

# A-LEVEL OPTIONS BOOKLET

2025-2027



**THE  
PALMER  
CATHOLIC  
ACADEMY**



# Welcome

## Selecting Advanced Level Subjects

A-Levels are an opportunity for you to study, in depth, the subjects which most inspire you. Selecting your subjects is a great opportunity to decide how you will spend your time over the next two years and beyond. When choosing your subjects **seek advice** from a number of sources such as your teachers, family and our careers advisor as you begin the next stage of your education.

## How do you choose?

Sixth Form courses are more specialised and you need to make your choice on the basis of **interest**, **ability** and **future aspirations**. Before making your choice of Sixth Form subjects you should consider the following points very carefully:

- a) Choose subjects that you **enjoy**. Interest in the subjects is of prime importance. You will need to devote many hours of study to each of your subjects. Unless you are interested, you will find it hard to maintain the **motivation** necessary to achieve your best possible grades. The grades you achieve will have a direct effect on your future plans and decisions.
- b) Choose subjects in which you can **succeed**. You should have the **ability** to carry on studying your subjects to a high level, therefore, it is sensible to choose subjects in which you have already succeeded and are confident. When choosing new subjects look carefully at their requirements and make sure they match your strengths.
- c) Choose subjects that are **relevant** to **future** plans. If you have a clear idea of your future aspirations Post-18, choose subjects which are required by Higher Education Institutions or employers in order to fulfil those intentions. **Investigate** the various options and choose relevant and useful combinations of subjects. **Look out for the Russell Group logo for the 'facilitating subjects' that Russell Group Universities require.**

**FIND OUT MORE USING THIS LINK:** <https://russellgroup.ac.uk/>

- d) Choose subjects which suit your **style** of working. Think whether you prefer more or less coursework, examinations etc. Think carefully of the skills, study patterns and styles of work required by each subject.
- e) Choose subjects which are **compatible** with each other. Ensure your subjects fit well together and appear a sensible grouping for your future career or education.

## Independent Study Requirements

The workload in the Sixth Form is challenging and substantial and requires self-discipline and organisation.

You select three subjects or in *some* cases four subjects particularly those choosing Further Mathematics. A few students may also do the **Extended Project Qualification**. All subjects will have five x 100 minutes of teaching over the two week cycle and five x 100 minutes of timetabled independent study.

University applications are made very early in Year 13, your achievements from Year 12 are very important and will influence your reference. It is essential that you join the Sixth Form prepared to work independently and utilise non-timetabled sessions for personal study and community work. **No part time work should be undertaken during school hours whilst in the Sixth Form.**

# Minimum Subject Entry Requirements

SUBJECT	ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
A-LEVEL ART	5 GCSE's Grade 5 or above (including English <b>AND</b> Mathematics <b>AND</b> Art)
A-LEVEL BIOLOGY	5 GCSE's Grade 5 or above (including English <b>AND</b> Mathematics). <b>ALSO</b> Grade 6 in Combined Science <b>OR</b> Grade 6 in GCSE Biology
A-LEVEL BUSINESS STUDIES	5 GCSE's Grade 5 or above (including English <b>AND</b> Mathematics)
A-LEVEL CHEMISTRY	5 GCSE's Grade 5 or above (including English <b>AND</b> Mathematics). <b>ALSO</b> Grade 6 in Combined Science <b>OR</b> Grade 6 in GCSE Chemistry
A-LEVEL COMPUTER SCIENCE	5 GCSE's Grade 5 or above (including English <b>AND</b> Mathematics <b>AND</b> Computer Science)
A-LEVEL ECONOMICS	5 GCSE's Grade 5 or above (including English <b>AND</b> Mathematics)
A-LEVEL ENGLISH LITERATURE	5 GCSE's Grade 5 or above (including English Literature <b>AND</b> Mathematics)
A-LEVEL GEOGRAPHY	5 GCSE's Grade 5 or above (including English <b>AND</b> Mathematics)
A-LEVEL HISTORY	5 GCSE's Grade 5 or above (including English <b>AND</b> Mathematics)
A-LEVEL LAW	5 GCSE's Grade 5 or above (including English <b>AND</b> Mathematics)
A-LEVEL MATHEMATICS	5 GCSE's Grade 5 or above (including English <b>AND</b> Grade 7 Mathematics)
A-LEVEL FURTHER MATHEMATICS	5 GCSE's Grade 5 or above (including English <b>AND</b> Grade 8 Mathematics)
A-LEVEL MEDIA STUDIES	5 GCSE's Grade 5 or above (including English <b>AND</b> Mathematics)
A-LEVEL PE	5 GCSE's Grade 5 or above (including English <b>AND</b> Mathematics)
A-LEVEL PHILOSOPHY & ETHICS	5 GCSE's Grade 5 or above (including English <b>AND</b> Mathematics)
A-LEVEL PHYSICS	5 GCSE's Grade 5 or above (including English <b>AND</b> Mathematics). <b>ALSO</b> Grade 6 in Combined Science <b>OR</b> Grade 6 in GCSE Physics.
A-LEVEL POLITICS	5 GCSE's Grade 5 or above (including English <b>AND</b> Mathematics)
A-LEVEL PSYCHOLOGY	5 GCSE's Grade 5 or above (including English <b>AND</b> Mathematics <b>AND</b> Science)
A-LEVEL SOCIOLOGY	5 GCSE's Grade 5 or above (including English <b>AND</b> Mathematics)

**A-LEVEL ART, CRAFT & DESIGN: EDEXCEL  
(FINE ART- 9FA0)**



**LEAD TEACHER: MRS BOURNE**

## Outline of the course

Drawing in fine art forms an essential part of the development process; from rough sketches, to diagrams setting out compositions, to digital drawings used for installations or as part of three-dimensional work. Students will use a variety of tools, materials and techniques, as appropriate, for recording their surroundings and source materials.

Art requires engagement with aesthetic and intellectual concepts through the use of traditional and/or digital media, materials, techniques and processes for the purpose of self-expression. Art will be used to explore personal and cultural identity, society and how we live, visual language, and technology. Art allows us to consider and reflect on our place in the world, both as individuals and collectively.

- painting and drawing
- printmaking
- sculpture
- lens-based image making.

## Want to find out more? Use the link below.

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/A%20Level/Art%20and%20Design/2015/specification-and-sample-assessment-materials/GCE-A-level-Art-and-Design-specification-Issue-4.pdf>

GCE	A-LEVEL
<b>HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED? Graded A* - E</b>	
You will be assessed through two components: 1. Personal investigation 60% 2. Externally set assignment 40%	
Through these components, students must:	
<b>AO1</b> Develop ideas through sustained and focused investigations informed by contextual and other sources, demonstrating analytical and critical understanding. 25%	
<b>AO2</b> Explore and select appropriate resources, media, materials, techniques and processes, reviewing and refining ideas as work develops. 25%	
<b>AO3</b> Record ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions, reflecting critically on work and progress. 25%	
<b>AO4</b> Present a personal and meaningful response that realises intentions and, where appropriate, makes connections between visual and other elements. 25%	

## CAREERS

The UK's creative industries contribute £92billion to the economy. The growth of the sector is expected to continue, predicting a worth of £128.4billion to the UK economy by 2025.

A Fine Artist, including a Painter, Sculptor, or Illustrator on average gets paid between £30,000 - £60,000 based on their experience. Fine Artists will usually earn a pay level of £43,200 per year.



**HEAD OF DEPARTMENT: MR GILLIN**

## Outline of the course

Biology is a fascinating subject - everyday there are references to biological topics in the news. This course is suited to those who appreciate science, are interested in learning about how living organisms interact with each other and enjoy practical work.

### Year 12:

- 1 Biological molecules
- 2 Cells
- 3 Organisms exchange substances with their environment
  - 1 Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms

### Year 13:

- 5 Energy transfers in and between organisms
- 6 Organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments
- 7 Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems
- 8 The control of gene expression

**Want to find out more?  
Use the link below.**

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/as-and-a-level/biology-7401-7402>

GCE	A-LEVEL
<b>HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED? Grade A*-E</b>	
<b>Paper 1: written exam: 2 hours, 91 marks, 35% of A-Level</b>	
<b>What's assessed?</b>	
Any content from topics 1–4, including relevant practical skills	
Questions: 76 marks: a mixture of short and long answer questions	
15 marks: extended response questions	
<b>Paper 2: written exam: 2 hours, 91 marks, 35% of A-Level</b>	
<b>What's assessed?</b>	
Any content from topics 5–8, including relevant practical skills	
Questions: 76 marks: a mixture of short and long answer questions	
15 marks: comprehension question	
<b>Paper 3: written exam: 2 hours, 78 marks, 30% of A-Level</b>	
<b>What's assessed?</b>	
Any content from topics 1–8, including relevant practical skills	
Questions: 38 marks: structured questions, including practical techniques	
15 marks: critical analysis of given experimental data	
25 marks: one essay from a choice of two titles	

## CAREERS

Those who aspire to study Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Medicine, Pharmacy, Biological Science, Biotechnology, Biochemistry, Paramedical or Biomedical careers, Radiotherapy and Radiography. Biology is also very relevant to Environmental Science, Agriculture and Psychology courses. Microbiology provides the basis for many biochemical engineering processes.

**A-LEVEL BUSINESS: OCR (H431)**



**HEAD OF DEPARTMENT: MR WATERHOUSE**

## Outline of the course

This qualification provides a broad understanding of business knowledge and skills to support progress to higher education. The qualification also offers learners an opportunity to develop transferable skills, such as teamwork, research and communication as part of their applied learning.

1. Business objectives and strategic decision
2. External influences facing businesses
3. Marketing and marketing strategies
5. Operational strategy
6. Human resources
7. Accounting and financial considerations
8. The global environment of business

Each component will have a specific focus on a type of business ranging from small/medium enterprise to national and international firms.

**Want to find out more?  
Use the link below.**

[https://www.ocr.org.uk/  
qualifications/as-and-a-level/  
business-h031-h431-from-2015/](https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-and-a-level/business-h031-h431-from-2015/)

<b>GCE</b>	<b>A-LEVEL</b>
<b>HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED? Graded A* - E</b>	
<b>Paper 1 : Written examination, 2 hours, 80 marks.</b>	
Operating in a local business environment.	
Section A: 15 multiple choice questions.	
Section B: Data Response questions linked to the Resource Booklet.	
<b>Paper 2: Written examination, 2 hours, 80 marks.</b>	
The UK business environment	
Section A: Short answer questions.	
Section B: Extended response questions linked to the Resource Booklet.	
<b>Paper 3: Written examination, 2 hours, 80 marks</b>	
The global business environment	
Both data response and extended response questions linked to the Resource Booklet.	

## CAREERS

Business Studies is a pathway to many careers. Each unit could be a potential career ranging from starting your own business, to working in marketing, human resources, operations, finance/ accounting or logistics (importing and exporting). Accountants earn an average salary of £62,000, whereas a logistics job has an average annual salary of £32,000.



HEAD OF DEPARTMENT: MR GILLIN

## Outline of the course

**Physical chemistry:** Including atomic structure, amount of substance, bonding, energetics, kinetics, chemical equilibrium, Le Chatelier's principle and  $K_c$ , thermodynamics, rate equations, equilibrium constant ( $K_p$ ) for homogeneous systems, electrode potentials and electrochemical cells

**Inorganic chemistry:** Including periodicity, Group 2 the alkaline earth metals, Group 7(17) the Halogens, properties of Period 3 elements and their oxides, transition metals, reactions of ions in aqueous solution.

**Organic chemistry:** Including introduction to organic chemistry, alkanes, halogenoalkanes, alkenes, alcohols, organic analysis, optical isomerism, aldehydes and ketones, carboxylic acids and derivatives, aromatic chemistry, amines, polymers, amino acids, proteins and DNA, organic synthesis, NMR spectroscopy, chromatography

**Want to find out more?  
Use the link below.**

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/as-and-a-level/chemistry-7404-7405>

GCE	A-LEVEL
<b>HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED? Grade A*-E</b>	
<u>Paper 1: written exam 2 hours (105 marks)</u> 35% of A-level	
<b>What's assessed?</b> Physical chemistry topics Inorganic chemistry Relevant practical skills	
<u>Paper 2 : written exam 2 hours (105 marks)</u> 35% of A-level	
<b>What's assessed?</b> Relevant Physical chemistry topics Organic chemistry Relevant practical skills	
<u>Paper 3: written exam 2 hours (90 marks)</u> 30% of A-level	
<b>What's assessed?</b> Any content Any practical skills	

## CAREERS

Chemistry is an important subject for careers in medicine, environmental science, engineering, toxicology, developing consumer products, space exploration, developing perfumes and cosmetics, pharmaceuticals, energy, teaching, science writing, software development and research.  
Senior clinical pharmacist average salary is £46,671.

**A-LEVEL COMPUTER SCIENCE: OCR (H446)**



**HEAD OF DEPARTMENT: MR WATERHOUSE**

## Outline of the course

### **01 COMPUTER SYSTEMS:**

This component covers the characteristics of contemporary systems architecture and other areas including the characteristics of contemporary processors, input, output and storage devices • Software and software development • Data types, data structures and algorithms • Moral, and ethical issues.

### **02 ALGORITHMS AND PROGRAMMING:**

**SECTION A:** Questions on computational thinking and computational thinking. Programming and problem solving. Algorithm design. Standard algorithms.

**SECTION B:** There will be a scenario/task contained in the paper, which could be an algorithm or a text page-based task.

### **03 PROGRAMMING PROJECT:**

Students select their own user-driven problem of an appropriate size and complexity to solve. This will enable them to demonstrate the skills and knowledge necessary to meet the Assessment Objectives.

GCE	A-LEVEL
<b>HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED? Grade A* - E</b>	
<b>01 COMPUTER SYSTEMS:</b> [A2 40% - Externally Marked Question Paper – 2hrs 50mins]	
<b>02 ALGORITHMS AND PROGRAMMING:</b> [A2 40% - Externally Marked Paper – 2hrs 30mins]	
<b>03 PROGRAMMING PROJECT:</b> [A2 20% - Internally assessed, externally moderated – 70 marks].	

**Want to find out more?  
Use the link below.**

[https://www.ocr.org.uk/  
qualifications/as-and-a-level/  
computer-science-h046-h446-from-  
2015/](https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-and-a-level/computer-science-h046-h446-from-2015/)

## CAREERS

Computer Science develops skills that are subject specific and transferrable to other areas including; Programming, System Design, Systems Analysis, Networking and many more. Many courses are offered by the top universities in the country to develop a student's interests further and the knowledge and skills from a Computer Science qualification are highly sought by modern businesses & universities.





**HEAD OF DEPARTMENT: MR WATERHOUSE**

## Outline of the course

### Markets and market failure:

Analysis of microeconomic models such as demand and supply, the operation of the price mechanism and causes of market failure. Students will be able to apply their knowledge and skills to a wide variety of situations and to different markets such as commodity markets and will use examples of market failure, e.g. the environment.

### The national and international economy:

Students will understand, be able to analyse and evaluate macroeconomic policy, such as interest rates, taxation and government spending. Students will be able to critically examine the macroeconomic and global environment and will develop a good knowledge of the UK & European economy.

### Economic principles and issues:

This section develops further what is learnt in Paper 1 & 2. This includes market structures, the price mechanism and market failure, decisions made by firms and behaviour. Students will be aware of developments in the world economy, including the European Union, and how these have affected the UK.

**Want to find out more?**

**Use the link below.**

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/economics/as-and-a-level/economics-7135-7136>

GCE	A-LEVEL
<b>HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED? Grade A*-E</b>	
<b>Paper 1 - Markets and market failure [Written examination - 2hours]</b>	
<u>Section A:</u> A choice from two data response questions. Extended written answers [40 marks]	
<u>Section B:</u> A choice from three essay questions (a) 15 marks + (b) 25 marks [40 marks].	
<b>Paper 2 – The national and international economy [written examination – 2hours]</b>	
<u>Section A:</u> A choice from two data response questions. Extended written answers [40 marks]	
<u>Section B:</u> A choice from three essay questions (a) 15 marks + (b) 25 marks [40 marks].	
<b>Paper 3 – Economic principles and issues [written examination – 2hours]. Synoptic.</b>	
<u>Section A:</u> 30 multiple choice questions [30 marks]	
<u>Section B:</u> Single case study. Questions requiring written answers [50 marks]	

## CAREERS

Economics provides a wide array of both subject-specific and transferable skills, all of which are highly sought after by employers and can lead to a wide range of careers such as a Chartered Accountant, Economist, Financial Risk Analyst, Investment Analyst and Stockbroking. A stockbroker earns an average of £36,000 with bonuses adding to this.



**HEAD OF DEPARTMENT: MR MUKHERJEE**

## Outline of the course

English Literature at A-Level utilises a variety of skills. From analytical skills to expressing opinions in a critical manner, English will help to establish and refine a wide variety of skills for students.

The course is split into four components:

**Component 1:** Drama. Students will study Shakespeare's King Lear, and Williams' A Streetcar Named Desire in their entirety.

**Component 2:** Prose. Students will study two novels, Mary Shelley's Frankenstein and Margaret Atwood's The Handmaid's Tale, under the themes of 'Science and Society'.

**Component 3:** Poetry. Students will study a selection of contemporary poems and a range of poetry by Christina Rossetti.

**Component 4:** Students will independently plan and write a piece of coursework on two literary texts not studied on the course; these texts and the question they answer are chosen by each student.

**Want to find out more?**

**Use the link below.**

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/english-literature-2015.html>

### GCE

### A-LEVEL

#### HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED? Grade A\*-E

Components 1-3 are assessed by exam.

Component 4 is assessed internally and externally moderated by Edexcel.

#### **Component 1 Drama – 20% weighting, 60 marks, 2 hours 15 minutes**

Two questions: 1) King Lear (35 marks), 2) A Streetcar Named Desire (25 marks)

#### **Component 2 Prose – 20% weighting, 40 marks, 1 hour 15 minutes**

One question: Comparison of Frankenstein and Handmaid's Tale

#### **Component 3 Poetry – 30% weighting, 60 marks, 2 hours 15 minutes**

Two questions:

1) Contemporary Poetry (30 marks), 2) Christina Rossetti (30 marks)

#### **Component 4 Coursework: Literary essay, 2500-3000 word comparison of two texts**

## CAREERS

A-Level English Literature offers a wide variety of careers and university courses. Ranging from online digital media, journalism, publishing, advertising, marketing, teaching and law. English is a respected qualification owing to the numerous transferable skills it demonstrates and is a strong complimentary course for university studies based in Humanities.



**RUSSELL  
GROUP**

**HEAD OF DEPARTMENT: MR ALLITT**

## Outline of the course

There are seven main topics that you study:

**Topic 1:**

Tectonic Processes and Hazards

**Topic 2:**

Landscape Systems, Processes and Change

**Topic 3:**

Globalisation

**Topic 4:**

Shaping Places

**Topic 5:**

The Water Cycle and Water Insecurity

**Topic 6:**

The Carbon Cycle and Energy Security

**Topic 7:**

Superpowers

**Topic 8:** Global Development and Connections

## Want to find out more?

**Use the link below.**

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/geography-2016.html>

GCE	A-LEVEL
<b>HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED? Graded A* - E</b>	
<b><u>(01) Physical Geography. 105 marks, (30%)</u></b>	
The examination includes short open, open response and resource-linked questions. The examination includes 12-mark and 20-mark extended writing questions.	
<b><u>(02) Human Geography. 105 marks, (30%)</u></b>	
The examination may include short open, open response and resource-linked questions. The examination includes 12-mark and 20-mark extended writing questions.	
<b><u>(03) Global issues paper. 70 marks, 20%</u></b>	
The examination may include short open, open response and resource-linked questions. The examination includes 8-mark, 18-mark and 24-mark extended writing questions.	
<b><u>(04) Non-examined assessment. 70 marks, (20%)</u></b>	
The investigation report is internally assessed and externally moderated. The student will produce a written report of 3000–4000 words.	

## CAREERS

Geography is a pathway to many careers. Some examples are an architect who can on average £60,000. A civil engineer who earns on average £45,000 or an archaeologist who can earn on average £25,000.

Previous students have gone on to study a diverse range of degrees such as Maths, Environmental Science, Engineering and Law.



**HEAD OF DEPARTMENT: MR CHAN**

## Outline of the course

### UNIT 1: Britain 1930-1997 (Y113)

**Enquiry Topic: Churchill 1930-1951**, Churchill's view of events, 1929-1940, Churchill as wartime Prime Minister, Churchill and international diplomacy, 1939-1951. **British Period Study: Britain 1951-1997.** Conservative domination, 1951-1964, Labour and Conservative governments, 1964-1979, Labour and Conservative governments, 1964-1979, Thatcher and the end of consensus, 1979-1997

### UNIT 2: Democracy and Dictatorships in Germany, 1919-1963 (Y221)

The establishment and development of the Weimar Republic: 1919–Jan 1933, the establishment of the Nazi Dictatorship and its domestic policies, Feb 1933–1939, the impact of war and defeat on Germany: 1939 -1949, Divided Germany: The Federal Republic and the DDR 1949–1963.

### Thematic Study: Popular Culture and the Witch craze of the 16th/17th Centuries

Popular Culture. The main reasons for the growth and decline in the persecution of witches, The Persecuted, Responses of the authorities to witchcraft, (Salem witch trials)

**Non Exam Assessment: Topic Based Essay**

## Want to find out more?

**Use the link below.**

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-and-a-level/history-a-a-h105-h505-from-2015/specification-at-a-glance/>

**RUSSELL  
GROUP**

GCE	A-LEVEL
<b>HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED? Grade A* - E</b>	
<b>British period study and enquiry</b>	
(Unit group 1)	50 marks
1 hour 30 mins	(25% of grade)
<b>Non-British period study</b>	
(Unit group 2)	30 marks
1 hour	(15% of grade)
<b>Thematic study and historical interpretations</b>	
(Unit group 3)	80 marks
2 hour 30 mins	(40% of grade)
<b>Topic-based essay (unit Y100)</b>	
An independently researched essay of 3000-4000 words in length. Independent investigation of a historical issue and may arise from the study of a period or topic in units 1-3, or it may be a topic from a different period.	

## CAREERS

Employers value the skills that history students develop throughout their education.

Careers can include; Archaeologist, Broadcast Journalist, Civil Service administrator, Editorial Assistant, Human Resources officer, Solicitor or an Information Officer. Salaries for trainee Solicitors range from around £25,000 to £40,000.



**LEAD TEACHER: MRS MILLER**

## Outline of the course

### Paper 1:

The nature of law and the English legal system (Law and society, law and morality, law and justice, the rule of law)  
Criminal law (Civil and Criminal Courts, Judiciary, Funding)

### Paper 2:

The nature of law and the English legal system  
Tort Law (Rules and principles concerning liability and fault in actions for negligence, occupiers' liability, nuisance and vicarious liability)

### Paper 3:

Law of contract (Rules and principles of contract law concerning formation, terms, vitiating factors, discharge of a contract and associated remedies)  
The nature of law and the English legal system

### **OR (Teacher decides)**

Human rights (Rules and principles of law relating to the right to life, to liberty and security of person, to privacy, to freedom of expression)  
The nature of law and the English legal system

## Want to find out more?

**Use the link below.**

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/law/as-and-a-level/law-7162/specification-at-a-glance>

GCE	A-LEVEL
<b>HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED? Graded A* - E</b>	
<b>Paper 1:</b> Written exam: 2 hours—100 marks 33% of A-level Questions A combination of multiple choice, short answer and extended writing questions.	
<b>Paper 2:</b> Written exam: 2 hours—100 marks 33% of A-level Questions A combination of multiple choice, short answer and extended writing questions.	
<b>Paper 3:</b> Written exam: 2 hours—100 marks 33% of A-level Questions A combination of multiple choice, short answer and extended writing questions.	

## CAREERS

### **Solicitors (Average salary £62,000)**

Individuals or companies usually approach solicitors for legal advice. Most solicitors work for a law firm or partnership.

### **Barristers (Average salary £89,400)**

Barristers are consulted by solicitors when specialist advice or representation in court is needed.  
number of years.



HEAD OF DEPARTMENT: MRS SHARMA

## Outline of the course

### Papers 1 & 2

Topics that are studied are;  
Proof, Algebra and functions, Coordinate geometry in the (x, y) plane, Sequences and series, Trigonometry, Exponentials and logarithms, Differentiation, Integration, Numerical methods and Vectors.

### Paper 3

#### Section A Topics are;

Statistics: Statistical sampling, Data presentation and interpretation, Probability, Statistical distributions, Statistical hypothesis testing

**Section B Topics are;** Mechanics: Quantities and units in mechanics, Kinematics. Forces and Newton's Laws & Moments.

GCE	A-LEVEL
HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED? Grade A*-E	
<b>Paper 1: Pure Mathematics</b> 33%, 2 hours, 100 marks	
<b>Paper 2: Pure Mathematics</b> 33%, 2 hours, 100 marks	
<i>Any A-Level pure mathematics content can be assessed on either paper</i>	
<b>Paper 3: Statistics and Mechanics</b> 33%, 2 hours, 100 marks	
<i>Any A-Level applied content assessed</i> <b>Section A: Statistics (50 marks)</b> <b>Section B: Mechanics (50 marks)</b>	

**Want to find out more?  
Use the link below.**

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/mathematics-2017.html>

## CAREERS

Studying Maths helps develop skills in logical thinking, problem-solving and decision-making, which are valued by employers across many job sectors. Careers can include: Actuarial (risk) analyst, Chartered accountant, Chartered certified accountant, Data analyst, Data scientist, Investment analyst or a Research scientist. A professional actuary can expect to earn an average of £52,000 + bonus.



**HEAD OF DEPARTMENT: MRS SHARMA**

## Outline of the course

Further Mathematics: Students will take four exams: Core 1, Core 2, Decision Maths 1 and Further Mechanics 1 at the end of their second year. The modules will be taught in parallel by two teachers in each year.

In the first year: Students will study for three papers – Core 1 and the complete D1 module

In the second year: Students will study Core 2 and Further Mechanics 1

All four exams will be taken at the end of Year 13

Core 1 and Core 2 are mixed on the two papers.

GCE	A-LEVEL
<b>HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED? Graded A* - E</b>	
<b>Paper 1: Core Pure Mathematics 1</b>	
1 hour and 30 minutes written examination 25% of the qualification (75 marks)	
<b>Paper 2: Core Pure Mathematics 2</b>	
1 hour and 30 minutes written examination 25% of the qualification (75 marks)	
<b>Paper 3: Further Mechanics 1</b>	
25%, 1 hour and 30 minutes (75 marks)	
<b>Paper 4: Paper 4: Decision Mathematics 1</b>	
25%, 1 hour and 30 minutes (75 marks)	

## Want to find out more? Use the link below.

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/A%20Level/Mathematics/2017/specification-and-sample-assesment/a-level-l3-further-mathematics-specification.pdf>

## CAREERS

Studying Further Maths helps develop skills in logical thinking, problem-solving and decision-making, which are valued by employers across many job sectors.

Careers can include: Actuarial (risk) analyst, Chartered accountant, Chartered certified accountant, Data analyst, Data scientist, Investment analyst or a Research scientist.



**HEAD OF DEPARTMENT: MR MUKHERJEE**

## Outline of the course

### Component 1: Media, Products, Industries & Audiences

**Section A:** Media language and representation, advertising, marketing, music videos and newspapers.

**Section B:** Industries and Audiences  
Advertising, marketing, film, newspapers, radio, video games

### Component 2: Media Forms & Products

**Section A:**  
Television in the Global Age: Peaky Blinders; The Bridge

**Section B:**  
Magazines (mainstream & alternative): Vogue (1965); The Big Issue (2016)

**Section C:**  
Online Media: Zoella.co.uk; Attitude.co.uk

GCE	A-LEVEL
<b>HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED? Graded A* - E</b>	
<b>Paper 1 90 Marks (2 hours 15 minutes)</b>	
<u>Section A: Section A: Analysing Media Language and Representation</u> 2 questions	
Question 1 will be on an unseen text (print or audio visual), question 2 a comparison of the unseen text and a set text	
<u>Section B: Understanding Media Industries and Audiences</u>	
One stepped question on industries	
One stepped question on audiences	
<b>Paper 2 90 Marks (2 hours 30 minutes)</b>	
Section A, Section B & Section C will have one two-part or extended response question	
<b>Non-exam assessment; 60 marks</b>	
10 marks - written statement of aims	
20 marks - meeting the brief	
30 marks - creative & technical use of media language.	

**Want to find out more?  
Use the link below.**

[https://www.eduqas.co.uk/  
qualifications/media-studies/as-a-  
level/](https://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/media-studies/as-a-level/)

## CAREERS

Warwick University offers a BA in Media & Creative Industries and Leeds has a world renowned School of Media & Communication.

Creativity and critical thinking mean career paths are impressive; television, radio, marketing, publishing, advertising; even law or local government.

A 25 year old production manager in a creative agency could earn £30,000.



**A-LEVEL PHYSICAL EDUCATION: OCR (H555)**



**HEAD OF DEPARTMENT: MR LALLEY**

**Outline of the course**

**Component 01: Physical factors affecting performance**

Applied anatomy and physiology  
Exercise physiology  
Biomechanics.

**Component 02: Psychological factors affecting performance**

Skill acquisition  
Sports psychology.

**Component 03: Socio-cultural issues in physical activity and sport**

Sport and society  
Contemporary issues in physical activity and sport.

**Component 05: Practical performance**

Students are assessed in the role of either performer or coach in one practical activity.

**Component 06: Evaluating and analysing performance for improvement (EAPI)**

Students observe a live or recorded performance by a peer and provide an oral analysis and critical evaluation of their peer's performance.

**Want to find out more?  
Use the link below.**

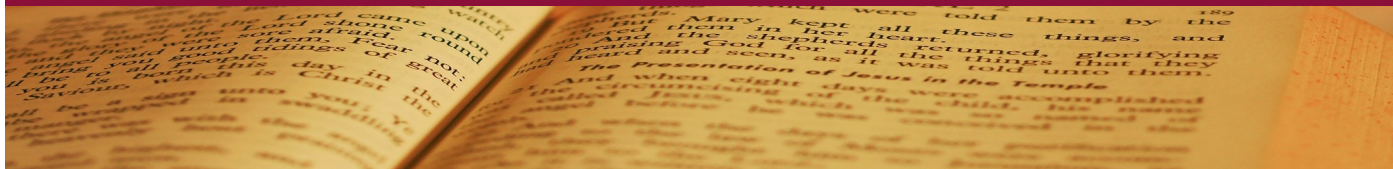
<https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-and-a-level/physical-education-h155-h555-from-2016/>

GCE	A-LEVEL		
<b>HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED? Graded A* - E</b>			
<b>Physiological factors affecting performance (01)</b>			
Marks 90			
Time 2 hours			
<b>Psychological factors affecting performance (02)</b>			
60	1 hour	20%	
Marks 90			
Time 2 hours			
<b>Socio-cultural issues in physical activity and sport (03)</b>			
Marks 90			
Time 2 hours			
<b>Practical performance (05)</b>			
Non-exam assessment			
<b>Evaluating and analysing performance for improvement EAPI (06)</b>			
Non-exam assessment			

**CAREERS**

Some careers with PE include: sports science, PE teacher, physiotherapist, professional sports person, sports coach/consultant, sports policy at local and national level, diet and fitness instructor or as a personal trainer. Starting salaries for qualified physiotherapists range from £23,023 to £29,608. Senior physiotherapists can earn between £28,050 and £36,644.

**A-LEVEL PHILOSOPHY AND ETHICS:  
Eduqas (Christianity route A; A120 PA)**



**HEAD OF DEPARTMENT: MRS EGHAN**

## Outline of the course

There are three separate components, each exploring four themes:

### Component 1:

Investigates Christianity. Students explore religious figures, sacred texts religious concepts and religious rituals; significant social and historical developments in religious thought; religious practices and religious identity.

### Component 2:

Philosophy of Religion. Students critically examine arguments for the existence of God; challenges to religious belief; religious experience and religious language.

### Component 3:

Religion and Ethics. Students critically investigate ethical thought; deontological ethics; teleological ethics; determinism and free will.

GCE	A-LEVEL
<b>HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED? Grade A* - E</b>	
Each component/paper will ask candidates to answer two questions, each worth 50 marks.	
Each question assesses:	
AO1 (knowledge and comprehension) and AO2 (evaluation) criteria.	
<b>Component 1:</b>	
Christianity. (2 hours. 100 Marks. 33.3% of qualification)	
<b>Component 2:</b>	
Philosophy of Religion. (2 hours. 100 Marks. 33.3% of qualification)	
<b>Component 3:</b>	
Religion and Ethics. (2 hours. 100 Marks. 33.3% of qualification)	

**Want to find out more?  
Use the link below.**

[https://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/religious-studies/as-a-level/eduqas-a-level-religious-studies-spec-from-2016-e%20200219.pdf.pdf?language\\_id=1](https://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/religious-studies/as-a-level/eduqas-a-level-religious-studies-spec-from-2016-e%20200219.pdf.pdf?language_id=1)

## CAREERS

If you are planning to go into medicine or law this is an ideal course for you. Ethics and philosophy are equally useful in many other careers, such as politics, education, social work and business.

This is a subject which is highly regarded by all universities because of the challenge and academic skills required. An average salary for politicians is £80,000.



**RUSSELL  
GROUP**

**HEAD OF DEPARTMENT: MR GILLIN**

## Outline of the course

### Paper 1

- 1 Measurements and their errors
- 2 Particles and radiation
- 3 Waves
- 4 Mechanics and materials
- 5 Electricity
- 6.1 Periodic Motion

### Paper 2

- 6.2 (Thermal Physics)
- 6 Further mechanics and thermal physics
- 7 Fields and their consequences
- 8 Nuclear physics

Assumed knowledge from sections 1 to 6.1

### Paper 3

Section A Compulsory section:  
Practical skills and data analysis

Section B: Students enter for one of the following:

- 9 Astrophysics
- 11 Engineering physics

**Want to find out more?  
Use the link below.**

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/as-and-a-level/physics-7407-7408>

GCE	A-LEVEL
<b>HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED? Grade A*-E</b>	
<b>Paper 1</b>	
Written exam: 2 hours 85 marks, 34% of A-Level	
<b>Paper 2</b>	
Written exam: 2 hours 85 marks, 34% of A-Level	
<b>Paper 3</b>	
Written exam: 2 hours 80 marks, 32% of A-Level	

## CAREERS

Physics is highly valued by universities and employers as a subject that prepares candidates in critical thinking and the ability to reason out and explain data. You can progress on to degree courses in for example physics, astronomy, engineering and computer science. It is essential for careers in optometry or radiography and many other science-based industries.

**A-LEVEL: POLITICS: Edexcel (9PL0)**



**LEAD TEACHER: MR AVIS**

## Outline of the course

Studying Government and Politics will provide insight into political beliefs central to an understanding of the modern world. This course allows you to study contemporary politics and develop a strong understanding of the factors shaping both British and Global Politics .

**Component 1:** UK Politics Political Participation – democracy and participation, political parties; electoral systems, voting behaviour and the media, Core Political Ideas – conservatism, liberalism and socialism

**Component 2:** UK Government – the constitution, parliament, Prime Minister and executive, the relationship between branches Optional Political Ideas – anarchism, ecologism, feminism, multiculturalism, nationalism

**Component 3:** Global Politics - Theories of global politics, Sovereignty and globalisation, Global governance: political and economic, Global governance: human rights and environmental, Power and developments, Regionalism and the European Union.

## Want to find out more?

**Use the link below.**

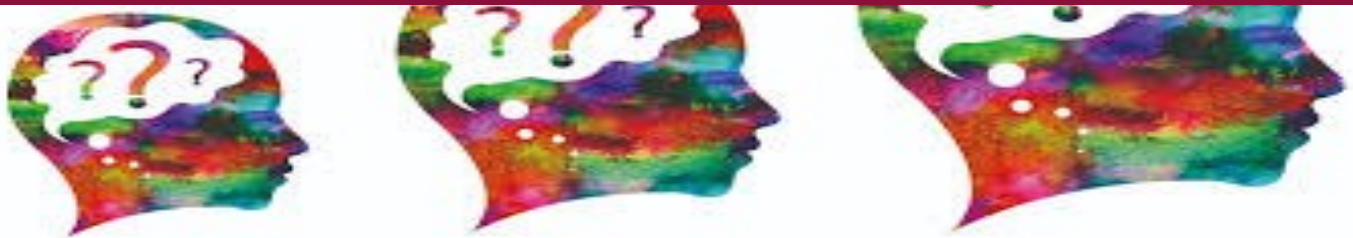
[https://  
qualifications.pearson.com/en/  
qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/  
politics-2017.html](https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/politics-2017.html)

GCE	A-LEVEL
<b>HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED? Graded A* - E</b>	
<b><u>Component 1: UK Politics (*Component code: 9PL0/01)</u></b>	
Written examination: 2 hours 33⅓% of the qualification 84 marks	
<b><u>Component 2: UK Government (*Component code: 9PL0/02)</u></b>	
Written examination: 2 hours 33⅓% of the qualification 84 marks	
<b><u>Component 3: Comparative Politics (*Component code: 9PL0/3A or 3B)</u></b>	
Written examination: 2 hours 33⅓% of the qualification 84 marks	
Students study Global Politics (9PL0/3B)	

## CAREERS

You will learn and use a variety of transferable skills throughout the course such as analysing information and evaluating ideas and systems. The subject is good preparation for many university courses in Business, Economics, Law, Media, Philosophy, History and Politics. A wide range of employment possibilities in business, Government and Civil Service are opened up.

**A-LEVEL PSYCHOLOGY: AQA (7182)**



**LEAD TEACHER: MISS OSO**

## Outline of the course

### Unit 1: Introductory topics in Psychology

**Social Psychology:** Conformity, obedience, resistance to social influence and change.

**Memory:** Models of memory (short-term/ long-term), eyewitness testimony, interviews.

**Attachment:** Caregiver interactions, attachments and maternal deprivation. **Approaches:** Cognitive, behaviourists, social learning, psychodynamic, biological and humanistic. **Psychopathology:**

Abnormality, phobias, depression, obsessive compulsive disorder, treatments. **Research**

**Methods:** Hypotheses, variables, research methods and experimental designs.

### Unit 2: Psychology in Context

**Approaches:** Cognitive behaviourists, social learning, psychodynamic, biological and humanistic. **Biopsychology:** Nervous system, neurotransmitters, localisation of brain function and brain scans. **Research Methods:**

Experimental methods, scientific processes, data handling, inferential statistics

### Unit 3: Issues and Debates and Application

**Issues and Debates:** Free will, determinism, holism, reductionism, nature-nurture, ethical issues. **Relationships, Stress and Addiction.**

**Want to find out more?  
Use the link below.**

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/psychology/as-and-a-level/psychology-7181-7182/specification-at-a-glance>

GCE	A-LEVEL
<b>HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED? Graded A* - E</b>	
<b>A2 Unit 1: Paper 1: Introductory Topics in Psychology</b>	
Written exam: 2 hours	
96 marks in total	
33.3% of A-Level	
<b>A2 Unit 2: Paper 2: Psychology in Context</b>	
Written exam: 2 hours	
96 marks in total	
33.3% of A-Level	
<b>A2 Unit 3: Paper 3: Issues and Options in Psychology</b>	
Written exam: 2 hours	
96 marks in total	
33.3% of A-Level	

## CAREERS

Psychology is the scientific study of behaviour. The course requires candidates to use scientific terminology to explain and analyse human behaviour.

Careers include; law and criminal investigations, personnel management, teaching, counselling and in the NHS.

**A-LEVEL SOCIOLOGY: AQA (7192)**



**LEAD TEACHER: MISS OSO**

## Outline of the course

### **Unit 1: Education with Methods in Context**

Role of the education system & achievement. Analysis of social class, gender, ethnicity & policies. Significance of educational policies & the impact of globalisation. Sources of data, (observations, questionnaires, official statistics). Distinction between positivism, interpretivism & sociological methods.

### **Unit 2: Families and Households and Beliefs in Society**

Patterns of marriage, divorce, childbearing & household structures. Gender roles, domestic labour, childhood & the status of children in society. Demographic changes in the UK (births, deaths & marriages). Religious organisations; cults, sects, denominations, churches & New Age movements. Relationship between age, gender, ethnicity, religious beliefs & practices.

### **Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods**

Social distribution and trends in crime (ethnicity, gender and social class). Globalisation of crime (media, green crime, human rights). Crime control, surveillance, prevention, punishment and the criminal justice system. Statistics, types of data and research methods. Theoretical, ethical and practical considerations of criminal investigations.

**Want to find out more?  
Use the link below.**

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/sociology/as-and-a-level/sociology-7191-7192/specification-at-a-glance>

GCE	A-LEVEL
HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED? Graded A* - E	
	<b>A2: Unit 1: Education with Methods in Context</b> Assessment: Written paper 1 (2 hours)
	<b>A2: Unit 2: Families and Households and Beliefs in Society</b> Written paper 2 (2 hours)
	<b>A2: Unit 3: Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods</b> Assessment: Written paper 3 (2 hours)

## CAREERS

The study of sociology will provide a strong basis for a career in social work, social research, criminology, teaching or the police force.

As a resourceful problem-solver, you may be well suited to a career in advice work, providing impartial and confidential advice to clients on a range of issues, such as debt, employment and housing. Salaries range from £25,000 to £40,000.

notes

Date:

