

# ART

AQA 7202

*I learnt a variety of different skills in A-Level Art, working in media I hadn't worked in before and developing my own independent style*

*Last Year I feel the course developed my confidence and independence. It also helped me to develop my drawing and research skills*

## Year 13 Art students

### A-Level Fine Art

Fine Art is a form of communication and a means of expressing ideas and feelings. In this course you will develop your drawing, painting and digital media skills through a series of challenging and thought provoking projects to expand your visual language.

### How am I assessed?

The Fine Art A-Level course has two units of work that are assessed in Year 13.

Year 12 will be a foundation year made up of a series of projects following themes set by the tutor. These projects are structured to widen your understanding of the different disciplines of Fine Art at the same time as broadening you knowledge of Artists and their work. The Year 13 course consists of one internally set skills based unit focused on a personal investigation and one externally set examination unit. The examination unit cements your learning and assesses your understanding through the creation of a smaller portfolio of work under a title set by the exam board.



### Course Content:

Over a series of exciting and challenging projects you will be taught how to look at materials creatively and how to create visual solutions to set briefs from a variety of disciplines including:

- 2D and 3D drawing techniques
- Painting
- Mixed Media
- Printmaking
- Digital Media/Photography

### The Future...

Progression onto an Art Foundation or Creative Degree are popular pathways. Other students use the skills that they have developed to access a wider range of courses and careers in the creative industries. These have included architecture, fashion, theatre design and set design for film.

Try looking at [www.thecreativeindustries.co.uk](http://www.thecreativeindustries.co.uk) for specific careers.

| Component | Weighting |
|-----------|-----------|
|-----------|-----------|

|                       |     |
|-----------------------|-----|
| ONE<br>Internally set | 60% |
|-----------------------|-----|

|             |     |
|-------------|-----|
| TWO<br>Exam | 40% |
|-------------|-----|

# BIOLOGY

OCR H420

*A-Level Biology is an introspective subject that involves interesting exploration into human anatomy and gives the opportunity to learn about the way we function.*

*It is a fascinating subject that I thoroughly enjoy studying.*

*The teachers make the learning extremely interesting.*

**a Year 13 Biology student**

## Are you...

- Aiming to be a doctor, nurse or a vet?
- Thinking of a career in research?
- Interested in the environment and the world around you?
- A problem solver?
- Interested in science?
- Keen on practical work?
- Studying other sciences or maths?

**If so, A-Level Biology is for you!**

## What will I study?

- A range of biological practical skills.
- Cell ultrastructure and microscopy.
- Biological molecules.
- Biological membranes.
- Cell division, cell diversity and cellular organisation.
- Exchange and transport in animals and plants.
- Communicable diseases, their prevention and the immune system.
- Biodiversity, classification and evolution.
- Communication, homeostasis and excretion.
- Neuronal and hormonal communication.
- Plant and animal responses.
- Photosynthesis and Respiration.
- Cellular control and genetics.
- DNA technology and biotechnology.
- Ecosystems, populations and sustainability.

## Why study Biology at Sutton Girls?

- Excellent support from 2 dedicated teachers teaching half of the course each.
- Fully resourced with support materials, extension articles and electronic resources from Kerboodle.
- Innovative teaching styles where creativity and thinking outside the box is encouraged.
- Creative projects, modelling of biological phenomena and focussed practical tasks.
- Stretch and challenge from the Biology Olympiad.
- Extracurricular opportunities via many talks and sessions at local universities.



## Where might Biology take me?

**Previous destinations include:** Aston, Birmingham, Nottingham, Durham, Bristol, UCL, Oxford, Cambridge, Kings, Hull, Sheffield, Cardiff, York, Manchester, Leeds, Warwick, Loughborough, Portsmouth, Keele, Lancaster.

**Our students have gone on to study:** Biological Sciences, Medicine, Dentistry, Optometry, Biomedical Sciences, Neuroscience, Veterinary Science, Pharmacy, Aerospace Engineering, Law and History.

# CHEMISTRY

AQA 7405

## What you can expect from our Chemistry Department?

- Subject specialist and highly experienced staff
- Access to a large variety of resources
- Newly refurbished laboratories
- Comprehensive help and support throughout the course
- High quality, engaging lessons, which encourage active participation
- Careers advice
- Optional entry into the Cambridge Chemistry Challenge

## What can I do with A-Level Chemistry?

This is one of the first things we ask you to look at when you start the course but here are a few ideas:

Business Management, Chemical Engineering, Dentistry, Environmental Protection and Recycling, Medicine, Medicinal Research, Pharmacy, Veterinary Science.

## Introducing the Department:

We are fortunate to have a large department of experienced A-Level Chemistry teachers and a dedicated chemistry technician who will be pleased to help you throughout the course:

Miss Duley, Ms Boyle, Mr Marriner, Mrs Neal, Mrs Chatterton, Mr Davis, and Mrs Trotter.



The Year 12 content consists of the following areas including practical tasks:

- Atomic and electron structure
- Bonding, structure & the periodic table
- Amount of substance calculations
- Introduction to organic chemistry and hydrocarbons
- Alcohols, halogenoalkanes and analysis
- Rates, equilibria & energy

The Year 13 content consists of the following areas including practical tasks:

- Benzene, acids and amines
- Polymers and synthesis
- Analysis
- Rates, equilibrium and pH
- Enthalpy & entropy
- Transition Elements





# COMPUTER SCIENCE

OCR H446

## Do you like:

- Mathematics?
- Logic?
- Programming?
- Technology?
- Problem Solving?
- Hacking?



## The Future...

A-Level Computer Science prepares you very well for a range of degrees including:

- Computer Science
- Software Engineering
- Computer Games Development
- Information Systems
- Forensic Computing
- Computer Technologies
- Network Management
- Web Design and Services

## The course:

Computer Science is a practical subject where students can apply the academic principles learned in the classroom to real-world systems.

## Course content:

| OCR H446 Component                             | Component Weighting |
|--|---------------------|
| <b>Paper 1:<br/>Computer Systems</b>           | 40%                 |
| <b>Paper 2:<br/>Algorithms and Programming</b> | 40%                 |
| <b>Programming Project</b>                     | 20%                 |

### Unit 1 - Computer Systems:

Focuses on extending students knowledge of how computers work, and the technical hardware and software that makes a computer work.

### Unit 2 - Algorithms and Programming:

Focuses on the more theoretical aspects of computing, including the study of different algorithms, efficiency, and big-O notation.

### Unit 3 - Computing Project:

This is an internally assessed unit, with candidates required to complete programming project of their choice.



## Where are they now?

After completing the A-Level Computer Science course, our most recent leavers have progressed to some of the top universities in UK such as:

- BA (Hons) Computer Science at Cambridge
- BSc Computer Science at Durham University
- Degree Apprenticeship with PwC at the University of Birmingham (degree paid for by PwC)

# DRAMA

OCR H459

*I chose Drama because I was really interested in the subject and now I look forward to every lesson and it is so different from my other subjects.*

*A-Level Drama is both academic and creative. It lets me express myself in a way no other subject can.*

**a current Year 12 student**

## An introduction to A-Level Drama:

Students must complete four components. There is a really mix of theory and practical explorations. It is a rigorous but exciting A-Level!

### Component 1: Practitioners in practice (40%)

Students explore practically the work of theatre practitioners and create devised theatre. In support of their performance, they must produce a written creative portfolio.

### Component 2: Exploring and performing texts (20%)

Students explore one performance text in its entirety and perform part of the text to the visiting examiner.

### Component 3: Analysing performance (20%)

Students explore practically two performance texts on a chosen theme, and analyse and evaluate live theatre.

### Component 4: Deconstructing texts for performance (20%)

Students will interpret and explore practically a performance text (The Crucible) considering how to create, develop and direct a performance for an audience.



## Life after A-Levels:

Drama and Theatre may be studied post-18 in a variety of ways. If students are aiming for drama school A-Level Drama and Theatre is incredibly useful, and it is good preparation for Drama at university, and for creative writing courses.

However, Drama is still a very useful A-Level for those who wish to study other subjects at degree level.

## Personal Qualities:

Students need to be prepared to perform in class and in front of a live audience. They must enjoy collaborating with others when creating new theatre. Students will be required to carry out independent research around key practitioners and enjoy going to the theatre.

# ECONOMICS

Edexcel 9EB0

*It facilitates a better understanding of the modern political landscape in a rapidly changing world*

**a Year 12 student**

## Economics: The course

This course enables students to think like an economist by understanding the application of economic concepts and theories through critical consideration of current real-world economic issues.

Students will gain a global perspective and understanding on how countries and economies operate including considering the impact individual and collective choices made have on the wider community. This will allow them to think critically about key issues when analysing business situations and putting forward possible solutions.

| Component   | Weighting |
|---|-----------|
| <b>Paper 1</b><br>Markets & How They Work             | 35%       |
| <b>Paper 2</b><br>Competing in the Global Economy     | 35%       |
| <b>Paper 3</b><br>The Economic Environment & Business | 30%       |

## The Questions Asked

A-Level Economics asks big, varied and challenging questions of our world which should inspire and ignite your thinking. Just a handful of some of the challenging questions we ask are included below;

- What happens if interest rates go up?
- Why are some products so expensive?
- Why do we tax people in society?
- What happens if oil runs out?

## Resources to explore:

**Print media;** The Economist, The Financial Times, BBC News

**Television;** Panorama, Dispatches, Question Time

**Books;** Freakonomics, Nudge, Why Globalisation Works, 23 Things They Don't Tell You About Capitalism

**Film;** The Founder, Too Big To Fail, The Informant!

**Podcasts;** Secrets of a CEO, Economics in 10 questions



## After A-Levels...

Economics can be studied as a single honours degree or in combination with a wide range of other subjects such as Economics & Geography, Economics & Law and Economics & Management. It can also make you very employable for apprenticeships due to having real world understanding and analysis skills.

A course in Economics can be used in many areas, including public policy, the world of finance by predicting the impact of investments, policy decisions, industry trends and demographics.

Studying this subject is both enjoyable and challenging and extremely relevant to the world of work. Economics provides the background knowledge needed for future economists, accountants, historians, mathematicians, lawyers, entrepreneurs and many more!



# ENGLISH LITERATURE

## AQA 7717

### What will I study?

An A-Level English Literature student learns to develop a wide range of transferable skills, which are important in many career fields. They learn to:

- express themselves clearly and fluently both orally and in writing;
- put forward ideas and arguments in a concise manner; synthesise ideas;
- read and use texts and other source materials critically and empathetically;
- be self-disciplined and independent intellectually;
- work collaboratively with others and have respect for others' reasoned views;
- show empathy and imaginative insight.



### What do I need?

The main requirement is that you need to enjoy reading, writing and sharing ideas. Because there are so often no clear conclusions in discussions about literature, you need to approach the subject with an inquiring mind!

### AQA English Literature B specification:

In class we discuss, debate and dissect texts, exploring how writers shape our views about their writing and the issues they raise.

In Year 12 we study the content for Paper 1: 'Literary Genres', looking at 3 texts (*Othello*, *The Great Gatsby* and *Richard II*) through the lens of tragedy, building on your study of *Macbeth*. Assessment is through a 'closed book' written exam: 2 hours and 30 minutes at the end of Year 13.

Towards the end of Year 12 we complete NEA component; this involves personal reading alongside the study of a Critical Anthology. You compare two novels of your choice, as well as a section of 20th century poetry, using a Critical Anthology to inform your analysis and interpretation. This is assessed through two essays of 1250-1500 words each, each essay responding to a different text and linking to a different aspect of the Critical Anthology. Coursework counts for 20% of your final mark.

In Year 13 we extend the skills developed in Year 12 through studying the content for Paper 2: 'Texts and Genres'. We study Elements of Crime writing and read 3 texts: *Atonement* by Ian McEwan, *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd* by Agatha Christie and *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* by Samuel Coleridge. Assessment is through a 3 hour 'open book' written examination.

### Where could English Literature take me?

Our students have gone on to study not just English Literature at degree level, but also:

- |                     |                     |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| • Architecture      | • Psychology        |
| • History           | • Drama and Theatre |
| • Creative Writing  | • Law               |
| • Film Studies      | • Medicine          |
| • Civil Engineering | • Pharmacy          |
| • Classics          | • Costume Design    |
| • Sociology         |                     |

We also have an excellent record of successful candidates who go on to study at Oxbridge as well as joining many great apprenticeships!

### What our students say about the course:

*I like how these texts we do allow us to touch on interesting topics like feminism and current, serious, controversial issues. If you're interested in viewing the world from all kinds of angles, English is a subject that will allow you to do this.*

*I love English literature because you learn to see a character beyond their speech and actions; you consider the history, politics and psychology that went into making that character important to the story and why the author crafted them in such a way.*

*I feel English links very well with my other subjects, particularly with learning how to construct a clear argument and strong debate. We do our coursework on novels of our choice so can tailor our studies to our interests.*

# FRENCH

AQA 7652

## Why learn a language?

### Travel

Even a little knowledge of the language can make a difference in attitude when you meet people from other countries. Speaking another language helps to break down barriers.

### Work and business

It can help you give an added advantage in your career if you work for an international firm or a company with international customers or contacts.

### Music, film, arts and culture

If you like literature, films or music from other countries, learning the language will help your appreciation and understanding.



## Did you know?

According to the British Council's report 'Languages for the Future', 49% of UK businesses look for employees who can speak French, meaning studying the language will be a huge asset to your career. With a projected 750 million speakers by 2050, being able to speak the French language is a powerful skill to have!

## Course Overview:

The AQA course followed at Sutton Girls will build on the knowledge acquired at GCSE level. The skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing will be further developed through the study of a range of topic areas. The language used will be increasingly accurate, complex and varied. In addition, you will study a film and a novel.

### Recommended Links with Other Subjects

Due to the range of topics studied in French, they are suitable for combination with any subject in school and subsequently.

## A-Level Assessment:

|                |                               |     |
|----------------|-------------------------------|-----|
| <b>Paper 1</b> | Listening, Reading & Writing  | 50% |
| <b>Paper 2</b> | Writing on a film and a novel | 20% |
| <b>Paper 3</b> | Speaking                      | 30% |

## Life after A-Levels

An A-Level in a Modern Foreign Language is a highly regarded and marketable qualification whether proceeding on to higher education or work. Successful candidates will be well-prepared to use the language for practical communication in all levels of commerce and industry.

The qualification provides a good foundation for further language studies in higher education (degree level or equivalent), either in language courses or for translating / interpreting/ teaching.

## AS French Qualification

For students wishing to continue to develop their French, but who are struggling to fit this into their three choices, we are excited to offer the opportunity to complete an AS qualification in this language. **The AS qualification** is a one-year course, to be examined at the end of Year 12. Students who sit the AS qualification will study the first year only of the A-Level course alongside their three A-Level choices. This course will significantly develop their proficiency in French, in addition to it being a highly valued supplementary qualification.

## Destinations:

- Modern Languages at the University of Birmingham
- English and French at University of Oxford
- English literature and French at University of Manchester



# GEOGRAPHY

AQA 7037

## What skills do I gain?

A strength of A-Level geography is the wide range of skills you gain that can be applied to a huge range of disciplines and careers. This includes:

- The ability to describe, explain and critically evaluate complex data sets
- Write a coherent argument with a well-rounded conclusion
- Use a range of resources to support your learning including articles, documentaries, data and statistics
- Collecting real work data using a range of human and physical fieldwork skills

## Where could Geography take me?

Geography can be studied as a Physical or Human degree or in combination with a wide range of other subjects such as Geography & Economics, Geography & International Relations and Geography & Environmental Management. Geography makes you very employable for apprenticeships due to your real world understanding and analytical skills.

There are also a range of other courses related to Geography such as Renewable Energy Engineering, International Relations, Anthropology and Environmental Law to name a few!

## Course Content

| Component          | Content  | Weighting |
|--------------------|--|-----------|
| Human Geography    | Changing Places, Global Governance, Resource Security        | 40%       |
| Physical Geography | Water and Carbon Cycles, Coastal Landscapes, Natural Hazards | 40%       |
| NEA                | -  | 20%       |

The non-examined assessment (NEA) is an independent investigation where students undertake real-world research into a geographic topic of their choice. Students conduct fieldwork to collect data, which they then present and analyse.

## The Big Questions:

- *How do globalisation and migration reshape the identities of places?*
- *Is climate change having an impact upon the frequency and intensity of natural hazards?*
- *What role do transnational corporations play in shaping global environmental policies?*
- *How should coastal communities adapt to increasing sea-level rise and coastal erosion in the 21st century?*
- *How do geopolitical tensions over resource access influence global stability?*

## Fieldwork in Geography

At Sutton Girls, we undertake day visits across the region to investigate human and physical processes.

Students visit Bournville in order to learn and develop their fieldwork skills in preparation for their NEA. They then choose appropriate methods to focus their NEA investigations on other areas across the region such as Stratford-Upon-Avon and Sutton Park. There may include soil pH sampling, questionnaires, air pollution tests and environmental quality surveys.

## What have our students go on to do?

- Achieve a degree in Geography at Cambridge University
- Complete an accountancy apprenticeship with KMPG
- Study Medicine at Nottingham University
- Gain a degree in Environmental Science with a work placement at the Environment Agency
- Study Renewable Energy Engineering at Southampton University

# HISTORY

OCR H505



## What will I study?

History is a subject that enables you to better understand the wider world. The A-Level course is designed to further develop and complement the skills you have developed at GCSE including your ability to debate, evaluate, analyse and reach supported conclusions. You will engage with a series of topics that allows exploration of British, European and World History that will be examined at the end of Year 13.

You will also get the opportunity to choose and fully develop a 3-4000 piece of coursework independently. This is a great opportunity for you to explore a topic of your choice in readiness for the A level exams, university or beyond.

|               |                                   |     |
|---------------|-----------------------------------|-----|
| Unit 1 (Y108) | Britain 1603-1660                 | 25% |
| Unit 2 (Y291) | Russia 1894-1941                  | 15% |
| Unit 3 (Y319) | Civil Rights in the USA 1865-1992 | 40% |
| Unit 4 (Y100) | Internally assessed coursework    | 20% |

## The Future...

Progression to university to read History or Law are popular pathways. Other students use the skills they have developed to access a wider range of courses and apprenticeships. These have included Classics, Political Science, English, Geography, Nursing, Medicine, Archaeology, Teaching and Economics.

History is a well-respected subject, both universities and employers recognise the skills it develops. What's more it doesn't close the door to any career. Our past students have gone on to successful careers in all sorts of areas including law, journalism, teaching, the media, politics, medicine, heritage management and public relations.



## Trips!

In the past, the History department have organised successful trips to Berlin, Amsterdam and the Battlefields of the First World War.

*Although I worried that the written tasks would be longer than the average piece of A-Level work, I felt well prepared and confident when tackling them.*

*The coursework was a daunting prospect but taught me so much about planning and organising my ideas in a convincing way. The one to one discussions with my teacher helped me develop skills that I know I'll need for my uni course in October.*

*The thing I like best is the fascinating topics about which we read and discuss. This subject packs your head with knowledge and makes me a great team player in quizzes. Everyone wants a historian on their team!*

**Year 13 History students**

# MATHS

## Edexcel 9MA0

### Where can it take me?

A-Level Mathematics is a highly regarded and marketable qualification whether proceeding on to higher education or work.

It is of value in Higher Education courses or careers in Mathematics, Statistics, Engineering, Computing, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Economics, Finance, Business Management, Medicine, Teaching, Architecture and Psychology.

Some of our students have gone on to courses such as:

- Mathematics at the University of Bath
- Neuroscience at University College London
- Civil Engineering at Imperial College London
- Medicine at Birmingham University
- Politics and International Relations at the University of Nottingham
- Law at the University of Leeds

### Personal Qualities

Success in Mathematics at this level requires a commitment to consistent work throughout the course. Written assignments will be set each week and, due to the hierarchical nature of the subject, it is essential that these are completed and understood. If difficulties occur, the staff of the department are always willing to offer extra help and advice.

It is also necessary to be well organised and motivated to learn new techniques and methods. Most problems require the use of new knowledge, which can only be acquired by putting in appropriate time and effort. When one has acquired the knowledge and skills, many problems are relatively and sometimes surprisingly easy.

### Why study Mathematics?

The whole development of Western civilisation - its commerce, its technology, and more recently its social organisation - is rooted in mathematics and in the reliability and power of its methods of analysis.

This dependence on mathematics has accelerated dramatically in the last 50 years. During the Second World War mathematics was indispensable in code breaking, ballistics and planning large operations. Mathematics now controls large parts of day-to-day life. For example the development of the internet and all the associated activities depend on mathematics. Digital music and online shopping would be impossible without mathematics.

It is therefore not surprising that Mathematics A-Levels are amongst the most marketable and that a Mathematics degree is amongst the most sought after and most flexible of university courses, leading to a wide choice of careers.

### Recommended links with other subjects

Mathematics is of help to studies in Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Geography and Business Studies in school and in the future.

### What will I study?

You will have 10 hours of Maths lessons each fortnight with two teachers. One teacher will cover all the pure content, this comprises of methods and techniques which underpin the study of all other areas of mathematics, such as, proof, algebra, trigonometry, calculus, and vectors. Your other teacher will cover the applied content, this is equally split between Statistics and Mechanics.





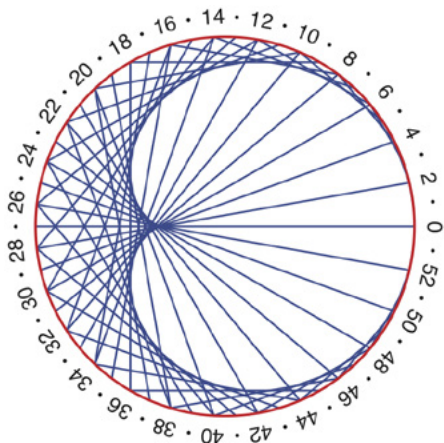
# FURTHER MATHS

Edexcel 9FM0

## Personal Qualities

Success in Mathematics at this level requires a commitment to consistent work throughout the course. Written assignments will be set each week and, due to the hierarchical nature of the subject, it is essential that these are completed and understood. If difficulties occur, the staff of the department are always willing to offer extra help and advice.

It is also necessary to be well organised and motivated to learn new techniques and methods. Most problems require the use of new knowledge, which can only be acquired by putting in appropriate time and effort. When one has acquired the knowledge and skills, many problems are relatively and sometimes surprisingly easy.



## Why take Further Maths?

Students should consider doing this course if Mathematics is a subject they particularly enjoy and if they are considering studying Mathematics, or another subject with a high mathematical content such as Physics or Engineering, at degree level. Many university maths departments encourage students to take Further Mathematics at A-Level as it introduces a wider range of pure and applied content, such as matrices and complex numbers.

Former students who have selected this option testify to the value of Further Mathematics and the advantage they felt it gave them in the early stages of their degree courses, and making the transition to university more straightforward.

## What will I study?

You will have 10 hours of Maths lessons each fortnight with two teachers. One teacher will cover all the Pure content, this extends your knowledge from A-Level maths. You will delve into Algebra, Geometry and Calculus. Your second maths teacher will cover the Applied content, this is equally split between Mechanics, Statistics and Decision Maths.



## Links to other courses

Further Maths is ideal for students passionate about pursuing mathematics, strong in algebraic manipulation and problem-solving, and considering university degrees in highly numerate disciplines like Maths, Engineering, or Physics.

## Further Maths - the AS Qualification

As a student of Further Maths, your learning and journey will be supported by sitting the AS award at the end of Year 12. Your teachers will help you prepare suitably for this.

Further Maths is often (but not always) taken as a fourth subject so this opportunity will allow you to reflect on your learning at the end of Year 12 and is a supportive springboard to further study in Year 13.

# MEDIA STUDIES

WJEC Eduqas

## What will I study?

As a GCE Media Studies student, you will analyse how media products use language and representations to create meaning. You will learn about the media industry and how it affects how media products are made. You will investigate media audiences, exploring who watches, reads and consumes the products and considering how different people might respond to products differently, and why.

### You will study many different media forms, such as:

Television, Online Media, Video Games, Film, Marketing, Magazines, Newspapers, Social and Participatory Media, Music Videos, Radio Advertising and Marketing.

## How will I be assessed?

Assessment will comprise of a mixture of examined and non-examined assessment.

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

(Written exam: 35% of qualification) Topics: advertising; newspapers; video games; music videos; radio; film marketing

### Component 2: Media Products in Depth

(Written exam: 35% of qualification) Topics: TV in the Global Age; Magazines (Mainstream and Alternative); Media in the Online Age

### Component 3 Non-exam assessment

(30% of qualification)

Cross-Media Production



## Where might Media Studies take me?

Over a hundred UK universities offer courses in Media, Communications and Cultural Studies. A GCE in Media Studies helps you to progress to these, as well as other courses such as English and Social Sciences.

There are many career opportunities in the media; it is an industry that is growing at an exponential rate. Studying Media at GCE and at degree level is a route into careers such as TV/film production, journalism, interactive media and digital marketing. It could help to provide you with skills to secure roles in technical production, special effects and web design.

The global pandemic has resulted in significant changes in how we create and consume media, and how we connect and communicate. There has never been a more interesting time to become a Media Studies student.



# MUSIC

Edexcel 9MU0

## About the Music Department:

- 235 students learn instruments in school,
- Numerous ensemble opportunities (two orchestras, two choirs, instrument-specific ensembles)
- Three concerts annually,
- Opportunities to perform in the annual school production,
- 25 computers running *Sibelius* music software.

## A-Level Music:

Music A-Level still has the three components studied at GCSE and Key Stage 3: Performing, Composing and Appraising (listening).

### Component 1: Performing Music (30%)

A recorded performance of one or more pieces performed as a recital in March of Year 13 lasting for a minimum of eight minutes. The minimum standard of difficulty for music performed is Grade 7, with extra credit available for pieces of a higher difficulty.

### Component 2: Composing (30%)

There are two compositions required. One of these is a free composition (in which the candidate chooses the purpose and nature of the piece) which should last no less than 4 minutes. The other is based on compositional techniques used in the music of JS Bach.

### Component 3: Appraising (40%)

Candidates study pieces of music contained in an Anthology to develop their knowledge of musical elements, contexts and language. There are six areas of study which span a wide range of musical styles: Vocal Music, Instrumental Music, Music for Film, Popular Music and Jazz, Fusions, New Directions. This unit is examined.

## Did you know?

- The music industry contributes and estimated **£4.5 billion** to the UK economy.
- The earliest universities made the study of music theory compulsory alongside arithmetic, geometry, astronomy, logic and rhetoric.

## Progression:

Former SCGSG students have gone on to study the subject at The Royal College of Music, The Royal Northern College of Music, Leeds College of Music, The Royal Birmingham Conservatoire and the Universities of Birmingham, York, Sheffield and Liverpool. Graded examinations (practical and theory) from Grade 6 upwards can be counted towards UCAS points for university entrance.





# PHYSICS

Edexcel 9PH0

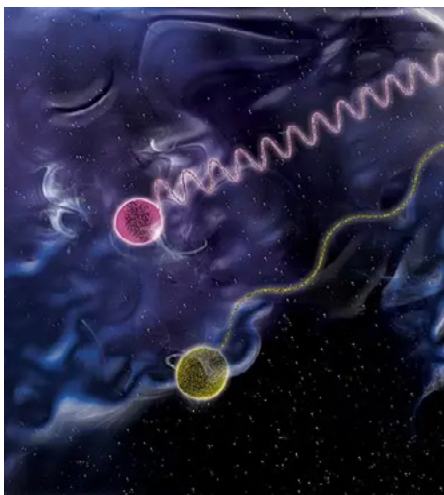
## What will I study?

Topics studied as part of the Edexcel course include...

- Mechanics
- Electric Circuits
- Materials
- Waves and the particle nature of light
- Quantum Physics
- Electric, magnetic and gravitational fields
- Nuclear Physics and radiation.
- Particle Physics (Quarks, leptons and mesons)
- Stars and the Universe

Assessment is through two papers of 1 hour and 45 minutes, each examining half the course content, and one paper of 2 hours and 30 minutes examining the entire content with synoptic questions and questions on practical skills. Students are also awarded a practical endorsement by completing practical work during the course.

**At least 40% of the marks will be awarded for applying maths skills at level 2 and above.**



## What is Physics?

Physics is about understanding how nature behaves from the smallest possible scale, deep inside the atom to the largest conceivable distance, stretching across the entire universe. During the course, you will discover how physicists use observations and measurements to devise theories and laws, which are then refined through further testing. You will examine the application of Physics to the development of a wide range of technologies.

Miss Thomson, Mr Hughes, and Mr McKenna teach A-Level Physics here at SCGSG, supported by technician Mr Clarke. They will offer comprehensive support and guidance throughout the course.

## Where might Physics take me?

Students will have opportunities to extend their work beyond the laboratory. These include the opportunity to visit lectures by current researchers at Birmingham University, to subscribe to Physics Review magazine, and a **biannual trip to the particle physics research facility at CERN in Geneva!**



## Physics + Maths

When combined with Mathematics, Physics A-Level will enable you to progress to Higher Education and careers in fields such as Physics, Astrophysics, Medical Physics, Geophysics, Space Science, Engineering and Computer Science.

Materials Science and Chemical Engineering are options if you study Chemistry in addition to Physics and Mathematics.

# POLITICS

AQA 7152

## What will I study?

This is an ever-changing subject that permeates everyday life and will enable you to enter adulthood, enfranchisement and the next stage of your studies with a sound understanding of the political systems found in the UK and abroad.

You will cover a range of topics that will draw on your skills of debate, analysis and evaluation as you study the Government and Politics of the UK and USA and look to compare these political systems for parallels, connections and differences. You will be able punctuate your analytical answers with the performances of political personalities hitting our headlines daily!

Additionally, you will consider different political ideologies including; conservatism; liberalism; socialism; feminism.

A perfect way to explore your own political beliefs!

## Extra-curricular

Students can get involved in whole school issues e.g. our in school mock US and UK elections in 2024 where students voted during their lunch hour. We have welcomed local councillor Alex Yip and local MP Andrew Mitchell into school.

We aim to run trips to London to sit in the House of Commons and the House of Lords, whilst we also consider the feasibility of visiting Washington DC.

SCGSG has also established a successful Debating Club, and we encourage this to be run by our Year 12 Politics students. It provides great experience for you to add to your UCAS applications!

## How will I be assessed?

|                         |  |          |
|-------------------------|--|----------|
| <b>Paper 1</b><br>(33%) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Government and politics of the UK</li></ul> <i>(2 hour written exam)</i>                               | 77 marks |
| <b>Paper 2</b><br>(33%) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Government and politics of the USA</li><li>Comparative politics</li></ul> <i>(2 hour written exam)</i> | 77 marks |
| <b>Paper 3</b><br>(33%) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Political ideas</li></ul> <i>(2 hour written exam)</i>   | 77 marks |

Each paper consists of a mixture of medium length 'explain' -style questions, extract-based essays and evaluative essays. You can see full details of the new specifications at: [aqa.org.uk/politics](https://aqa.org.uk/politics)



## The Future...

This is a popular subject for those who want to progress to studying Politics at university, or as part of a joint honours degree like History and Politics or Politics and Economics, which we have seen undertaken by former students. This subject will also provide a sound understanding of the UK legal system for those who want to study Law.

In terms of careers, this subject is well suited to local and governmental Politics in the UK or international politics; Law; journalism/media; teaching; business/management; policing to name but a few!

## Politics goes well with...

History; Economics; Sociology; RS/Philosophy; English; Media Studies; Geography. Or as a contrast to those studying STEM subjects.

It suits students who enjoy keeping up to date with the latest news developments, reading and those who have a strong command of written English.

# PSYCHOLOGY

AQA 7182

## What is Psychology?

### 'The study of brain and behaviour'

Psychology is a scientific discipline that uses a range of approaches to study human behaviour. This includes exploring biological, psychological and social research studies and theories to help explain the complexity of human behaviour.

## What will you study?

### Year 12:

Explanations of how memory works, why people are obedient, how to treat mental illness and biological explanations of how the brain works alongside practical research skills that underpin psychology.

### Year 13:

Explanations and treatments for schizophrenia, the key issues and debates in psychology, forensic psychology and explanations of human relationships.

#### Paper 1

Social influence, Memory, Psychopathology and Attachment

#### Paper 2

Approaches, Biopsychology and Research Methods

#### Paper 3

Issues and debates, and optional topics



## Why study Psychology?

You will have the opportunity to:

- Attend interesting trips in both years, including observational animal research and a trip to Shrewsbury prison,
- Carry out your own research and learn how to think like a psychologist.

You will also:

- Be offered one to one support with your studies (to support and extend knowledge),
- Be encouraged to think deeply and read widely, and be given access to a wide range of materials.

## What complements Psychology?

**Biology** (direct course links), **Mathematics** (10% of the course is Maths based), **English Literature** (Psychology involves essay writing and analysis), **Sociology** and **Economics** (cross over of content)

## What skills will I gain?

- Practical research skills: we use the scientific research method,
- Analysis and evaluation: we assess the strengths and limitations of research.

## Where could studying Psychology lead?

Over 75,000 people go on to study Psychology at degree level each year.

Professional careers that involve further study include Clinical, Educational and Occupational Psychology. Other graduate destinations include:

Human health and social work, Education, Legal, social, and welfare professions.

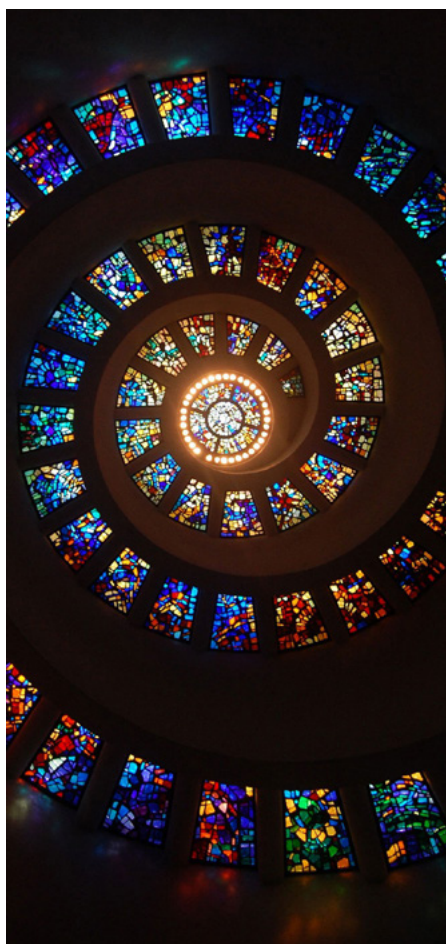


# RELIGIOUS STUDIES

AQA 7062

## Course Entry Requirements

You should have the following skills: a good level of literacy and the ability to write persuasive essays; an interest in questioning the world around you; the confidence to express your own views whilst respecting the views of others; planning and logical thinking. You should also be willing to read around the subject and be prepared to grapple with challenging philosophical and ethical debates.



## Why take Religious Studies?

A wide variety of transferable skills are developed through studying RS and universities recognise RS as a desirable academic subject. Skills include: debating; logical and critical thinking; essay-writing skills; research; empathy; building solid arguments; analysis and questioning.

The activities in lessons at SCGSG are planned to develop and nurture these skills, as well as to teach the subject content to a high level. Class sizes are typically between 15-20 which allows for lively debate to enrich learning whilst being small enough so students receive focused and individualised support.

The exam board we follow is AQA. The course is split into 2 Components:

- Philosophy of Religion and Ethics
- Study of Religion and Dialogues (how religion links to Philosophy and Ethics)

For Component 2, we complete a detailed Case Study of a particular religion. We do a Case Study into Christianity.

*RS has helped me develop my essay writing skills which has been useful in many of my other subjects and will prepare me well for university.*

*I enjoy the fact that you develop the ability to discuss and challenge beliefs, teachings and ideas.*

**a Year 12 student**

## Personal Qualities:

For students taking the Religious Studies course, you will need to have:

- A deep interest in religious beliefs and in philosophical/ethical debates;
- A willingness to listen to the views of others as well as give reasons for one's own conclusions;
- Skills of logical thinking and the ability to communicate ideas accurately in speech and in written work;
- A willingness to research and engage in wider reading around topics studied in class.

## Careers

RS is an excellent choice for many career path ways due to the transferable skills developed. Students who have taken Religious Studies A-Level in the past have gone on to study a wide variety of exciting courses including: Medicine, Law, Philosophy & Theology, Psychology, Languages, Music, Media and Film, Geography, English, Journalism, and Criminology.

# SOCIOLOGY

## AQA 7192

### How am I assessed?

There are three exam papers carrying equal weighting that are all sat at the end of the second year.

Assessments are mostly extended writing/essays in which students are required to demonstrate their knowledge as well as application, analysis and evaluation skills.

All three exams have a standard format which students will become accustomed to during their studies.

### Introduction to Sociology

Sociology is the study of society, people and their behaviour. It examines the ways in which social structures and institutions shape our world and attempts to explain the different forces and influences that create the society in which we live.

Students will be equipped with the skills and foundations of Sociology. Throughout the two years they will study the sociological theories and perspectives that underpin the subject. They will use these to assess and debate the course topics as well as current affairs.

Sociological research methods are also taught across the two years so that students can appreciate the way in which sociological research is conducted and how research can have an impact on government policies and initiatives.

Throughout the course students will have ample opportunity to voice their opinions, debate and explore issues within modern day society.

### Personal Qualities

There is no requirement for students to have studied Sociology previously at GCSE, for most students this is a completely "new" subject and therefore it is important to do some research into what the subject entails prior to starting the course.

### You will study...

The following topics will be studied in Year 12:

- Education
- Families and Households
- Theory and Methods (part 1)

These topics are found in Paper 1 and Paper 2 of the A-Level.

The following topics will be studied in Year 13:

- Beliefs
- Crime and Deviance
- Theory and Methods (part 2)

These topics are found in Paper 2 and Paper 3 of the A-Level. There will also be a significant period of revision time in Year 13 when all topics are covered.

### Where might Sociology take me?

Skills and knowledge developed throughout this course are valued for many degree courses at university.

Typical career sectors for Sociology include:

Social/Market Research, Media and Journalism, Law, Politics and Social Policy, Business, Health, Teaching and Education Policy.

Many universities offer Sociology degrees as well as combined courses whereby students can study Sociology alongside another subject such as Psychology, Criminology, English or Biology.

### Sociology links well with...

Sociology combines well with many study areas!

Psychology, English Literature and Language, Religious Studies, History, Business Studies are traditional partners, but it also is useful for those wanting Medical or Healthcare careers.

*Independent reading and learning is required. It will be important for students to keep up to date with current issues and affairs such as by reading newspapers or watching the news.*

# SPANISH

AQA 7692



## AS Spanish Qualification

For students wishing to continue to develop their Spanish, but who are struggling to fit this into their three choices, we are excited to offer the opportunity to complete an AS qualification in this language. **The AS qualification** is a one-year course, to be examined at the end of Year 12. Students who sit the AS qualification will study the first year only of the A-Level course alongside their three A-Level choices. This course will significantly develop their proficiency in Spanish, in addition to it being a highly valued supplementary qualification.

## Life after A-Levels:

An A-Level in Spanish is a highly regarded and marketable qualification whether proceeding on to higher education or work. Successful candidates will be well-prepared to use the language for practical communication in all levels of commerce and industry.

The qualification provides a good foundation for further language studies in higher education (degree level or equivalent), either in language courses or for translating/ interpreting/ teaching.

## An introduction to Spanish

The course offered by the Spanish Department will build on the knowledge acquired at GCSE level. The skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing will be further developed through the study of a range of topic areas. The language used will be increasingly accurate, complex and varied.

## A-Level Assessment:

|                |                               |     |
|----------------|-------------------------------|-----|
| <b>Paper 1</b> | Listening, Reading & Writing  | 50% |
| <b>Paper 2</b> | Writing on a film and a novel | 20% |
| <b>Paper 3</b> | Speaking                      | 30% |

## Why learn a language?

### Travel

Even a little knowledge of the language can make a difference in attitude when you meet people from other countries. Speaking another language helps to break down barriers.

### Work and business

It can help you give an added advantage in your career if you work for an international firm or a company with international customers or contacts.

### Music, film, arts and culture

If you like literature, films or music from other countries, learning the language will help your appreciation and understanding.

### Enjoyment!



## Recommended links with other subjects

Due to the range of topics studied in Spanish, they are suitable for combination with any subject in school and subsequently.