

A Level Course Information

2019-2021



St Mary's School
CAMBRIDGE



Our 2018 A Level headlines are:

- 45% A*/A grades
- 68% A* - B grades
- 100% A* grades in Photography
- 100% A*/A grades in Music
- 100% A* - B grades in Art, Drama, Spanish, French and Economics

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Introduction

Our Sixth Form curriculum is designed to nurture individual interests and instil a passion for learning, providing a solid foundation for university studies and the world of work beyond.

In this booklet, you will find details of the A Level courses that are on offer at St Mary's School, Cambridge. You can choose from a broad range of subjects with maximum flexibility. The timetable is devised around individual choices so we are able to accommodate the subject combination that suits you, no matter how focused, or diverse, your interests. You can choose to specialise or you can simply study the subjects for which you have a particular passion. Whatever combination you choose, the emphasis is on personal endeavour, intellectual curiosity and preparation for life beyond school.

In addition to A-levels, the Sixth Form curriculum at St Mary's School, Cambridge is designed to support the holistic development of our students. The Sixth Form experience is about learning and developing beyond the A-level syllabus. Guidance and support is offered to provide all students with ideas about how to really engage with A Level subjects they have chosen. All

students are issued with an Academic Engagement booklet at the start of Lower Sixth with suggestions of extended reading or activities they can take part in.

In addition, St Mary's School, Cambridge offers the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ). This enables a student to undertake significant independent study in an approved topic of their choice. The qualification provides the perfect academic opportunity to follow passions beyond the curriculum and be intellectually curious. Universities value the self-directed nature of this qualification and it is increasingly forming part of university offers. All students are timetabled for this qualification at the start of Sixth Form in order that they can develop their research and investigation skills. Philosophy, Ethics and Religion (PER) is also part of the curriculum for each student. This is a general course covering contemporary issues in philosophy, ethics and religion.

Academic engagement

The Sixth Form academic experience is also about learning beyond the syllabus. Guidance and support is offered to provide all students with ideas about how to really engage with A Level subjects they have chosen. All students are issued with an academic engagement booklet at the start of Lower Sixth with suggestions of extended reading or activities they can take part in.

In our vibrant, friendly Sixth Form community, students from all faiths and non-secular backgrounds are empowered to aim high, to follow their dreams and to make a positive contribution to society.

Art and Design: Fine Art



Head of Department

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Course Specification

EDEXCEL: AS Fine Art 8FA0
A Level Fine Art 9FA0

Content of AS Level

Component 1 Personal investigation

This component incorporates two major elements: supporting studies and practical. These elements should be seen as integrally connected. The purpose of the personal investigation is to develop a portfolio of practical and written work that shows critical understanding and development of skills and ideas. Artwork produced will be based around themes and subject matter developed from personal starting points, to be negotiated with the teacher. Students use a range of 2D and 3D materials including painting and drawing, illustration, mixed media and interactive media. The student's work must be drawn from two or more different disciplines.

Component 2 Externally set assignment

In addition to completing a 10 hour examination piece, students produce preparatory studies which show the development of their final piece. Students may choose to produce work in one or more disciplines.

Content of A Level

Component 1 Personal investigation

This is a broad-based course of study, developed through a range of 2D media, including painting, illustration, drawing and mixed media. The component incorporates three major elements: supporting studies, practical work, and a written personal study.

Supporting studies and practical work will comprise a portfolio of development work and outcomes based on themes and ideas developed from personal starting points. The personal study will be evidenced through critical written communication showing contextual research and understanding in a minimum 1000 words of continuous prose, which may contain integrated images.

Component 2 Externally set assignment

In addition to completing a 15 hour examination piece, students produce and submit preparatory studies which show the development of their final pieces.

Key skills

- A growing interest in art, craft and design
- A lively and enquiring mind
- A willingness to explore new ideas and communicate them effectively
- An appreciation of the visual world
- Information and communication technology
- Improving learning and performance
- Working with others
- Problem solving

Enrichment opportunities

- Visits to local and national museums and galleries
- Talks given by visiting artists and designers
- Workshops

Higher Education and career prospects

The study of Art and Design can help you develop transferable skills to take into a wide range of career and Higher Education opportunities. After completing the A Level in Art and Design, you will have an impressive portfolio of work that will enable you either to enter the world of work or study for a Foundation Diploma in Art and Design or to follow one of many pathways as a direct entry at degree level in subject areas such as Fine Art, Interactive Media, Illustration, Graphic Communication, Theatre Design, Interior Design or Architecture.

** For both the AS Level and A Level Art and Design courses, Component 1 and Component 2 are internally assessed and externally moderated. External moderation takes place at the end of the course when all units of work are presented in the form of an exhibition.*

Art and Design: Photography



Head of Department

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Course Specification

EDEXCEL: AS Photography 8PY0
A Level Photography 9PY0

Content of AS Level

Component 1 Personal investigation

This component incorporates two major elements: supporting studies and practical. These elements should be seen as integrally connected. The purpose of the personal investigation is to develop a portfolio of practical and written work that shows critical understanding, and development of skills and ideas through Photography. For the purposes of this qualification, photography is sub-divided into the following two disciplines:

- film-based photography
- digital photography

Students will be required to work in one or more of the disciplines to communicate their ideas.

Component 2 Externally set assignment

In addition to completing a 10-hour examination piece, students produce preparatory studies which show the development of their final piece/s as part of a photographic submission. Students may choose to produce work in one or more disciplines.

Content of A Level

Component 1 Personal investigation

The component incorporates three major elements: supporting studies, practical work, and a written personal study.

Supporting studies and practical work will comprise a portfolio of development work and outcomes based on themes and ideas developed from personal starting points. For the purposes of this qualification, photography is sub-divided into the following three disciplines:

- film-based photography
- digital photography
- film and video

The personal study will be evidenced through critical written communication showing contextual research and understanding in a minimum 1000 words of continuous prose, which may contain integrated images.

Component 2 Externally set assignment

In addition to completing a 15-hour examination piece, students produce and submit preparatory studies which show the development of their final piece/s as part of their photographic submission. Students may choose to produce work in one or more disciplines.

Please note for the A Level course there is a limited number of cameras available within school. It is recommended, therefore, that students own or at least have access to a single reflex 35mm camera, offering full manual control in addition to any automatic mode.

Key skills

- A growing interest in the many working practices associated with photography and professional photographers
- A lively and enquiring mind
- A willingness to explore new ideas and communicate them effectively
- An appreciation of the visual world
- Information and communication technology
- Improving learning and performance
- Working with others
- Problem solving

Enrichment opportunities

- Visits to local and national museums and galleries
- Talks given by visiting artists
- Workshops

Higher education and career prospects

The study of photography can help you to develop transferable skills to take into a wide range of career and Higher Education opportunities. You could enter the world of work or study for a Foundation Diploma or apply for direct entry at degree level following one of many pathways including Photography, Film and Moving Image Production Making, Interactive Media, Illustration, Graphic Communication.

** For both the AS and A Level Photography courses, Component 1 and Component 2 are internally assessed. External moderation takes place at the end of the course when all units of work are presented in the form of an exhibition.*

Art and Design: Textile Design



Head of Department

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Course Specification

AQA: AS Level 7244, A Level 7204

Content of AS Level

Component 1 Portfolio

This involves studying a theme and researching an artist, craftsperson or designer. Students will explore drawing for different purposes and use a variety of textile media, processes and techniques. Textile work is based on historical, cultural and contemporary ideas. The unit is divided into four assessment objectives: developing ideas, experimenting with textile media, recording ideas and reflecting on work carried out and producing a final response. All work will be presented in sketchbooks.

Component 2 Externally set assignment

This starts on 1 February. There is a preparatory period, followed by 10 hours of supervised time. One theme is chosen from the externally set paper. The same four assessment objectives apply as for Component 1.

Content of A Level

Component 1 Personal investigation

This is a practical investigation into an idea, issue, concept or theme, supported by written material. This component is divided into four assessment objectives: developing ideas, experimenting with textile media, recording ideas and reflecting on work carried out and producing a final response.

Component 2 Externally set assignment

This starts on 1 February. There is a preparatory period, followed by 15 hours of supervised time. One theme is chosen from the externally set paper. The same assessment objectives apply as for Component 2 except there is no additional written assignment.

For AS Level and A Level, all components are marked by the centre and moderated by AQA.

Key skills

- An interest in practical textiles
- Creativity
- Dexterity
- An eye for detail
- Analytical skills
- Independent learning
- Initiative

Enrichment opportunities

- Visits to local and national museums and exhibitions
- Talks by visiting designers/craftspeople

Higher Education and career prospects

If studied with other arts subjects, Art and Design: Textile Design can lead to an Art foundation or degree course in Creative Design/Fashion and Textiles. Studying this subject will be especially beneficial to those who intend to pursue a career in marketing, fashion or fashion journalism and other related courses.

Biology



Head of Department

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Course Specification

OCR A: AS Level H020, A Level H420

Content of AS Level

Module 1 Development of practical skills in Biology

The development of practical skills is a fundamental and integral aspect of the study of this subject. These skills not only enhance learners' understanding of the subject but also serve as a suitable preparation for the demands of studying Biology at higher levels.

Practical skills are embedded throughout all sections of this specification. Learners will be required to develop a range of practical skills throughout their course in preparation for the written examinations. The practical skills are assessed in a written examination.

The practical skills developed are those of planning, implementing, analysing and evaluating.

Module 2 Foundations in Biology

This unit covers the study of cellular structure, biological molecules, enzymes, cell division, cell diversity and cellular organisation. It also includes the features and differentiation of stem cells and their potential uses in research and medicine.

Module 3 Exchange and transport

In this unit, students study the structure and function of gas exchange and transport systems in a range of animals and in terrestrial plants.

Module 4 Biodiversity, evolution and disease

Students learn about the biodiversity of organisms; how they are classified and the ways in which biodiversity can be measured. It serves as an introduction to ecology, emphasising practical techniques and an appreciation of the need to maintain biodiversity. Students also gain an understanding of the variety of organisms that are pathogenic and the way in which plants and animals have evolved defences to deal with disease. The impact of the evolution of pathogens on the treatment of disease is also considered.

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Biology cont.



Content of A Level

The A Level is split into six teaching modules: Modules 1-4, plus modules 5 and 6.

Module 5 Communication, homeostasis and energy

Students explore how organisms respond to changes in their external and internal environment using responses that are controlled and co-ordinated electrically and/or chemically. Communication is fundamental to homeostasis with the control of temperature, blood sugar and blood water potential being studied as examples. In this module the biochemical pathways of respiration and photosynthesis and the metabolic processes of excretion are also considered.

Module 6 Genetics, evolution and ecosystems

Students study genes and how they control the way cells function. Changes within genes lead to variation and variation produces the raw material for evolution. In this module, some of the practical techniques used to manipulate DNA such as sequencing, amplification and genetic engineering are considered and their therapeutic medical use. Cloning and the use of microorganisms in biotechnology are also considered. This unit provides an understanding of how ecosystems work and how to manage them for sustainability. It also covers population dynamics and conservation.

Assessment for A Level

Paper 1 Biological processes (100 marks, 2 hours and 15 minutes) – 37% of total A Level (assesses content from modules 1, 2, 3, and 5)

Paper 2 Biological diversity (100 marks, 2 hours and 15 minutes) – 37% of total A Level (assesses content from modules 1, 2, 4 and 6)

Paper 3 Unified Biology (70 marks, 1 hour and 30 minutes) – 26% of total A Level (assesses content from all modules (1 to 6))

Practical endorsement in Biology (04) - non exam assessment – requires completion of 12 practicals

Key skills

- Practical skills
- An enquiring mind
- An eye for detail
- Mathematical skills
- The ability to manipulate and apply key concepts

Enrichment opportunities

- Practical experience at Babraham Research Laboratories
- Links with the University of Cambridge
- Participate in the Big Biology Day at Hills Road Sixth Form College in October
- Attend the masterclass series of lectures on feeding the planet at the Sainsbury Laboratory
- Lectures at Addenbrooke's Hospital

Higher Education and career prospects

Biology provides support for a wide range of degree courses including Medicine, Veterinary Medicine, Natural Sciences, Physiotherapy, Pharmacy, Pharmacology, Biochemistry, Biotechnology, Neuroscience, Radiology, Dentistry, Nursing, Genetics, Environmental Sciences and related careers.

Business



Head of Department

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Course Specification

EDEXCEL: 9BS0

Content of AS Level

- What is business?
- Managers, leadership and decision making
- Decision making to improve marketing performance
- Decision making to improve operational performance
- Decision making to improve financial performance
- Decision making to improve human resource performance

Paper 1 all content above (50% of AS Level)

The assessment will consist of 10 multiple choice questions, short answer questions and data response questions.

Paper 2 all content above (50% of AS Level)

The assessment will consist of a compulsory case study and questions.

Content of A Level

- What is business?
- Managers, leadership and decision making
- Decision making to improve marketing performance
- Decision making to improve operational performance
- Decision making to improve financial performance
- Decision making to improve human resource performance
- Analysing the strategic position of business
- Choosing strategic direction
- Strategic methods: how to pursue strategies
- Managing strategic change

Paper 1 all content above

The assessment will consist of 15 multiple choice questions, short answer questions and two essay questions.

Paper 2 all content above

The assessment will consist of three data response compulsory questions.

Paper 3 all content above

The assessment will consist of a compulsory case study and questions.

(Each paper is 33.3% of A Level)

Key skills

- A strong interest in the world of business
- Calculations
- Interpreting data
- Making and presenting arguments
- Making judgements and conducting research

Enrichment opportunities

- St Mary's School, Cambridge Enterprise Scheme

Higher Education and career prospects

A Level Business opens up a wide range of Higher Education and career opportunities, including accountancy, marketing and human resources.

Chemistry



Head of Department

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Course Specification

OCR: AS Level H032, A Level H432

Content of AS Level

Module 1 Development of practical skills in Chemistry

- Skills of planning, implementing, analysis and evaluation

Module 2 Foundations in Chemistry

- Atomic structure
- Quantitative chemistry: formulae, equations, amount of substance and the mole
- Reactions of acids
- Oxidation number and redox reactions
- Bonding and structure

Module 3 Periodic table and energy

- The periodic table and periodicity
- Group 2 and the halogens
- Qualitative analysis
- Enthalpy changes
- Reaction rates and equilibrium (qualitative)

Module 4 Core organic chemistry

- Basic concepts
- Hydrocarbons
- Alcohols and haloalkanes
- Organic synthesis
- Analytical techniques (IR and MS)

Assessment

Breadth in Chemistry (01) assesses content from modules 1, 2, 3 and 4 (1 hour 30 minutes written paper accounting for 50% of the final grade).

Depth in Chemistry (02) assesses content from modules 1, 2, 3 and 4 (1 hour 30 minutes written paper accounting for 50% of the final grade).

Chemistry cont.



Content of A Level

Modules 1 to 4 as described in the AS Level content.

Module 5 Physical Chemistry and transition elements

- Reaction rates and equilibrium (quantitative)
- pH and buffers
- Enthalpy, entropy and free energy
- Redox and electrode potentials; transition elements

Module 6 Organic Chemistry and analysis

- Aromatic compounds
- Carbonyl compounds
- Carboxylic acids and esters
- Nitrogen compounds
- Polymers
- Organic synthesis
- Chromatography and spectroscopy (NMR)

Assessment

Periodic table, elements and physical Chemistry (01) assesses content from modules 1, 2, 3 and 5 (2 hours 15 minutes written paper accounting for 37% of the final grade).

Synthesis and analytical techniques (02) assesses content from modules 1, 2, 4 and 6 (2 hours 15 minutes written paper accounting for 37% of the final grade).

Unified Chemistry (03) assesses content from modules 1-6 (1 hour 30 minutes written paper accounting for 26% of the final grade).

Practical endorsement in Chemistry (04) non exam assessment – requires completion of 12 practicals.

Key skills

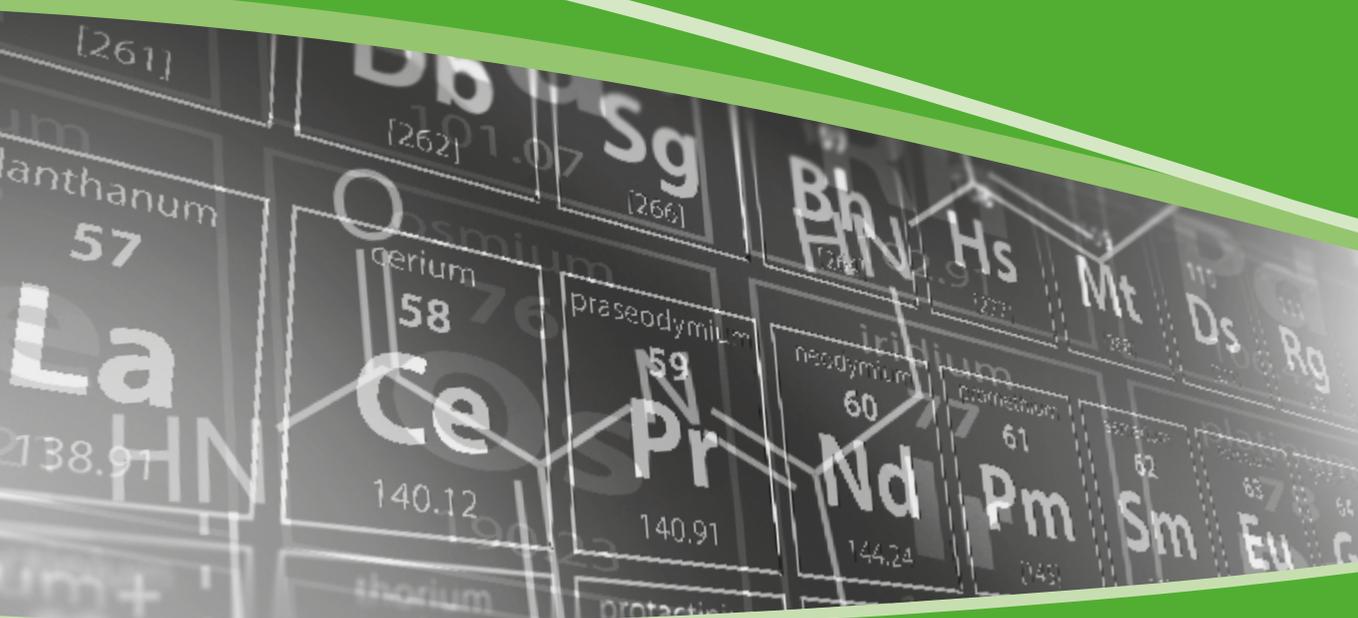
- An aptitude for practical work
- An inquisitive and investigative mind
- Analytical and evaluative skills
- An aptitude for problem solving
- Communication and presentation skills
- The ability to think and reason abstractly

Enrichment opportunities

- The Cambridge Science Festival
- Lectures at the University of Cambridge
- Society for Chemical Industry (SCI)
- Talks at the University of Cambridge Chemistry Department
- Chemistry Olympiad and Cambridge Chemistry Challenge
- Trips to conferences and universities

Higher Education and career prospects

Chemistry A Level is a necessary requirement for a number of degree courses, including: Medicine, Veterinary Science, Forensic Science, Dentistry, Physiotherapy, Biological Sciences, Pharmacy and Environmental Science. It can also provide a breadth of study for application to banking, law or business-related degrees.



Classical Civilisation



Head of Department

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Course Specification

OCR: AS Level H008, A Level H408

Classical Civilisation is a varied and fascinating discipline. It involves study of the culture, history and literature of ancient Greece and Rome. The course is entirely in translation and it is not necessary to have studied Classical Civilisation at GCSE or before.

The A Level consists of three papers:

Unit 1 The world of the hero

We read one of Homer's *Iliad* or *Odyssey* and Virgil's *Aeneid*, all of which explore the Trojan War and the events which follow it. We consider themes such as what makes a hero, justice, revenge and fate, and explore the plots and characterisations. We also investigate differences between Greek and Roman values and the context of the stories.

Unit 2 Culture and the Arts - Greek theatre

This module looks at the performance of Greek plays, including the role theatre played in religious festivals, the design of theatre buildings and the development of styles and plots. We read two tragic plays: *Oedipus the King*, where a man trying to right a wrong inadvertently reveals a terrible secret, and *Bacchae* which showcases the terrifying repercussions of failing to show respect to the gods. We also read a comedy play, *Frogs*, which involves the god Dionysus making a trip to the Underworld accompanied by a cunning slave and a chorus of frogs.

Unit 3 Belief and ideas - politics and the late republic

This module is focused on the turbulent history of Rome just before the end of the republic and the rise of the Roman emperors. We study the key figures of the time, including Caesar and Cicero, and examine the events of the civil wars, the class struggles in ancient Rome and the development of Roman political ideas.

The AS Level consists of selected parts from two of the A Level papers:

Unit 1 The world of the hero

Unit 2 Culture and the Arts - Greek theatre

Key skills

- Academic writing

Enrichment opportunities

- Trips to museums with classical collections
- Attending the University of Cambridge's classical lectures
- Attending the University of Cambridge's Greek play and other theatre visits
- Regular Classics trip to Greece or Italy

Higher Education and career prospects

Classical Civilisation is highly respected in support of an application to any degree course and will teach you how to articulate and hone an argument; these are essential skills for any career involving the written word. Combining the study of literature, art and society, it provides a suitable foundation for further study of the arts and humanities and is frequently a pathway into careers in law, business, journalism, academia and business.

Classical Greek



Head of Department

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Course Specification

OCR: AS Level H040

Content of AS Level

Unit 1 Classical Greek language

Students improve language skills by learning new grammar, constructions and a set vocabulary list. The first section of the examination involves translating a passage into English. In the second section, students choose between answering comprehension questions on a passage or translating five sentences into Greek.

Unit 2 Classical Greek literature

In this unit, students study two set texts, learning a little about the events at the time of their composition, but the main focus of study is the authors' use of language. In the examination, students answer comprehension questions on both texts and translate a short extract of each into English. Current authors include Herodotus or Plato and Homer or Euripides.

Key skills

- Analytical reasoning
- Language skills

Enrichment opportunities

- Trips to museums with classical collections
- Attending the University of Cambridge's Greek Play and other theatre visits
- Attending the University of Cambridge's classical lectures
- Regular Classics trip to Greece or Italy

Higher Education and career prospects

Studying Classical Greek provides a sound and highly esteemed preparation for a wide variety of academic courses, including Law, History, English, languages and Classics.



Computer Science



Teacher

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Course Specification

OCR: AS Level H046, A Level H446

Content of AS Level

Computing principles

(50% of the total marks)

In this unit you will look at the characteristics of contemporary computer systems architecture; software and software development; the presentation, structure and management of data; how data is transmitted and networked; the characteristics of information systems, including databases; and the implications of computer use. You will be assessed in a 1 hour 15 minutes written examination, comprising a mix of short-answer and longer-answer questions.

Algorithms and problem solving

(50% of the total marks)

You will learn about designing solutions to particular problems; understanding computational thinking; how procedural programs are structured; the types of data and data structures; the common facilities of procedural languages; how to write maintainable programs; and how to test and run solutions. You will be assessed in a 1 hour 15 minutes written examination, comprising a mix of short-answer and longer-answer questions and a short scenario/task involving problem solving.

Content of A Level

Computer systems

(40% of the total marks)

By studying this unit you will understand the components of a computer and their uses; types of software and the methodologies used to develop them; how data is exchanged between different systems; how data is represented and stored in different structures and the use of different algorithms; and the laws surrounding the use and ethical issues that can arise from the use of computers. You will be assessed by a 2 hour 30 minutes written examination, comprising a mix of short-answer and longer-answer questions.

Algorithms and programming

(40% of the total marks)

This unit will focus on computational thinking and what it means. You will look at how computers are

used to solve problems and how programs can be written to solve them. You will study standard algorithms and use algorithms and programming to describe and solve problems. You will be assessed by a 2 hour 30 minutes written examination, comprising a mix of short-answer and longer-answer questions and a scenario/task involving problem solving.

Programming project

(20% of the total marks)

Students select their own user-driven problem. Through this internally assessed and externally moderated coursework you gain an understanding of definition, investigation and analysis; software design, development and testing; documentation; evaluation; and how to produce written reports covering these topics.

Key skills

- An enquiring mind
- The capacity to think creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically
- The ability to apply skills, knowledge and understanding in a range of contexts to solve problems

Enrichment opportunities

- Opportunity to take part in Computer Science workshops and competitions

Higher Education and career prospects

Computer Science A Level is excellent preparation for students looking to take Computing Studies at degree level, or for anyone considering any kind of career in computing. Computer Science A Level should be considered for anyone interested in studying or considering a career in STEM.

Drama and Theatre Studies



Head of Department

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Course Specification

EDEXCEL: A Level 9DR01

Content of A Level

Component 1 Devising 40%

Content overview

- Devise an original performance piece
- Use one key extract from a performance text and a theatre practitioner as stimuli
- Centre choice of text and practitioner
- Performer or designer routes available

Assessment overview

- Internally assessed and externally moderated
- There are two parts to the assessment:
 - 1) A portfolio - 60 marks
The portfolio can be handwritten/typed evidence between 2500–3000 words or recorded/verbal evidence between 12–14 minutes or can be a combination of handwritten/typed evidence and recorded/verbal evidence
 - 2) The devised performance/design realisation - 20 marks

Component 2 Text in Performance 20%

Content overview

- A group performance/design realisation of one key extract from a performance text
- A monologue or duologue performance/design realisation from one key extract from a different performance text
- Centre choice of performance texts

Assessment overview

- Externally assessed by a visiting examiner
- Group performance/design realisation: worth 36 marks
- Monologue or duologue/design realisation: worth 24 marks

Component 3 Theatre Makers in Practice 40%

Content overview

- Live theatre evaluation – choice of performance
- Practical exploration and study of a complete text – focusing on how this can be realised for performance
- Practical exploration and interpretation of another complete performance text, in light of a chosen practitioner – focusing on how this text could be re-imagined for a contemporary audience

Assessment overview

- Section A: Live Theatre Evaluation - 20 marks
- Section B: Page to Stage: Realising a Performance Text - 36 marks
- Section C: Interpreting a Performance Text - 24 marks

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Drama and Theatre Studies cont.



Key skills

- Performance skills
- Creativity & imagination
- Communication
- Project & time management
- Research
- Analysis
- Critical thinking
- Evaluation
- Problem solving
- Working with others
- Independent learning

Enrichment opportunities

- Workshops with professional theatre companies
- Audition coaching
- Working with local community groups
- Theatre visits
- School productions

Higher Education and career prospects

As well as preparing students who wish to apply to the more traditional acting and drama schools, the course is also useful for other career paths. Old and new universities offer Theatre and Drama degrees as single honours or combined courses. Some institutions offer Creative or Performance Arts degrees where Theatre can be combined with other arts subjects such as Film, Music, Dance, Art, Design and Photography. Students have also followed careers into stage management, theatre administration and theatre production. Drama and Theatre skills can be used in education careers, therapy, community work and in the expanding leisure and media industries.



Economics



Head of Department

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Course Specification

AQA: AS Level 7135, A Level 7136

Content of AS Level

The operation of markets and market failure

- The economic problem and economic methodology
- Price determination in a competitive market
- Production, costs and revenue
- Competitive and concentrated markets
- The market mechanism, market failure and government intervention in markets

The national economy in a global market

- The measurement of macroeconomic performance
- How the macroeconomy works: the circular flow of income, AD/AS analysis and related concepts
- Economic performance
- Macroeconomic policy

Paper 1 The operation of markets and market failure (50% of AS Level)

Paper 2 The national economy in a global market (50% of AS Level)

These units are assessed by 20 multiple choice questions and a written data response question.

Content of A Level

Individuals, firms, markets and market failure

- The economic problem and economic methodology
- Individual economic decision making
- Price determination in a competitive market
- Production, costs and revenue
- Perfect competition, imperfectly competitive markets and monopoly
- The labour market
- The distribution of income and wealth: poverty and inequality
- The market mechanism, market failure and government intervention in markets

The national and international economy

- The measurement of macroeconomic performance
- How the macroeconomy works: the circular flow of income, AD/AS analysis and related concepts
- Economic performance
- Financial markets and monetary policy
- Fiscal policy and supply-side policies
- The international economy

Paper 1 Markets and market failure

Paper 2 National and international economy

These papers will be assessed by data response questions and essay questions.

Paper 3 Economic principles and issues

This paper covers the whole A Level syllabus containing both microeconomic and macroeconomic topics. It will be assessed by multiple choice questions and an economic report.

(Each paper is 33.3% of the A Level)

Key skills

- An interest in economic affairs and a desire to explore why and how the study of Economics contributes to an understanding of the modern world
- A familiarity with various types of statistical and other data
- Written skills
- The enjoyment of discussing and debating key issues in the news
- The ability to propose, analyse and evaluate possible solutions to economic problems

Enrichment opportunities

- St Mary's School, Cambridge Enterprise Scheme

Higher Education and career prospects

You will learn a variety of transferable skills, including collecting and analysing economic information from different sources, developing written communication skills and developing problem solving evaluation skills. These will be valuable for university courses in areas such as Law, Business, Accounting, Politics and Economics. Students with A Level Economics have access to a wide range of possible careers, particularly in the financial sector.

English Literature



Head of Department

MR D WALKER
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Course Specification

OCR: A Level H472

Content of course

Students study a minimum of eight texts including

- at least three texts published before 1900, including at least one text by Shakespeare
- at least one work first published or performed after 2000
- at least one unseen text

The course will require learners to show knowledge and understanding of:

- the ways in which writers shape meaning in texts
- the ways in which texts are interpreted by different readers, including over time
- the ways in which texts relate to one another and to literary traditions, movements and genres
- the significance of cultural and contextual influences on readers and writers

Component 1 covers Shakespeare and pre-1900 drama and poetry. It is a closed-text examination of 2 hours 30 minutes and is worth 40% of the whole A Level.

Component 2 is topic-based. The school will choose one of the following set topics and students will answer one question on an unseen passage, related to the topic, and also an essay focusing on two texts linked with the topic. The topics set for the first examinations are American Literature 1880-1940, The Gothic, Dystopia, Women in Literature and The Immigrant Experience. This is again assessed through a closed-text examination of 2 hours 30 minutes and is 40% of the total A Level.

Component 3 is coursework, with two essays, one requiring close study of a passage through either a critical or a recreative response; the other being a comparative essay. The texts for Component 3 are post-1900 and at least one must be post-2000.

Key skills

- An enthusiasm for reading
- An aptitude for discussing texts and ideas
- An ability to express ideas clearly in writing

Enrichment opportunities

- Theatre productions of set texts
- Workshops, talks from visiting speakers and lecture series
- Some students choose to go to courses led by the Oxford Debate Chamber, as advertised by the department

Higher Education and career prospects

English Literature A Level is highly regarded as a suitable preparation for a range of courses including American Studies, Creative Writing, Irish and Scottish Literature, and English and Drama, as well as the traditional and exciting English Literature courses, History, Theology, Classics and Law. English Literature develops skills that are central to careers in law, journalism, the media, personnel and public relations, education and publishing.

Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)



Head of Department

MRS K LEWIS
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Course Specification

AQA: 7993

Content of course

The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) provides an opportunity for students to extend their abilities beyond the A Level syllabus, stand out and prepare for university or their future career. It is worth half an A Level (70 UCAS points) so can be used to earn extra UCAS points. It will be based on a topic chosen by the student and agreed with Mrs Lewis.

There are 30 guided learning hours for the taught skills element, maximising time for independent learning. This is approximately a quarter of the overall time for the EPQ. You will begin your EPQ study at the start of your Lower Sixth year, completing it by October of your Upper Sixth year. The guided learning hours will cover:

- research skills including the ability to search for and identify suitable sources of information in the chosen subject area
- any skills or techniques that will be required for the safe and effective execution of the project which are not part of the candidate's course of study, e.g. safe laboratory or workshop technique, professional codes of practice, ethical guidelines, research methodology
- ICT skills that will enhance the production of the report and/or the development of the project
- project management skills including time, resource and task management
- the format and structure of accepted academic forms of research report
- referencing, the evaluation of sources and the prevention of plagiarism
- presentation skills

You are required, with the support of Mrs Lewis, to:

- choose an area of interest
- draft a title and aims of the project for formal approval
- plan, research and carry out the project
- deliver a presentation to a non-specialist audience
- provide evidence of all stages of project development and production for assessment

Former EPQs have included:

- Technology as a tool to combat human trafficking
- Anorexia: the hidden enemy from within
- Should gifted children be accelerated?
- Child marriage in Nigeria
- Obesity: nature or nurture?
- Analysis of the causes of autism
- Factors leading to the breakdown of apartheid in South Africa
- Comparison of the effects of immigration in the UK and Singapore

Key skills

You will develop essential skills required for a successful university career, such as independent research, essay writing and enjoyment and ownership of learning.

Higher Education and career prospects

There is some evidence that having undertaken an EPQ can help secure an offer from a Russell Group university when applications between candidates with similar predicted grades are being considered, and/or in the event that you fail to meet the required A Level offer.

"Students could use their project at interview stage and/or in their UCAS personal statement. Certain courses at the University will count 'A' grades achieved in the extended project towards their entry criteria." (University of Southampton)

"The skills that students develop through the [EPQ] are excellent preparation for university-level study." (University of Manchester)

"We encourage candidates to draw upon their experience of undertaking the project when writing their personal statement." (University of Liverpool)

"The EPQ is a definite strength in an application. It can create the heartland of a personal statement and give it depth and substance." (Sheila Cosgrove, University of York's Admissions Administrator for English)

French



Head of Department

MRS R HILL
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Course Specification

AQA: AS Level 7651, A Level 7652

Content of AS Level

Paper 1 Listening, reading and writing: 1 hour 45 minutes (45% of AS Level)

This paper covers two major topic areas with three sub-themes each:

- Current trends of French-speaking society (family and relationships/role of technology/charity and volunteering work)
- Artistic culture in the French-speaking world (French culture and heritage/French music/French cinema)

There are assessments in:

- Listening - students listen to material within their individual control (35 marks)
- Reading - this section comprises three or four items requiring short answers (45 marks)
- Translation into English - a passage of minimum 70 words (10 marks)

Paper 2 Writing: 1 hour 30 minutes (25% of AS Level)

This paper consists of a translation into French (passage of minimum 70 words) and an essay **either** on a French film **or** a French book (both chosen by the teacher from set lists).

Paper 3 Speaking: 12-14 minutes (30% of AS Level)

This involves a discussion of two of the sub-themes above (6-7 minutes each) with the discussion based on a stimulus card for each sub-theme. The student studies the cards for 15 minutes before the test begins.

Content of A Level

Paper 1 Listening, reading and writing: 2 hours 30 minutes (50% of A Level)

This paper covers four major topic areas with three sub-themes each:

- Current trends of French-speaking society
- Current issues of French-speaking society
- Artistic culture in the French-speaking world
- Aspects of political life in the French-speaking world

There are assessments in:

- Listening - students listen to material within their individual control (30 marks)
- Reading - this section comprises three or four items requiring short answers (50 marks)
- Translation into English - a passage of minimum 100 words (10 marks)
- Translation into French - a passage of minimum 100 words (10 marks)

Paper 2 Writing: 2 hours (20% of A Level)

Students write two essays in all **either** on one text and one film **or** two texts from the lists set in the specification and chosen by the teacher.

Paper 3 Speaking: 21-23 minutes (30% of A Level)

This involves a discussion of a sub-theme based on a stimulus card (5-6 minutes, 25 marks) and a presentation (2 minutes) and discussion (9-10 minutes) of an individual research project (35 marks) chosen by the student in advance.

Key skills

- Attention to detail
- An analytical mind
- A willingness to take part in discussions on a range of topics
- An interest in the language and culture of French-speaking countries

Enrichment opportunities

- Opportunity for work experience in France

Higher Education and career prospects

At university level, you can combine French with either another language you have already studied, or start a new one from scratch. Alternatively you could study a complementary subject such as Business Studies, Economics, Law, Politics, Psychology or Tourism. A wide range of careers is open to you: business, education, international companies, journalism, law, public relations and tourism.

Geography



Head of Department

MISS F SPORE
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Course Specification

OCR: H481 for A Level (2 year course)

A Level examinations will be taken at the end of two years and is taught as a two year course.

A Level students study *Landscape Systems* about coastal environments in the UK and overseas, their processes, their landforms and changes due to sea level changes and their interface with humans in using and protecting them. This is studied alongside *Earth's Life Support Systems* examines water and carbon cycles in the Tropical Rainforests and Arctic Tundra.

Students also study a human geography unit called *Changing Space, Making Places* which looks at how people experience place, what roles places have in society and how architects can influence the way an urban area looks and works. With this comes *Global Migration* and *Power and Borders*, a very topical unit which has lots of relevance to the UK and current political decisions.

The *Geographical Debates* paper looks at *Disease Dilemmas* such as the spread of communicable and non-communicable diseases and how these are mapped, treated and eradicated. The outbreak of Ebola provides a fascinating case study in this unusual and exciting area of geography. The last part of the *Geographical Debates* is the study of plate tectonics in a unit called *Hazardous Earth*, where a range of volcanic and seismic events are investigated along with how they impact people in countries at differing levels of economic development.

The final assessment of A Level Geography is an independent investigation based on original fieldwork. This is carefully planned in class so students can collect data and present it using a wide range of appropriate techniques, analyse and test it using statistical tests and draw conclusions from their findings before evaluating the strengths and weaknesses of their research. A total of four days field work is required at A Level to give students ideas and skills to use in their own feedback. This is an exciting and challenging course which provides students with a range of engaging topics and the chance to do their own research.

Continued next page

Geography cont.



Key skills

- Communication
- Application of numbers
- Information technology
- Working with others
- Improving own learning and performance
- Problem solving

Enrichment opportunities

- Fieldwork opportunities
- Local Geographical Association Evening Lectures at the University of Cambridge Geography Department

Higher Education and career prospects

Geography A Level will give you useful skills for life as well as engaging you in a better understanding of how the world works. Geography graduates have amongst the lowest unemployment rates of any degree subject and many students study Geography because they find it interesting even though they know they will go on to study Medicine/Veterinary Medicine/Dentistry. If you want to build on the GCSE and investigate your planet and your place on it, this is the subject for you!



History



Head of Department

DR A GUNDY
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Course Specification

OCR: AS Level H105, A Level H505

Content of AS Level

Unit 1 England 1547-1603: The Later Tudors

This unit comprises both an enquiry topic, focused on the Mid-Tudor Crises of 1547-1558, and a British period study, focused on the reign of Elizabeth I. The period study element of the unit is assessed by essays, which will allow students to develop their use and understanding of historical terms, concepts and skills. In the enquiry element, the focus will be on the critical use of evidence in investigating and assessing historical questions, problems and issues. The sources selected for examination will be a range of types of written sources, contemporary to the period. This unit is worth 50% of the total AS Level.

Unit 2 The Cold War in Europe: 1941-1995

This unit is a period study of a non-British topic. Students will study the origins of the Cold War in Europe, including the peace negotiations at the end of World War II. Other topics in this unit will include the Soviet dominance of Eastern Europe, NATO and the Warsaw Pact, the opposition to communist rule in Hungary, Poland and Czechoslovakia, the arms race, détente and the break-up of the USSR. Students will be assessed in a traditional essay on the period and a second essay which considers the ways in which the topic has been interpreted by historians. This unit is worth 50% of the total AS Level.

Content of A Level

Unit 1 England 1547-1603: The Later Tudors

As above but this unit is worth 25% of the total A Level.

Unit 2 The Cold War in Europe: 1941-1995

As above, but students will be assessed in a traditional essay, and by answering a shorter question assessing the significance of two events. This unit is worth 15% of the total A Level.

Unit 3 Civil rights in the USA 1865-1992

This unit comprises thematic studies of African Americans, Trade Unions, Native Americans and women, focusing on the struggle of US citizens to

gain equality before the law, along with the factors which encouraged and discouraged change. In addition, students will focus on three depth studies within the period: the 'Gilded Age' c1875-1895, The New Deal and civil rights, and Malcolm X and Black Power, with particular reference to how these periods have been interpreted by historians. This unit is worth 40% of the total A Level.

Unit 4 Topic based essay

This unit consists of an independently researched essay of 3000-4000 words. The essay will be marked internally and moderated by OCR. This unit is worth 20% of the total A Level.

Key skills

- An enquiring mind
- An interest in the past
- An enthusiasm for reading
- The ability to organise, analyse and communicate ideas in writing

Enrichment opportunities

- Sixth Form lectures delivered by university academics

Higher Education and career prospects

History has a reputation for academic rigour and is highly respected by universities and employers of all types. History will teach you how to research, structure and write persuasive arguments and train you to evaluate historical sources. These skills are highly sought-after and lead naturally into careers such as law, journalism, business and management.

Latin



Head of Department

MRS R LYON
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Course Specification

OCR: AS Level H043, A Level H443

Latin is a fascinating entry to understanding a culture which has contributed hugely to our own world but is also completely alien from it. Continuing your study increases your fluency in Latin language and enhances general language acquisition, written and analytical skills, while also extending your knowledge of Roman life and values through study of ancient authors.

Content of AS Level

Unit 1 Latin language

Students build on their existing language skills by learning new grammar, constructions and a set vocabulary list. The first section of the examination involves translating a passage into English. In the second section, students choose between answering comprehension questions on a passage or translating five sentences into Latin.

Unit 2 Latin literature

In this unit, students study two set texts, learning a little about the events at the time of their composition, but the main focus of study is the authors' use of language. In the examination, students answer comprehension questions on both texts and translate a short extract of each into English. The current set authors are Cicero (a political attack trying to discredit his deadly enemy Mark Anthony) and Virgil (extracts from his epic poem *The Aeneid* about the struggle to found Rome).

Content of A Level

Unit 1 Unseen translation

Students will improve language skills by learning new grammar and constructions, and will study in particular the works of a prose author, Livy, and a poet, Ovid. They will translate a passage from each author and will also scan two lines of poetry, showing understanding of poetic metre.

Unit 2 Prose composition or comprehension

Students continue to develop language skills – in this paper they will have the choice of answering comprehension and translation questions on the language of a passage of prose or translating a short passage of English into Latin.

Unit 3 Prose literature

Students study either a larger extract of one prose set text or shorter extracts from two authors, including some study of the literature in translation. For 2020 students will study the Cicero speech mentioned above. Students will learn about the context of the literature as well as its style and content, and will answer questions on aspects of the text.

Unit 4 Verse literature

Students again have the option of studying one or two authors – for 2020 students will study the Virgil chapter mentioned above. They study the context of the literature and gain an understanding and appreciation of Virgil's style, presentation of characters and the content and plot. They will answer questions on the text, including a brief translation.

Key skills

- Analytical reasoning
- Language skills

Enrichment opportunities

- Trips to museums with classical collections
- Attending the University of Cambridge's classical lectures
- Regular Classics trip to Greece or Italy

Higher Education and career prospects

Studying Latin provides a sound and highly esteemed preparation for a wide variety of academic courses, including Law, History, English, languages and Classics, and is frequently a pathway into careers in law, politics, journalism, academia and business.

Leiths Introductory Certificate in Food and Wine with CTH

(Confederation of Tourism and Hospitality)



The course is specifically designed to provide young people with a vital skill for life, and ensure that traditional, core techniques and the associated theory are learnt using delicious recipes. It gives pupils a thorough understanding of culinary techniques, and the chance to explore the science behind them.

Leiths has just started a partnership with Confederation of Tourism and Hospitality (CTH) and the course now includes a CTH Level 3 extended professional qualification course that runs in parallel with the Leiths course. The CTH Level 3 Professional Cookery Programme is carefully structured to prepare students for a first career role in various kitchen environments. Units are assessed by practical examinations and by written assignments. Successful students should therefore get 2 qualifications at the end of the 5 terms. St Mary's are offering this course as an alternative to an A Level, which would be delivered in the same lesson allocation as other A Level courses.

Details of the course

With training in understanding recipes, time management, menu planning, food safety and hygiene, food presentation and healthy eating, pupils will gain a solid practical foundation as well as an impressive repertoire that will enable them to cook confidently for small numbers either independently or in a group. Pupils will also gain a basic understanding of wine. For the most motivated students, this qualification could lead to professional employment. Pupils completing this course often find employment in the food industry during their GAP year and beyond, including catering for private clients or in a variety of seasonal jobs in the UK and abroad.

Benefits for the students

- Equips students with an important skill for life
- Develops confidence, creativity and maturity
- Enhances the employability of students
- Improves time management, organization and team-work skills
- Valuable addition to CVs

The Leiths Introductory Certificate fulfils the requirements for the 'New Skill' section of the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award, is a valued additional element to a UCAS Personal Statement and gives knowledge and confidence to those about to embark on independent living.

Assessment

- Continuous classroom assessment.
- Coursework focusing on menu planning, writing time plans and informal tests
- 2 ½ hour practical exam covering dishes cooked during the course
- Theory exam on skills learnt and developed throughout the course

Grade bands for CTH Level 3	UCAS tariff
Distinction 80%+	36
Merit 60-79%	24
Pass 40-59%	12

The course is specifically designed to provide young people with a vital skill for life, and ensure that traditional, core techniques and the associated theory are learnt using delicious recipes. It gives pupils a thorough understanding of culinary techniques, and the chance to explore the science behind them.

Mandarin Chinese (Pre-U)



Teacher in Charge

MRS Y GAO
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Course Specification

CIE: Cambridge Pre-U 9778

The Cambridge Pre-U is an alternative post-16 qualification, which is equivalent to A Level and is widely recognised for university entrance.

Content of Cambridge Pre-U

Paper 1 Speaking: approximately 15 minutes (20%)

The speaking test consists of a prepared topic conversation and a general conversation. It is externally assessed by a visiting examiner.

Paper 2 Listening, reading and translation: 2 hours 30 minutes (30%)

- Listening – includes pinyin dictation, short passages and long passages (20 marks)
- Reading – comprises two passages of around 450 words in total, requiring answers in English (18 marks)
- Chinese sayings (Chengyu) – requires translating and explaining the meaning of three given Chinese sayings (6 marks)
- Translation – this section comprises a translation of a short passage (no more than 200 characters) from Chinese into English (16 marks)

Paper 3 Writing and Usage: 2 hours (25%)

- Radical, stroke order and grammar – requires identifying three characters by their radical and providing the number of strokes and stroke order, and completing a cloze test
- Letter writing – comprises a letter of 80 to 100 Chinese characters
- Opinion essay – requires an essay of 175 to 225 Chinese characters

Paper 4 Chinese Culture: 2 hours 30 minutes (25%)

Students are required to answer two questions in English, one on one of the three topics in Chinese culture and the other one on Chinese literature and film.

Topics: family; young people; education; the media; work and leisure; equality of opportunity.

Key skills

- Attention to detail
- An analytical mind
- A willingness to take part in discussions on a range of topics
- An interest in the language and culture of Chinese-speaking countries

Higher Education and career prospects

At university level, you can study Chinese Language and/or Culture or Chinese Studies. Alternatively, you can study a complementary subject such as International Business, Economics, Law, Politics, Psychology, and Tourism. This will allow you to work in business, education, translation or interpretation, international companies, journalism, law, tourism, politics and public relations.

Mathematics and Further Mathematics



Head of Department

MR D KELLY
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Course Specification

EDEXCEL: AS Level 8MA0/01, 8MA0/02, A Level 9MA0/01, 9MA0/02
Further Mathematics A Level: 9FM0/01, 9FM0/02, 9FMA0/3A-3D and 9FMA0/4A-4G

MATHEMATICS

Content of AS Level

Paper 1 Pure Mathematics (100 marks)

- Proof
- Algebra and functions
- Coordinate geometry
- Trigonometry
- Sequences
- Exponentials and logarithms
- Calculus
- Vectors

Paper 2 Statistics and mechanics (50 marks)

- Statistical sampling
- Data presentation and interpretation
- Probability
- Statistical distributions
- Statistical hypothesis testing
- Quantities and units in mechanics
- Kinematics
- Forces and Newton's laws

Content of A Level

Paper 1 Pure Mathematics (100 marks)

- Proof
- Algebra and functions
- Coordinate geometry
- Trigonometry
- Sequences
- Exponentials and logarithms
- Calculus
- Vectors

Paper 2 Pure Mathematics (100 marks)

- Proof
- Algebra and functions
- Coordinate geometry in (x,y) plane
- Sequences
- Trigonometry
- Exponentials and logarithms
- Calculus
- Vectors

Paper 3 Statistics and mechanics (100 marks)

- Statistical sampling
- Data presentation and interpretation
- Probability
- Statistical distributions
- Statistical hypothesis testing
- Quantities and units in mechanics
- Kinematics
- Forces and Newton's laws
- Moments

Continued next page

Mathematics and Further Mathematics cont.



FURTHER MATHEMATICS Content of A Level

4 modules (2 Compulsory Core, plus 2 extra modules)

Paper 1 Core Pure Mathematics (75 marks)

- Proof
- Complex numbers
- Matrices
- Further algebra and functions
- Further calculus
- Further vectors

Paper 2 Core Pure Mathematics (75 marks)

- Polar coordinates
- Complex numbers
- Hyperbolic functions
- Further algebra and functions
- Further calculus
- Differential equations

Two of the following:

- Further Pure Mathematics 3
- Further Pure Mathematics 4
- Further Statistics 1
- Further Statistics 2
- Further Mechanics 1
- Further Mechanics 2
- Decision Mathematics 1
- Decision Mathematics 2

Key skills

- Problem solving
- Communication skills
- Analysis
- Focus and determination to succeed

Enrichment opportunities

- Participation in Maths Challenges and Olympiads
- Links with the University of Cambridge

Higher Education and career prospects

A Level Mathematics opens the door to just about anything. It would be required for and/or useful in any of the following degree courses and related careers: Accountancy, Computing, Geography, Sciences, Actuary, Cybernetics, Sports Science, Architecture, Economics, Law, Statistics, Biomechanics, Engineering, Medicine, Teaching, Business, Information Technology, Environmental Studies and Psychology.

Music



Head of Department

MRS E FISHER
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Course Specification

EDEXCEL: A Level 9MU01

The A Level Music course is an enjoyable, rigorous course, concentrating on exploring music through performing and composing, listening and analysis. The course will include the study of a wide range of music from the Baroque to Modern classics, popular styles of music and music from other cultures and traditions.

Content of A Level

Component 1 Performing (30% of qualification)

Students are required to prepare a solo recital (on any instrument/voice) lasting a minimum of eight minutes. Performances must be recorded after the 1 March in Upper Sixth. The recital is recorded and externally assessed by Edexcel.

Component 2 Composing (30% of qualification)

Students are required to submit two compositions. The first will be either a free choice composition OR a composition in response to a brief set by Edexcel, and the second composition will be a response to a brief assessing technique, also set by Edexcel in the spring of Upper Sixth. The total time across both compositions must be a minimum of six minutes. The compositions must be notated and recorded and they are externally assessed by Edexcel.

Component 3 Appraising (40% of qualification)

This unit focuses on listening to music, familiar and unfamiliar, and understanding the musical elements, contexts and language.

Students will focus on six specific areas of music, with in-depth study of three set works for each area:

- Vocal Music
- Instrumental Music
- Music for Film
- Popular Music and Jazz
- Fusions
- New Directions

Key skills

- A passion for music and composition
- Strong performance skills – students should have achieved at least Grade 5 standard on their chosen instrument/voice in order to begin the course
- Grade 5 Music Theory and basic keyboard skills are also useful

Enrichment opportunities

Students studying Music are encouraged to participate in a variety of musical ensembles within school and, where appropriate, to take leadership roles. Advanced musicians may be offered the opportunity to perform solos in concerts.

Higher Education and career prospects

Music A Level is a highly regarded academic subject and provides an excellent foundation for studying Music at either university or a conservatoire. Music graduates work in a range of professions inside and outside music. For example if you are thinking of a career involving therapy and caring for others, you could combine Music with two sciences and explore music therapy. If you are thinking of a career in the arts, then Music will be a strong link. Music graduates can be found working for a variety of employers, for example media organisations, cultural and creative industries, the armed forces, music retailers, schools and colleges and many more.

Physics



Head of Department

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Course Specification

EDEXCEL: AS Level 8PH0, A Level 9PH0

Content of AS Level

Paper 1 Core Physics I

This unit involves the study of mechanics (motion, forces, energy, power), electric circuits, errors and measurement. It is assessed by means of a written examination paper of 1 hour and 30 minutes, which consists of multiple-choice, short open, open-response, calculations and extended writing questions.

Paper 2 Core Physics II

This unit involves the study of materials (flow of liquids, viscosity, Stokes' Law, Young's modulus, strain energy), waves, the particle nature of light, errors and measurement. It is assessed by means of a written examination paper of 1 hour and 30 minutes, which consists of multiple-choice, short open, open-response, calculations and extended writing questions.

Practical work

There is no coursework or Controlled Assessment. However, students will complete a set of core practicals during their lessons which are relevant to the topic they are studying at the time. The content of the core practicals will be assessed in the examination papers (15% of the marks).

Content of A Level

Paper 1 Advanced Physics I

This unit involves the study of mechanics, electric circuits, further mechanics (momentum and circular motion), electric and magnetic fields, and nuclear and particle physics. It is assessed by means of a written examination paper of 1 hour and 45 minutes, which consists of multiple-choice, short open, open-response, calculations and extended writing questions.

Paper 2 Advanced Physics II

This unit involves the study of materials, waves and particle nature of light, thermodynamics, space, nuclear radiation, gravitational fields and oscillations. It is assessed by means of a written examination paper of 1 hour and 45 minutes, which consists of multiple-choice, short open, open-response, calculations and extended writing questions.

Paper 3 General and practical principles in Physics

Questions in this paper may draw on any of the topics in the specification, and they may be of a synoptic nature (i.e. drawn from two or more topics). The paper will include questions that assess conceptual and theoretical understanding of experimental methods (indirect practical skills) that will draw on students' experiences of the core practicals. The paper will be 2 hours and 30 minutes long, and may include multiple-choice, short open, open-response, calculations and extended writing questions.

Physics cont.



Science practical endorsement

There is no coursework or Controlled Assessment. Students learn to use relevant apparatus and develop practical techniques by completing a set of core practical activities in lesson time. Practical competency will be assessed as pass/fail internally. The content of the core practicals will be assessed in the examination papers (15% of the marks). Practical work records will be used as evidence for internal assessment against a set of exam board standards. This is in addition to the A Level qualification.

Key skills

- An enquiring and curious mind
- An enjoyment of carrying out practical work
- A good ability in Mathematics

Enrichment opportunities

- British Physics Olympiad: AS challenge competition
- Lectures and events run by Physics education groups

Higher Education and career prospects

Physics provides a broad training in skills that are valued in many degree courses: an ability to grasp concepts quickly, a determination to find coherent answers, problem solving, analytical, mathematical and IT skills. It is particularly recommended for courses and subsequent degrees in all types of Engineering, Medicine and branches of Physics, such as Medical Physics, Astrophysics and Geophysics. It is also useful for courses outside science that require high levels of numeracy, such as Economics, actuarial work, Accountancy and Business Studies.

Psychology



Head of Department

MR R QUIRK
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Course Specification

AQA: A Level 7182

Content of A Level

Unit 1 Introductory topics in Psychology

This unit includes: *Social Influence*, which delves into the psychology of obedience and conformity; *Memory*, which focuses on how memory works and issues in eye witness testimony; *Attachment*, especially looking at infants and carers with the real-life application of day care; and *Psychopathology*, which considers the causes of mental illnesses and their treatment.

Unit 2 Psychology in context

This unit includes: *Approaches in Psychology*, which looks at the different theoretical frameworks in which the study takes place; *Biopsychology*, exploring the biological mechanisms involved in psychological processes; and *Research Methods*, providing an introduction to carrying out psychological research.

Unit 3 Issues and options in Psychology

This unit introduces the *Issues and Debates* which run through psychological theory and research, and focuses on three topics in detail, which will be *Gender*, looking at biological and psychological bases of gender and how gender awareness develops in childhood; *Eating Behaviour*, exploring attitudes towards food, the biological basis of hunger and food preferences, and causes of and treatments for Anorexia Nervosa and obesity; and *Addiction*, concerning the biological and psychological precursors of addiction and its consequences.

Key skills

- Analytical and evaluative skills
- Secure mathematical skills
- The ability to explain ideas carefully and in detail

Enrichment opportunities

- Opportunity to plan and conduct your own Psychology experiments
- Opportunity to research and write an extended essay on a topic of choice
- Opportunity to write articles for the Psychology department newsletter
- Participation in Psychology club and PsychSoc

Higher Education and career prospects

Psychology A Level will provide you with a good basis from which to continue on to a Psychology degree. At many universities, Psychology can be studied as part of a dual Honours Degree, often being combined with other social sciences and Philosophy. Other Psychology-related degrees include Social Science, Law, humanities subjects and English Literature

Those who study Psychology A Level have a number of highly transferable skills: the ability to question and analyse written, graphical and statistical information; the ability to argue logically in well-structured written form; and the key skills of applying knowledge to novel situations. Psychology is useful in any job requiring understanding of human behaviour or customer service. It is also a route into explicit use of Psychology: Educational Psychology, Occupational Psychology, Clinical Psychology and Forensic Psychology.

Spanish



Head of Department

MISS N LEES
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Course Specification

AQA: AS Level 7691, A Level 7692

Content of AS Level

Unit 1 Listening, reading and writing

This unit covers two broad topic areas: aspects of Hispanic society and artistic culture in the Hispanic world. There are assessments in:

- Listening
- Reading
- Translation of a Spanish passage of a minimum of 70 words into English

Unit 2 Writing

This unit covers a set text or film from the specified list and also translation of an English passage into Spanish. The assessments are:

- Translation of a passage of a minimum of 70 words from English into Spanish
- One essay question in Spanish on either a set text from a choice of two questions or on a set film from a choice of two questions

Unit 3 Speaking

This unit covers one sub-theme from aspects of Hispanic society and one sub-theme from artistic culture in the Hispanic world. The test lasts 12-14 minutes and involves discussion of two sub-themes based on a stimulus card for each sub-theme.

Content of A Level

Unit 1 Listening, reading and writing

This unit covers four broad topic areas: aspects of Hispanic society, artistic culture in the Hispanic world, multiculturalism in Hispanic society and aspects of political life in Hispanic society. There are assessments in:

- Listening
- Reading
- Translation into English: a passage of minimum 100 words
- Translation into Spanish: a passage of minimum 100 words (10 marks)

Unit 2 Writing

This unit covers a set text and a set film or two set texts from the specified list and also translation of an English passage into Spanish.

The assessment involves **either** one question in Spanish on a set text from a choice of two questions and one question in Spanish on a set film from a choice of two questions **or** two questions in Spanish on set texts from a choice of two questions on each text.

Unit 3 Speaking

This unit covers an individual research project and one sub-theme from aspects of Hispanic society, artistic culture in the Hispanic world, multiculturalism in Hispanic society and aspects of political life in Hispanic society. The assessment involves:

- Discussion of a sub-theme with the discussion based on a stimulus card (5–6 minutes). The student studies the card for 5 minutes at the start of the test.
- Presentation (2 minutes) and discussion (9–10 minutes) of individual research project (35 marks).

Key skills

- Attention to detail
- An analytical mind
- A willingness to take part in discussions on a range of topics
- An interest in the language and culture of Spanish-speaking countries

Enrichment opportunities

- Spanish film club
- Theatre and cinema visits
- Trips and the opportunity for work experience abroad

Higher Education and career prospects

Spanish may be studied with other Modern Foreign Languages in a combined Honours Degree or with another language started from scratch, such as Portuguese, Arabic or Italian. It may also be combined with a wide range of subjects, such as History, Drama, Engineering or Law. It can be used in any career that includes the possibility of either working abroad in a Spanish speaking country or one in which knowledge of Spanish would be an asset in the UK.

Theology



Head of Department

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Course Specification

EDEXCEL: A Level 9RS0

Paper 1: Philosophy of religion

(Paper code: 9RS0/01)

Written examination: 2 hours (33.3% of qualification)

- Two structured questions
- One two-part essay question on an excerpt, sourced from a published list of extracts
- One extended essay question

Content overview

- Philosophical issues and questions
- The nature and influence of religious experience
- Problems of evil and suffering
- Philosophical language
- Works of scholars
- Influences of developments in religious belief

Paper 2: Religion and ethics

(Paper code: 9RS0/02)

Written examination: 2 hours (33.3% of qualification)

- Two structured questions
- One two-part essay question on an excerpt, sourced from a published list of extracts
- One extended essay question

Content overview

- Significant concepts in issues or debates in religion and ethics
- A study of three ethical theories
- Application of ethical theories to issues of importance
- Ethical language
- Deontology, virtue ethics and the works of scholars
- Medical ethics: beginning and end of life issues

Paper 3: New Testament studies

(Paper code: 9RS0/03)

Written examination: 2 hours (33.3% of qualification)

- Two structured questions
- One two-part essay question on an excerpt, sourced from a published list of extracts
- One extended essay question

Content overview

- Social, historical and religious context of the New Testament
- Texts and interpretation of the Person of Jesus
- Interpreting the text and issues of relationship, purpose and authorship
- Ways of interpreting the scripture
- Texts and interpretation: the Kingdom of God, conflict, the death and resurrection of Jesus
- Scientific and historical-critical challenges, ethical living and the works of scholars

Theology cont.



Key skills

- Research: the ability to collect, combine and interpret information from a wide range of sources
- Communication: the ability to express ideas clearly and logically; the ability to substantiate and defend an argument
- Analysis: the ability to assess the weight of evidence and the validity of an argument; the ability to understand and appreciate different points of view
- The ability to make links between different areas of the subject

Enrichment opportunities

- Links with the various inter-faith programmes associated with the University of Cambridge
- One-day Ethics and Philosophy conferences at the Guildhall with Dr Peter Vardy, author and former Vice-Principal of Heythrop College, and other notable contributors

Higher Education and career prospects

Theology is a particularly useful supporting subject to any of the humanities and can contribute to a broader curriculum with sciences or languages. Theology students have gone on to study the subject further at university or have found it valuable when doing degree courses such as Anthropology, History, Psychology, Environmental Science, English, Law and Geography.

The skills developed by studying Theology are in demand by employers as they are transferable skills that are valuable in a broad range of careers. Recent graduates of A Level Theology are currently working in law, teaching, medicine, veterinary science, social work, research (Biochemistry), civil service, marketing and management, PR, finance and academia (Theology, Archaeology and Anthropology).

Notes



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