjoy traditional games or develop new interests.

CAREERS

As soon as students join the sixth form they need to begin thinking about what they are going to do next. The careers provisions offer them a huge amount of up-to-date, reliable information about the vast range of higher education courses and occupations available to them, enabling students to make informed decisions at every stage. We work closely with form tutors and subject teachers to arrive at the best outcome for each student.

The careers provisions ensure that form tutors and other staff to give support for UCAS applications. Practice interviews, often with outside partners and contacts, are available on request. Information about higher education open days and the enormous range of gap year opportunities at home and overseas is also provided.