

ART A LEVEL

Entry Requirements

GCSE grade 7 in Art & Design or 7 in Graphics

A-Level Outline

This course requires students to develop their ability to show a range of skills via two components. These include:

- Independently working to develop their own ideas
- an interest and enthusiasm for art and design
- the experience of working with a range of media, including traditional and new media and technologies
- an awareness of different roles, functions, audiences and consumers of art and design practice.

Component One: Personal Investigation (60% of the A level) a Practical Portfolio and written Personal Study. The written Personal Study is an illustrated dissertation of 1000 to 3000 words on a selected aspect of others' art, craft and design.

Component Two: Externally set assignment (40% of the A level) in which students respond to an externally set assignment, demonstrating visual language skills. Students can choose to specialise and experiment in a variety of skills and disciplines including sculpture / 3D modelling, painting, illustration, digital manipulation, printmaking and photography.

Assessment

What's assessed?

Personal investigation 96 marks: 60% of A-level. No time limit

Response to an Externally Set Assignment 96 marks: 40% of A Level.

Preparatory period + 15 hours supervised time.

The Future

There are many careers in art, craft and design. Most require further study at an art college, further education college or university. At present most students wishing to continue their studies go on to study on a one year Foundation course at Art College or apply straight to degree courses in more specialist areas of Art and Design. Some careers that require studying Art and Design are advertising, creative director, architecture, publishing, media, web design, graphic design, engineering, fashion, set design, film, television, illustration and photography.

BIOLOGY A LEVEL

Entry Requirements

GCSE grades 6+6 in Combined Science (or equivalent) and GCSE grade 6 in Mathematics and 5 in English.

Year 12 Outline

Core contents include biological molecules, nucleic acids, cell structure, transport across membranes, cell recognition and immunity, exchange of substances, mass transport, DNA and protein synthesis, genetic diversity, biodiversity. There are also six required practicals to complete.

A Level Outline

In addition to the year 12 contents – Energy transfers in and between organisms, organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments, genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems, the control of gene expression. There are also six more required practicals to complete.

Assessment

A Level Biology- three written exam papers, all two hours long plus a practical endorsement. Paper 1 assesses year 12 content and paper 2 year 13 content. Paper 3 is synoptic and also contains an essay question.

The Future

Successful completion of Biology offers students several routes for progression. Many of our students have gone on to a range of higher education courses including degrees in subjects such as medicine, life sciences, applied sciences and sport sciences. Some have gone directly into employment, especially into science and related sectors.

BUSINESS A LEVEL

Entry Requirements

GCSE grade 5 in Business Studies if taken and grade 5 in English Language and Maths.

Year 12 and 13 outline

The subject content can be broken down into 10 areas.

1. What is business?
2. Managers, leadership and decision making.
3. Decision making to improve marketing performance.
4. Decision making to improve operational performance.
5. Decision making to improve financial performance.
6. Decision making to improve human resource performance.
7. Analysing the strategic position of a business.
8. Choosing strategic direction.
9. Strategic methods: how to pursue strategies.
10. Managing strategic change.

1st year of the A Level = Content 1-6

2nd year of A Level = Content 7-10

Assessment

The A Level examination consists of three written papers. These exam papers are worth 33% of the final A Level grade. These papers have a mix of question styles, including multiple-choice questions, questions based on data, and case studies. All three exams are 2 hours in length.

The Future

In the past many of our students have pursued university courses in business related topics following their A Levels. Following success at university many have then gone off to careers in areas such as accountancy, banking, business/retail management, ICT, human resources management and marketing.

CHEMISTRY A LEVEL

Entry Requirements

GCSE grades 6+6 in Combined Science (or equivalent) and GCSE grade 5 in English and 6 in Mathematics.

In Year 12 you will study topics within Physical, Inorganic and Organic Chemistry. Practical skills will be taught and assessed via 6 controlled practicals during the year. Students are assessed on 5 competencies throughout the practicals in order to achieve the Practical Endorsement. The teaching programme covers the principles and scientific models upon which chemistry is based. This theory is punctuated with practical work, demonstrations and videos which bring these ideas to life and develop your practical skills.

Year 13 A2 Outline

In Year 13 we further develop the concepts and ideas encountered earlier. The topics are theoretical but a range of practical work will enable student to become practically competent. This competence will be assessed via a further 6 Controlled practicals. These are essential if the student is to achieve the practical endorsement. Throughout the course care is taken to broaden not only the students' chemical knowledge but also to make them aware of the different areas in which their newly acquired knowledge and skills apply. The course continually relates the reactions dealt with, to social, environmental and industrial applications.

The future

Of the three main areas of Science, A level Chemistry is the qualification most often needed to join a science based degree course. A qualification in Chemistry can lead to a very wide range of careers and vocations. The need for people with a good understanding of Chemistry is increasing with the need for the development of new materials. An understanding of Chemistry is essential in Chemical Engineering, Medicine, Dentistry, Forensic science and Polymer technology. There is a strong emphasis on collaborative work, discussion and preparation of presentations during Year 12 and 13. This helps develop the independent skills and confidence students need for university applications and interviews.

COMPUTER SCIENCE A LEVEL

Entry Requirements:

GCSE grade 6 in Computer Science.
Grade 5 or above in Science and Mathematics.

Computer programming is a necessary skill in a number of different disciplines – students who aspire to study Physics, Engineering, Mathematics and Computer Science must all learn how to program and a head-start can be vital. This is where Valentines holds a huge advantage – students learning computing here get the individual attention they need to work through and master problems quickly without restrictions.

Course Structure:

Paper 1: This paper tests a student's ability to program, as well as their theoretical knowledge of Computer Science.

Assessed: On-screen exam: 2 hours 30 minutes
40% of the A Level

Structure of the assessment:

Students answer a series of short questions and write/adapt/extend programs in an Electronic Answer Document provided by AQA. Preliminary Material and a Skeleton Program will be given to you for use in the exam.

Paper 2: this paper tests a student's ability to answer questions from subject content.

Assessed: On-screen exam: 2 hours 30 minutes
40% of the A Level

Structure of the assessment:

Compulsory short-answer and extended-answer questions.

Non-exam assessment:

The non-exam assessment assesses student's ability to use the knowledge and skills gained through the course to solve or investigate a practical problem. Students will be expected to follow a systematic approach to problem solving.

20% of the A Level

Year 12

A Level Computer Science is comprised of two units and the topics cover:

Fundamentals of programming, Fundamentals of data structures, Systematic approach to problem solving, Theory of computation, Data representation, Fundamentals of computer systems, Fundamentals of computer organisation and architecture, Consequences of uses of computing and Fundamentals of communication and networking.

Year 13

In addition to Year 12, we will also cover the following topics:

Consequences of uses of computing, Fundamentals of communication and networking, Fundamentals of databases, Big Data, Fundamentals of functional programming, Systematic approach to problem solving and the Non-exam assessment – the computing practical project.

The Future

This specification has been designed for students who wish to go on to higher education courses or employment where knowledge of Computing would be beneficial. Students can study Computer Science/Computing and go on to a career in Medicine, Law, Business, Politics or any type of Science.

ECONOMICS A LEVEL

Entry Requirements

GCSE grade 5 in Business, grade 6 in English Language and grade 5 in Mathematics

Year 12 Outline

The first theme is called “**The operation of Markets and Market Failure**” and covers the fundamental knowledge needed to better understand Economic methodology and use that methodology on a range of current micro economic problems and issues, including environmental issues.

The second unit is called “**The national economy in a global context**” and this unit considers the economic climate and how the economy works. It looks at economic policy, the performance of the economy and the measurement of that performance.

Year 13 Outline

Year 13 builds and extends on the two themes from the AS level and you will study in depth individual firms markets and market failure which includes themes such as demand and supply, competition, monopolies, production costs and revenues, the labour market, income distribution and inequality. It also looks at market failure in the world of business and economics and how governments intervene.

Furthermore you will extend the second theme, and study “**The national and international Economy**”. In this unit, students consider why certain markets fail; how government decision making affects the economy and markets in which companies operate; and the income and welfare of private individuals. The unit should enable students to assess why government economic policy can

succeed or fail and why regulation of some markets is necessary.

Assessment

At the end of the course the examinations will consist of three written papers. Paper one focuses on individual firms markets and market failure, paper two examines the national and international Economy. Furthermore there is a third paper, which focuses on Economic principles and issues. These papers are two hours long.

The Future

Our students will be able to confidently apply for Economics courses at university. Following success at university many of them will be able to pursue future careers in areas such as accountancy, banking and business management.

ENGLISH LITERATURE A LEVEL

Entry Requirements

GCSE grade 6 in English Language and English Literature.

English Literature course is designed to build on what students already know from GCSE and:

- Encourage the development of critical awareness and understanding of individual works of literature.
- Develop understanding of relationships between texts and of the significance of cultural and contextual influences on readers and writers.
- Target the core skills every literature student needs to explore and understand a wide range of texts.

- Allow students to pursue more detailed study in a field of particular personal interest.
- Develop the valuable transferable skills of sustained research and composition.

Assessment:

- **80% exam based - exams are all closed book.**
- **20% Coursework (Two pieces)**

Course Outline

Component 1: **Shakespeare and poetry pre-1900** Students study one Shakespeare play, the work of one poet (pre-1900) and another drama text (pre-1900). This exam is split into two parts. Question 1 requires students to demonstrate their detailed knowledge and understanding of Shakespeare. Question 2 requires students to compare the work of the poet studied to the second drama text studied. This section requires students to demonstrate their appreciation of the significance of cultural and contextual influences on the writers, readers and/or audiences and be able to explore relationships between their chosen texts. This section requires students to read texts in a variety of ways and respond critically and creatively.

Component 2: **Content of Comparative and contextual study.**

Students are expected to study a genre of literature: The Gothic / American Literature / Women in Literature / The immigrant Experience / Dystopian Literature. From this genre they will study two prose texts. The exam will test their ability to explore contrasts, connections and comparisons between different literary texts within the context of a specific topic area and explore ways in which texts relate to

one another and to literary traditions, movements and genres.

Component 3: **This is a coursework unit** and students will study three literary texts (one text for Task 1 and two texts for Task 2). They will write two coursework essays, one will be a focused analysis of an extract from a prose, drama or poetry text that focuses on analysing language in depth and detail. The second piece is examining student's ability to explore how texts illuminate and connect with each other.

The Future: English Literature A Level is a well-respected qualification leading to many degree courses. It can be valuable for careers in the Media, the Law, Business, Education, Management or any field in which the knowledge, understanding and insight appropriate to literary study, and accurate and coherent writing are valued.

FRENCH A LEVEL

Entry Requirements

GCSE grade 5 in French

Year 12 Outline

The course will help you to develop your general study skills, but most of all you will learn to communicate at a higher level in French and learn about a wide range of aspects of the French speaking world. This exam rewards you for your ability to converse in French on a general topic area. The exam will also require you to understand and convey your understanding of French language texts and recordings. You will be studying a French film or a book. You will then need to produce a short piece of writing to demonstrate an ability to

manipulate the French language in continuous writing.

Year 13 Outline

In this exam you will consolidate your Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing skills. You will answer questions on the film and book studied in French. All questions will require a critical appreciation of the concepts and issues covered in the work. For Speaking, you will participate in a discussion on a research project from the themes studied during the year.

Assessment

Year 12

Paper 1: Listening Reading writing Translation: 1 hour 45 minutes, students have control of the recording

Paper 2: Essay writing, Translation: 1hr 15 minutes

Paper 3: Speaking: 12-15 minutes

Year 13

Paper 1: Listening Reading Writing Grammar & Translation: 2 hours 30 minutes students have control of the recording

Paper 2: Essay writing on a film and a book studied 2 hours 30 minutes

Paper 3: Speaking: 21-23 minutes

The Future

There will be a range of opportunities open to you. Some students choose to do degree courses in French; others choose to pursue a higher education course in another subject, but choose French alongside it. Having French at A Level will improve your employability, in particular with the many companies which have international branches. Whether you are interested in continuing your studies or working at home or abroad, a French course at A Level is an excellent step towards achieving your goals.

GEOGRAPHY A LEVEL

Entry Requirements

GCSE grade 5 in Geography if taken and grade 5 in English Language.

Course content and assessment

Geography is a wide-ranging subject, giving you the opportunity to study a variety of human and environmental issues. A compulsory residential fieldtrip will take place in Year 12 to further enhance your understanding of the topics and issues studied.

A Level Outline

Paper 1

Written examination: 2 hours 30% of the qualification

Content overview

- Area of study 1 Topic 1: Tectonic Processes and Hazards
- Area of study 1 Topic 2: Landscape Systems, Processes and Change
- Area of study 3 Topic 5: The Water Cycle and Water Insecurity
- Area of study 3 Topic 6: The Carbon Cycle and Energy Security
- Area of study 3 Topic 7: Climate Change Futures

Paper 2

Written examination: 2 hours 30% of the qualification 90 marks

Content overview

- Area of study 2 Topic 3: Globalisation
- Area of study 2 Topic 4: Shaping Places
- Area of study 4 Topic 8: Superpowers
- Area of study 4 Topic 9: Global Development and Connections

Paper 3 Written examination: 1 hour and 45 minutes

20% of the qualification

60 marks

Content overview

The specification contains three synoptic themes within the compulsory content areas:

- Players
- Attitudes and actions
- Futures and uncertainties
- The synoptic investigation will be based on a geographical issue within a place-based context that links to the three synoptic themes and is rooted in two or more of the compulsory content areas.

Coursework: Independent Investigation Non-examined assessment

20% of the qualification 60 marks

Content overview

- The student defines a question or issue for investigation, relating to the compulsory or optional content. The topic may relate to any aspect of geography contained within the specification
- The student will produce a written report of 3000–4000 words.

The Future

A Level Geography is a means of entry to both Science and Arts courses in Colleges and Universities. It is regarded as a 'facilitating subject' by the prestigious Russell Group universities. It encourages an enquiring mind, as well as developing skills in IT, numeracy and essay and report writing. Skills which are valued by universities and prospective employers.

GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS A LEVEL

Entry requirements

GCSE grade 5 in English Language.

You will examine the key features of the UK and US political systems. Throughout the course you will have to analyse and evaluate the effectiveness of political processes and institutions.

UK Politics and Core Political Ideas.

This unit introduces you to the key channels of communication between government and the people. It encourages you to evaluate the adequacy of existing arrangements for ensuring representative democracy and participation. It also allows a depth study of the key ideologies seen in the UK: liberalism, conservatism and socialism.

UK Government and Non-Core Political Ideas

This unit introduces you to the governmental processes and institutions within the UK. It encourages you to develop a critical understanding of the role and effectiveness of key institutions, and of the relationship amongst them in the context of multi-level governance. It also allows an optioned depth study into one non-core ideology such as anarchism, nationalism or feminism.

Assessment

All three components are examined and equally weighted.

The Future

Government and Politics is compatible with social science, law, politics and humanities degrees.

HISTORY A LEVEL

Entry Requirements

GCSE grade 5 in History if taken and grade 5 in English Language.

Paper 1 ‘The Tudors: England, 1485–1603’

This unit covers the rise of the Tudor monarchy from Henry VII through to Elizabeth I. It covers the causes and consequences of political, economic and religious change throughout the period, in addition to drawing contrasts and comparisons between the governing styles of the monarchs.

This unit is a breadth study that will be assessed through both essay writing and the analysis of historical interpretations of the period.

Paper 2 ‘Revolution and Dictatorship: Russia and the Soviet Union 1917-1953.

It covers the period in Russia from the February Revolution in 1917 to the death of Stalin in 1953. It covers social, political and economic change throughout the period. Students will be asked to consider the causes and consequence of change in addition to considering the impact and significance of key figures and events throughout the period.

This unit is a depth study and is assessed through essay writing and by the analysis of primary source materials.

Paper 3

Student will also complete unit 3 which is a coursework element. This will be based on Twentieth Century International Relations and will involve producing two research based essays that show the use of a range of contemporary and secondary sources to analyse and evaluate a person or event within the study.

Assessment

Papers 1 and 2 are examined. Paper 3 is a coursework unit that is examined internally.

The Future

If you are successful at A Level History you will have the ability to discuss problems and analyse evidence. You will be able to write clear, well organised explanations and evaluate conflicting interpretations. All of these activities make an A Level in History a very useful and much sought after qualification in employment areas such as management, finance, law, civil service, teaching, journalism, librarianship, writing and politics. Those who go on to courses or degrees in higher education which might lead to one of these careers will find an A Level in History is an excellent preparation.

LAW A LEVEL

Entry Requirements

A Level Law (New Linear Framework) –
Examining Board: OCR
Entry Requirements
GCSE grade 6 in English (or English Literature)

A Level Law is a two year course which means the students will be externally examined at the end of two years on the A-level route. Students will develop knowledge of:

The legal system
Criminal law
Law making
The law of tort
The nature of law
Contract law

Year One Outline

Although the course comprises of three papers which are externally assessed the topics of the course are designed to

provide an introduction to the law, not only by looking at how laws are made, but also by looking at current laws and their application to problem scenarios; to show they operate in practice placing emphasis upon identification, application and analysis, of current sources of law, the nature of law, criminal and tort law.

The course for the first year is focused on content required for paper one and paper two both of which will be the subject to two 2 hour exams. Some of the topics which will be covered are as follows:

Legal Personnel

The Rule of Law

Civil Courts & ADR

Rules of Criminal Law

Juries

Actus Reus

Criminal Courts

Mens Rea

Access to Justice & Funding

No Fault and Strict Liability

Lay People: Lay Magistrates

Sentencing

Non – Fatal Offences

Law Making: Parliamentary Law

Making

Law Making: Delegated Legislation

Law Making: Judicial Precedent

Law Making: Statutory Interpretation

Law Making: Law Reform

Murder

Involuntary Manslaughter

Voluntary Manslaughter

Defences

Law of Tort

European Union Law

Year Two Outline

Year two will be a continuation of some year one topics however the majority of the teaching portion of this year will be focused upon the study of Paper Three Topics, which will also be assessed by means of a two hour exam. The topics for this paper are provided below. Topics introduce more complex content and place a greater emphasis upon application, analysis, and evaluation of law and morality, law and justice, law and society, and law and technology.

As all three papers will be administered at the conclusion of this second and final year of study for this course; concentration on revision and examination skills will form part of the course from the commencement of year one until the conclusion of year two.

The Contract Law topics will include the following:

<u>Formation</u>	<u>Rules and theory</u>
<u>Terms</u>	<u>Vitiating Factors</u>
<u>Discharge</u>	<u>Remedies</u>
<u>Evaluation</u>	

MATHS Core Maths (AS-Level)

One year programme

Entry Requirements

GCSE grade 7 in Mathematics

Core Maths consolidates and builds on students' mathematical understanding, and develops further mathematical understanding and

skills in the application of mathematics to authentic problems. It also builds a broader base of mathematical understanding and skills in order to support the mathematical content in other Level 3 qualifications, for example A Level Biology, Business Studies, Economics, Computing, Geography, Psychology, BTEC Applied Science, Business, Health and Social Care, IT. Therefore Core maths AS-Level should be studied alongside three other A-Levels. Core Maths will also prepare students for the range of varied contexts that they are likely to encounter in vocational and academic study, future employment and life.

Core Maths objectives are as follows: Develop competence in the selection and use of mathematical methods and techniques. Develop confidence in representing and analysing authentic situations mathematically, and in applying mathematics to address related questions and issues. Build skills in mathematical thinking, reasoning and communication.

Assessment

The Pearson Edexcel Level 3 Certificate in Mathematics in Context consists of two externally examined papers.

Paper 1: Comprehension (40% of total qualification). Calculator allowed, 60 marks and 1 hour 40 minutes.

Paper 2: Applications (60% of the total qualification). Calculator allowed, 80 marks and 1 hour 40 minutes.

Future Prospects

Core Maths provides the mathematical skills to support students progressing to higher education to study subjects that 'use' mathematics including, for example, Biology, Business Studies,

Economics, Computing, Geography, Psychology, BTEC Applied Science, Business, Health and Social Care, IT.

MATHS SINGLE A LEVEL

Entry Requirements

GCSE grade 7 in Mathematics.

Entry Requirements

GCSE grade 7 or above in Mathematics plus grade 6 or above in GCSE Science. Completion of GCSE to A-Level Maths Bridging Workbook which you will be assessed on the first day of term.

Course Outline

A-Level Maths is a very challenging course. This course will equip students with skills such as logistical analysis and deduction, data handling, mathematical modelling and problem solving, all of which can be applied in almost any field of work.

You will study mostly material from of Pure Mathematics, and both Mechanics and Statistics in ratio of 2:1. When studying Pure Mathematics you will be extending your knowledge of such topics as algebra and trigonometry and learning some brand new ideas such as calculus.

In Mechanics you will learn how to describe mathematically the motion of objects and how they respond to forces acting upon them, from cars in the street to satellites revolving around a planet. You will learn the technique of mathematical modelling; that is, of turning a complicated physical problem into a simpler one that can be analysed and solved using mathematical methods.

In Statistics you will learn how to analyse and summarise numerical data in order to arrive at conclusions

about it. You will extend the range of probability problems met at GGCE by using the new mathematical techniques studied on the pure section of the course.

Assessment

You will sit three papers each 2 hours in length and carrying 100 marks.

Paper 1 and Paper 2 will be assessing the Pure Mathematics content that you learnt in year 12 and 13 and Paper 3 will assess the Mechanics and Statistics content learnt in year 12 and 13.

Future Prospects

A-Level Mathematics is a much sought after qualification for entry to a wide variety of full time courses in Higher Education. There are also many areas of employment that see a Mathematics A-Level as an important qualification and it is often a requirement for the vocational qualifications related to these areas. Higher Education courses or careers that either require A-Level Mathematics or are strongly related include Economics, Teaching, Medicine, Psychology, Architecture, Environmental Studies, Engineering, Computing and Accountancy. Should you wish to continue your study of Mathematics after A-Levels you could follow a course in Mathematics at degree level or even continue further as a postgraduate and get involved in mathematical research.

MATHS DOUBLE A LEVELS (X2) MATHS and FURTHER MATHS

Entry Requirements

GCSE grade 8 or above in Mathematics plus grade 6 or above in GCSE Science. Completion of GCSE to A-Level Maths Bridging Workbook which you will be

assessed on the first day of term. Double Maths (A-Level Maths and Further Maths) can only be selected if you are studying two other A-Levels.

Course Outline

This is a very demanding course designed specifically for students that want to do both A-Level Maths and A-Level Further Maths. Students will come out with two A-Levels for this. This course is only recommended for those students with a real interest in and aptitude for the subject. This course will equip students with skills such as logistical analysis and deduction, data handling, mathematical modelling and problem solving, all of which can be applied in almost any field of work.

You will study the two year A-Level Maths programme in year 12 as a lot of this content is prerequisite for A-Level Further Maths which you will do in year 13.

In year 13 you will study the A-level Further Mathematics content which is a simple 50:50 split between compulsory and optional elements. This is made of Further Pure Mathematics 1 and 2; and the option to do two of either: Further Pure Maths, Further Statistics, Further Mechanics or Decision Maths.

Assessment

For Double Maths you will you will sit all the exam papers for A-Level Maths and Further Maths at the end of Year 13. This is made up of following:

Maths: You will sit three papers each 2 hours in length and carrying 100 marks. Paper 1 and 2 are on the Core content learn in year 12 and Paper 3 will assess the Mechanics and Statistics content from Year 12.

Further Maths: You will sit 4 paper each 1h30m in length and carrying 75 marks. Paper 1 and Paper 2 will be on the Core Pure content learnt in Year 13 and Paper 3 and 4 will assess the Further Maths Options 1 and 2 content learnt in year 13.

Future Prospects

A-Level Mathematics and Further Mathematics (double) are much sought after qualifications particularly if you wish to study Maths, Engineering, Physics or Computer Sciences at the top universities. A-Level Mathematics (single) is a requirement or strongly advised for courses such as Economics, Teaching, Medicine, Psychology, Engineering, Architecture, Environmental Studies, Computing and Accountancy. Should you wish to continue your study of Mathematics after A-Levels you could follow a course in Mathematics at degree level or even continue further as a postgraduate and get involved in mathematical research.

MEDIA STUDIES A LEVEL

Entry Requirements

GCSE grade 5 in Media Studies if taken and 5 in English language.

The 2 year course is assessed with TWO exams and the production of ONE coursework project for assessment.

Component 1: Meanings and Representations in the Media

Written examination: 2 hours and 15 minutes 35% of qualification

This component covers all of the following media forms: music videos, video games, advertising, film marketing, newspapers and radio

news/current affairs programmes. The exam consists of three sections.

Section A: Analysing **Media Language and Representation** - In this topic, you will learn to consider how representations of gender and ethnicity are constructed through media language in Advertising and Marketing, Music Video and Newspapers, providing opportunities to consider contrasting representations and the extent to which these forms reinforce or challenge stereotypical ideas around gender and ethnicity.

Section B: **Understanding Media Industries and Audiences** - The focus in this topic is on developing knowledge of key aspects of media industries, including the significance of ownership and funding and how audiences are targeted and consume media products. The key media texts are *Straight Outta Compton*, *Assassin's Creed III: Liberation* and *Late Night Woman's Hour* (radio).

Component 2: Media Forms and Products in Depth

Written examination: 2 hours and 30 minutes 35% of qualification

This component assesses knowledge and understanding of media language, representation, industry and audiences.

The exam consists of three sections:

Section A – **Television in the Global Age** –Television today is a global industry. The international popularity of genres like Nordic noir, the global reach of broadcasters like HBO, and the growing number of international coproductions reflect the increasingly

transnational outlook of television in the global age. Through an in-depth study of two contrasting programmes produced in different social and cultural contexts, eg *Humans* and *The Returned*, you will learn to explore the dynamics that shape contemporary television production, distribution and circulation.

Section B – **Magazines: Mainstream and Alternative Media Study**

The magazine industry in the UK is a highly challenging media environment, with thousands of titles competing for readers and market space. You will study two magazines in depth; eg *Woman* (1964) and *Adbusters* (2016).

Section C: **Media in the Online Age.**

In a world increasingly dominated by digital technology, online, social and participatory media have become an integral part of the contemporary media landscape. The growing cultural significance of online platforms is evident in the number of subscribers that bloggers and YouTubers like *Zoella*, *Alfie Deyes (PointlessBlog)*, and *PewDiePie* attract, and in the amount of web traffic that the websites of online newspapers and magazines generate. Through an in-depth study of two contrasting online products, you will look at the role played by blogs and websites in the media today.

Component 3: Cross-Media Production Coursework Internal assessment 30% of qualification.

An individual cross-media production based on two forms (sequence from a TV programme, an original music video, print marketing campaign for a new film, a new print magazine or website) in response to a choice of

briefs set by the exam board EDUQAS, applying knowledge and understanding of the theoretical framework and digital convergence.

The Future

It is possible to study for a Media Studies degree or similar course. Media Studies A Level is also a useful qualification if you wish to apply for any of a number of degree courses in the Arts, Humanities and Social Services. Media Studies does not necessarily open the door into the world of the media but some of our past students have gone on to careers in advertising

PHILOSOPHY, ETHICS AND RELIGION (PER) A LEVEL

Entry Requirements

GCSE grade 5 in Religious Education (short or long course) & GCSE grade 5 in English

A-Level Outline

This course requires students to develop their ability to show a range of skills via three components. These skills include:

- Reflect on, select and apply specified knowledge about religion and belief
- Account for the influence of social, religious and historical factors on developments in the study of religions and beliefs
- Construct well informed and reasoned arguments about religion and belief, substantiated by relevant evidence
- Understand, interpret and evaluate critically religious concepts, texts and other sources
- Identify, investigate and critically analyse questions,

arguments, ideas and issues arising from the study of religion including those of scholars/academics

- Analyse the nature of connections between the components they have studied.

Component One: This component provides learners with the opportunity to undertake an in-depth and broad study of one religion covering themes ranging from religious figures and sacred texts to practices that shape religious identity.

Component Two: This component provides learners with the opportunity to undertake an in-depth and broad study of fundamental philosophical themes, ranging from arguments for the existence of God to the use of religious language.

Component Three: This component provides learners with the opportunity to undertake an in-depth and broad study of fundamental ethical themes, ranging from ethical language and thought to freewill and determinism.

Assessment

Component 1 - 33.3% 2 hour written exam

Component 2 - 33.3% 2 hour written exam

Component 3 - 33.3% 2 hour written exam

The Future

An A level in PER is highly respected by employers and universities due to its demanding skill set and critical thinking. Typical employers are local government and the Civil Service, management consultancies, law firms, higher education institutions, publishing companies, charities,

banking and insurance companies, and accountancy firms.

PHOTOGRAPHY A LEVEL

Entry Requirements

GCSE grade 5 in Art & Design or 5 in Graphics

A-Level Outline

This course requires students to develop their ability to show a range of skills via two components. These include:

- Independence of mind in developing their own ideas
- An interest and enthusiasm for photography
- The experience of working with a range digital media and technologies
- An awareness of different roles, functions, audiences and consumers of photography

Component One: Personal investigation (which is 60% of the A level) a Practical Portfolio and written Personal Study. The written Personal Study is an illustrated dissertation of 1000 to 3000 words on a selected aspect of photography. Students are required to work in one or more area(s) of photography:

- Portraiture
- Landscape photography (working from the urban, rural and/or costal environment)
- Still life photography (working from objects or from the natural world)
- Documentary photography, photojournalism
- Fashion photography
- Experimental imagery, multimedia
- Photographic installation, moving image (vide, film, animation)

Component Two: Externally set assignment (40% of the A level) in which students respond to an externally set assignment, demonstrating visual language skills. Students can choose to specialise and experiment in a variety of skills and disciplines.

Assessment

What is assessed?

Personal investigation 96 marks: 60% of A level. No time limit.

Response to an externally set assignment 96 marks: 40% of A level. Preparatory period + 15 hours supervised time.

The Future

There are many careers in Photography. Most require further study at an art college, further education or university. At present most students wishing to continue their studies go on to do a one year foundation course at art college or apply straight to degree courses in more specialist areas of Photography. Careers that require studying Photography are advertising, creative director, publishing, Advertising and Editorial Photographer, Corporate Photographers, Digital Imaging Specialist, web design, graphic design, fashion photography, Forensic Photographers, Scientific Photographers, Laboratory Manager, Medical Photographer, Photo Retail Manager, set design, film, television, Press Photographer or Photojournalist.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION A LEVEL

Entry Requirements

GCSE grade 5 in PE or equivalent if studied and grade 5 in Science.

Content

In Component 1 students study anatomy, physiology and biomechanics including topics such as structures of the body, energy for exercise, short and long term effects of exercise, use of force in sport, nutrition and injuries. In Component 2 students study psychology and socio historical factors that affect physical activity for example personality, motivation and violence in sport.

Assessment

Components 1 and 2 are assessed by exam paper, and are with 40% and 30% of the overall grade respectively. Students are also assessed in the performance of one sport and additionally by an analysis of performance which account for 30% of the overall grade awarded.

The Future

The health and fitness industry is one of the largest growth industries at present. Career paths are hugely varied and A level PE is well suited to preparing students to enter a range of careers including Physiotherapy, Sport and Exercise Science, Coaching, Teaching and Fitness Instruction.

PHYSICS A LEVEL

Entry Requirements

GCSE grades 6+6 in Combined Science (or equivalent) and GCSE grade 7 in Mathematics and grade 5 in English Language.

Course Details

You will be studying the specification: OCR Physics A. Details of the

specification can be found at: www.ocr.org.uk

The course contains the following topics:

Module 1 – Development of practical skills in physics, Practical skills

Module 2 – Physical quantities and units, Making measurements and analysing data, Nature of quantities

Module 3 – Motion, Forces in action, Work, energy and power, Materials, Newton's laws of motion and momentum

Module 4 – Charge and current, Electrical circuits, Waves, Quantum physics

Module 5 – Thermal physics, Circular motion, Oscillations, Gravitational fields, Astrophysics and cosmology

Module 6 – Capacitors, Electric fields, Electromagnetism, Nuclear and particle physics, Medical imaging

Assessment

Assessment is by 3 written examinations. One exam is 90 minutes, with the other two being 135 minutes each.

The Future

In an increasingly complex world, Physics is a highly valued qualification for a wide range of careers. These range from medicine to electronics and electronics, engineering, from astronomy and space science to forensics. Physics is also essential for all forms of engineering, such as civil engineering and aeronautics. Employers quite rightly regard Physics at A Level and beyond very highly, as it shows that you have advanced numeracy and problem solving skills, that you can apply knowledge to unfamiliar situations and express ideas logically and clearly.

**PRODUCT DESIGN
(3D DESIGN) A LEVEL
Entry Requirements**

GCSE grade 5 in a technology subject

This creative and thought-provoking qualification gives students the practical skills, theoretical knowledge and confidence to succeed in a number of careers. Especially those in the creative industries. They will investigate historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic influences on design and technology, whilst enjoying opportunities to put their learning in to practice by producing prototypes of their choice. Students will gain a real understanding of what it means to be a designer, alongside the knowledge and skills sought by higher education and employers.

Year 12 –

Skills building and theory lessons with mini NEA Projects

A level Structure –

Paper 1

What's assessed-

- Technical principles
- How it's assessed
- Written exam: 2 hours and 30 minutes.
- 120 marks
- 30% of A-level
- Questions of short answer and extend response.

Paper 2

What's assessed-

- Designing and making principles
- How it's assessed

- Written exam: 1 hour and 30 minutes
- 80 marks
- 20% of A-Level

Non-exam assessment (NEA) -
Coursework

What's assessed-

- Practical application of technical principles, designing and making principles.
- How it's assessed
- Substantial design and make project
- 100 marks
- 50% of A - level
- Technical principles
- Evidence
- Written or digital portfolio and photographic evidence of final prototype.
- This creative and thought-provoking qualification gives students the practical skills, theoretical knowledge and confidence to succeed in a number of careers. Especially those in the creative industries.
- They will investigate historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic influences on design and technology, whilst enjoying opportunities to put their learning in to practice by producing prototype of their choice.

Students will gain a real understanding of what it means to be a designer, alongside the knowledge and skills sought by higher education and employers

PRODUCT DESIGN (TEXTILES)

A Level

Entry Requirements

GCSE grade 5 in textiles or a technology subject

This creative and thought-provoking qualification gives students the practical skills, theoretical knowledge and confidence to succeed in a number of careers. Especially those in the creative industries.

They will investigate historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic influences on design and technology, whilst enjoying opportunities to put their learning in to practice by producing prototypes of their choice. Students will gain a real understanding of what it means to be a designer, alongside the knowledge and skills sought by higher education and employers.

Year 12 –

Skills building and theory lessons with mini NEA Projects

A level Structure –

Paper 1

What's assessed-

- Technical principles
- How it's assessed
- Written exam: 2 hours and 30 minutes.
- 120 marks
- 30% of A-level
- Questions of short answer and extend response.

Paper 2

What's assessed-

- Designing and making principles
- How it's assessed
- Written exam: 1 hour and 30 minutes
- 80 marks
- 20% of A-Level

Non-exam assessment (NEA) -
Coursework

What's assessed-

- Practical application of technical principles, designing and making principles.
- How it's assessed
- Substantial design and make project
- 100 marks
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Students will gain a real understanding of what it means to be a designer, alongside the knowledge and skills sought by higher education and employers

PSYCHOLOGY A LEVEL

Entry Requirements

GCSE grade 5 in English Language and 5 in Mathematics. Students should also have an appreciation for Biology.

Psychology is the scientific study of the human mind and behaviour.

The course is a two year programme and the course content is outlined below:

Year 1 Outline

You will study Social Influence, Memory, Attachment, Approaches in Psychology including Biopsychology, Psychopathology and Research Methods.

Year 2 Outline

You will study Issues and Debates in Psychology and Research Methods. You will also look at the following options in depth: Relationships, Aggression and Schizophrenia.

Assessment

Three two hour papers which will include a range of multiple choices, short answer and extended writing questions. The exam will be sat at the end of the two years and will include content and skills from both Year 1 and Year 2.

The Future

A Level Psychology is regarded by universities as a Science A Level. It also allows you to develop your writing and commentary skills. Therefore studying psychology A Level is excellent preparation for many degree courses. Many students that study psychology at A Level go on to study psychology at degree level. After their degree they may take a post graduate qualification in a particular area of Psychology for example, clinical psychology. A post graduate qualification is the first step to becoming a practising Psychologist. Alternatively Psychology provides a useful training for a much wider range of career options. These include market research, social work,

teaching, nursing, advertising, sales, media and broadcasting.

SOCIOLOGY A LEVEL

Entry Requirements

GCSE grade 5 in English Language.

In the first year

Unit 1: You will study several aspects of education including class, gender and ethnic differences in achievement and how to use the different research methods to investigate factors affecting achievement.

Unit 2: You will study various aspects of families and households, including childhood, couples, family diversity and patterns in births, deaths, marriage and divorce. You will also look at sociological research methods.

In the second year

Unit 3: Beliefs in Society covers many aspects of religion and its role in society including cults, fundamentalism, secularisation and religion's role in social change.

Unit 4: Crime and Deviance includes the social distribution of crime, crime prevention, punishment, different types of crime and bias in law enforcement; Theory and Methods covers several main sociological theories and looks into research methods in depth.

Assessment

All units are assessed via written exams using the AQA exam board. The exams will be sat at the end of the two years and will include content and skills from both Year 1 and Year 2.

The final exams will consist of three two hour papers which will include a

range of short answer and extended writing questions.

The Future

Sociology is largely regarded as a skills subject by universities. With this qualification you will be seen as good at debating, research and essay writing. At Valentines High School most pupils get A and B grades in this subject and you will be expected to work hard and achieve your best. The main topics are all interesting to discuss and easy to relate to your own life and experiences. Past pupils have gone on to study Sociology, Criminology Psychology, Law, Medicine, English and Dentistry, as well as many other subjects at university. Sociology leaves your future choices open.

SPANISH A LEVEL

Entry Requirements

GCSE grade 5 in Spanish

Year 12 Outline

The course will help you to develop your general study skills, but most of all you will learn to communicate at a higher level in Spanish and learn about a wide range of aspects of the Spanish speaking world. This exam rewards you for your ability to converse in Spanish on a general topic area. The exam will also require you to understand and convey your understanding of Spanish language texts and recordings. You will be studying a Spanish film or a book. You will then need to produce a short piece of writing to demonstrate an ability to manipulate the Spanish language in continuous writing.

Year 13 Outline

In this exam you will consolidate your Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing skills. You will answer questions on the film and book studied in Spanish. All questions will require a critical appreciation of the concepts and issues covered in the work. For Speaking, you will participate in a discussion on a research project from the themes studied during the year

Assessment Year 12

Paper 1: Listening Reading Writing Translation: 1 hour 45 minutes, students have control of the recording

Paper 2: Essay writing, Translation: 1 hour 15 minutes

Paper 3: Speaking: 12-15 minutes

Assessment Year 13

Paper 1: Listening Reading Writing Translation: 2 hours 30 minutes students have control of the recording

Paper 2: Essay Writing on a film and a book studied 2 hours

Paper 3: Speaking: 21-23 minutes

The Future

There will be a range of opportunities open to you. Some students choose to do degree courses in Spanish; others choose to pursue a higher education course in another subject, but choose Spanish alongside it. Having Spanish at A Level will improve your employability, in particular with the many companies which have international branches. Whether you are interested in continuing your studies or working at home or abroad, a Spanish course at A Level is an excellent step towards achieving your goals.

ICT

Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Information Technology

Entry Requirements

5 GCSE grade 9-4 points including 4 in GCSE English and Maths. There is a strong application of written language for the duration of the course. If you have a BTEC First qualification in ICT it must be at a Merit grade or above.

Course details

This qualification is designed for learners who are interested in an introduction to the study of creating IT systems to manage and share information, alongside other fields of study, with a view to progressing to a wide range of higher education courses.

You will study the following units over 2 years:

- Unit 1: Information Technology Systems (synoptic).
- Unit 2: Creating Systems to Manage Information.
- Unit 3: Using Social Media in Business.
- Unit 5: Data Modelling.

Assessment

This course is assessed internally and externally.

- Unit 1 will be assessed with a written examination set and marked by Pearson.
- Unit 2 will be assessed by a task set and marked by Pearson and completed under supervised conditions over a number of sessions in 1 week.
- Unit 3 and 5 will be assessed via assignments set by your teachers.

The Future

You will be in a good position to continue your ICT career at university, demonstrating an excellent foundation in the topic areas of ICT. This qualification will give you valuable experience and knowledge of the role of an ICT consultant. You may also choose to take up a degree specialising in one of the units covered in this course at university.

BUSINESS

BTEC Level 3 Diploma in Business

Entry Requirements

Six 9-4 grades including 4 in GCSE Business, English and Maths. There is a strong application of written language for the duration of the course. If you have a BTEC First qualification in Business it must be at a Merit grade or above.

Year 12 Outline

This is a two year course consisting of 12 business units that will be completed over the two years. Students will be taught by three teachers over the year and each teacher will deliver two units. These units cover a broad range of business related topics as outlined below.

Following an induction period when some basic introductory topics are taught, students will start work on three separate units. They will continue the introductory work with **“The Business Environment”** in which they will look at types of business organisation, aims and objectives, function roles in business and how external factors affect business. They will also start **“Business Accounting”** which will look at the purpose of accounts, cash flow, profit and loss account and the balance sheet. The third unit will be

“Introduction to Marketing” which examines the principles of marketing, market research and marketing techniques. The other three units are titled **“Business Resources”, “Business Communication” and “Internet Marketing”**. These units will further develop some of the skills taught in the earlier units.

Year 13 Outline

The second year of the course will cover six more units covering the broad range of business related topics ranging from Accounting, Marketing, Law, Human Resources through to Enterprise.

The Future

This qualification is suitable for 16-19 year olds who are clear about the area of employment they wish to enter i.e. business related. In the past many of our students have gone on to pursue university courses in accountancy, banking, business/retail management, personnel/HR and marketing.

PERFORMING ARTS

BTEC Nationals Extended Certificate – Performing Arts Single Award

Entry Requirements

Six 9-4 grades including grade 4 in English Language and Mathematics.

This qualification gives a broad introduction to the performing arts sector with an emphasis on core knowledge and fundamental skills which are transferable across other sectors (including communication, presentation, physical and creative skills).

The Performing Arts Extended Certificate is for learners who are interested in learning about the performing arts sector alongside other fields of study, with a view to progressing to a wide range of higher education courses, not necessarily in performing arts. It is designed to be taken as part of a programme of study that includes other appropriate BTEC Nationals or A Levels.

Units Studied

Investigating Practitioners Work

Students are required to research two practitioners and a theme, they will investigate and critically analyse the contextual influences on their selected practitioners and performance work with a focus on how these related to the identified theme.

Group Performance Workshop

Students are required to work in groups to respond to a brief and develop a performance for an intended audience. Students are required to submit a digital process log which is completed at four different stages during the processes.

Developing Skills and Techniques for Live Performance

Acting Styles

Students to carry out set tasks and create evidence to work-related scenarios. Assignments can include research, projects investigations, and experiments, and often link theory with practical exercises. Students generate authentic evidence, drawing on their knowledge and skills to complete a practical project over a period of time, working either individually or in a team.

The Future

This BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Performing Arts is intended to carry UCAS points and is recognised by higher education providers as meeting admission requirements for many relevant courses, for example:

*BA (Hons) English with Theatre and Performance

*BA (Hons) Media Studies

*BA (Hons) Acting and Performance

*BA (Hons) Hospitality, Leisure, Sport and Tourism.

Students should always check the entry requirements for degree programmes with specific higher education providers.

In addition to the performing arts sector-specific content, this qualification provides learners with the opportunity to develop all-round performance skills and transferable skills such as self-confidence, self-presentation, personal discipline, time management and organisational skills which are highly regarded by higher education and employers. It is not only a useful qualification for those pursuing a career in the Arts, but also a variety of jobs including personnel management, publishing, journalism, teaching, the media, the law and business in general

BTEC LAW

BTEC Level 2 Level 2 Certificate in Law and Legal Work

Entry Requirements

Six 9 - 4 grades including 4 in GCSE English and Maths. There is a strong concentration on English reading and writing during the course. This a one

year course Students will be completing the Pearson BTEC. This is a one year course. Centres may choose from a range of units which must total 13 credits.

Year 12 Outline

Students will be taught units which cover a broad range of legal topics as outlined below:

- The English Legal System
- Police & Their Powers
- Criminal Law & Procedure.

The Future

Finally, it should be pointed out that studying Law at either A level or BTEC is a well-regarded qualification and will complement any subject you subsequently wish to follow, whether or not this is Law - based.

ENGLISH GCSE

Entry Requirements

The course is intended for students who have not yet achieved a Grade 4 in GCSE English.

Programme of Study

The aims of the course are to improve literacy skills, to develop a variety of styles of writing and to encourage responses to literary and non-literary reading. Students should be prepared to contribute fully to discussions and presentations, and completing work and revising at home is vital to their achieving the grade 4.

Assessment

Students will complete the Edexcel GCSE Language course. This is two exams that assess Reading and Writing. Students complete two papers – Paper 1 is worth 40% of their overall grade and is 1 hour and 45mins. Paper 2 is worth 60% of their overall grade

and is 2hr and 30mins. As students will have less lessons than in Year 10 and 11 for this qualification it is vital that they are also working at home on past papers to get the grade 4 or above.

The Future

GCSE English is a very important qualification for all students to gain. Most employers and colleges of further education expect students to have gained a GCSE pass, preferably at Grade 4 or above. It is useful in the study of many other subjects and most A Level courses require a 5 or above in English GCSE.

MATHEMATICS GCSE

Entry Requirements

The course is intended for students who have not yet achieved a Grade 4 in the new GCSE Mathematics.

Programme of Study

This is a one year course. The programme of study follows the National Curriculum guidelines with the following the topic areas: Number, Algebra, Geometry, and measures; Ratio, proportion and rates of change; Probability; Statistics.

The GCSE mathematics syllabus features elements of applying standard techniques; reasoning and interpreting; and solving maths problems in other contexts. Examination questions require students to be able to communicate the mathematics they have applied. This may involve, for example, giving a reason for an answer, correctly setting out a proof or accurately marking up a statistical diagram.

On the Higher tier grades 9-4 may be achieved and on the Foundation tier grades 5-1 may be achieved.

Assessment

Students will sit three papers. Each paper carries 80 marks and is 1 hour 30 minutes in length. Paper 1 is non-calculator and Paper 2 and 3 are calculator papers. Students will be examined at the end of Year 12.

Future Prospects

A grade 4 or above in GCSE Mathematics may be a requirement for employment or further study