SOUTHEND HIGH SCHOOL FOR BOYS



Sixth Form Prospectus
2027-2029

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Additional Qualification
Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

The Sixth Form

There are approximately 450 students in the Sixth Form at Southend High School for Boys. Each year the majority of our own Year 11 pupils enter Year 12, together with a varying number of newcomers – usually between 70-100. Those joining us from elsewhere come from a wide variety of schools in Southeast Essex and include both boys and girls.

THE SIXTH FORM CENTRE

Sixth Formers have access to a purpose-built Sixth Form Centre which is located to the west of the site, adjacent to the Languages Centre and overlooking Hobleythick Lane. Facilities include a large comfortable common room with café, a dedicated sixth-form computer suite, a number of sixth-form private study rooms, several classrooms and smaller seminar rooms that are used exclusively for sixth form teaching.

INVOLVEMENT IN SCHOOL

The Sixth Form at SHSB is fully integrated into the life of the school. Sixth Formers belong to Houses, take part in enrichment programmes, join clubs and societies, serve as School Prefects or Subject Prefects (and as temporary Prefects during Year 12) and are expected to act as role models for younger pupils – i.e. to take the lead in setting the standards, tone and reputation of the school. There is a wide range of activities to choose from in the Sixth Form, including a wealth of sports and games, music, drama, debating, enrichment opportunities and voluntary work both in and out of school. Those who join the Sixth Form determined to set themselves high standards will have an enjoyable and successful two years.

UNIFORM AND RULES

All Sixth Formers wear school uniform and observe similar rules to the rest of the school. They are expected to set a good example to more junior pupils in matters of courtesy, appearance and behaviour.

THE BROADER CURRICULUM

All students are given the opportunity to develop skills and attitudes that will enhance chances of success in their future lives. This academic extension, personal development and independence is achieved through a programme of volunteering, super-curricular study such as the Extended Project Qualification, working with local schools, enrichment activities and timetabled study periods.

The Sixth Form

STUDENT SUPPORT

In the Sixth Form you will join a tutor group of approximately 25 Year 12 students, with a tutor who will advise you individually at regular intervals. Tutors and subject teachers regularly assess your work and progress. Throughout Year 12 you will discuss with your teachers how well you are doing and agree targets for your future development.

If you find it difficult to stay motivated or feel that you are not working to your full potential, your tutor and Year Leader will be there to support you. Together, you can identify any challenges you are facing and work towards finding positive solutions.

During your time here, you will be encouraged to take increasing responsibility for your learning, your work and your progress, developing the confidence and independence to take initiative rather than waiting to be asked. We will encourage you to take pride in your work and maintain high standards for yourself.

Your time in the Sixth Form is a valuable opportunity to learn, grow and prepare for your future. We want you to make the most of every moment. If you are willing to show commitment, determination and a desire to do your best, you can be confident that we will be alongside you, offering guidance, encouragement and support every step of the way.

PREDICTED GRADES

Predicted grades are based on students' performance in internal examinations and assessments throughout Year 12, including the end-of-year examinations. These examinations are set to exam-board standard and marked robustly by subject specialists.

When researching and selecting university choices, students should make sensible and realistic decisions based on their predicted grades. We greatly appreciate parents and carers supporting students in making balanced choices and ensuring that their university applications reflect their current academic profile.

HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAREERS

Throughout the Sixth Form, tutors and careers staff will be helping you look forward to the next stage in your life, either in higher education, employment or an apprenticeship. We have a dedicated Post-18 Student Adviser who is there to support you as you start making your post-18 choices, as well as access to a professional careers' adviser. Throughout your time in the Sixth Form, you will take part in structured career guidance programmes which will help you understand the options available to you, focus on your goals and on the need to work to your full potential. We run a comprehensive development programme starting in the summer of Year 12 where you will be guided through the UCAS (university application) process via workshops, presentations, assemblies and a visit to the UCAS conference. Those who are interested in apprenticeships will be able to participate in workshops, mock assessment centres and interviews, as well as receiving application support. Throughout Year 13 we will support you as you make your applications to universities and employers.

HITCHCOCK LIBRARY

The purpose-built academic library has a designated Sixth-Form area housing computers and study areas. This creates a supportive learning environment offering well-stocked subject-based material and extensive resources to support further reading, private study and preparation for university life. The library is staffed by three professional librarians.

The Sixth Form

PAID EMPLOYMENT

As a Sixth Former, you may wish to take on some paid employment outside school hours. The school will support you in this provided your commitment does not exceed **nine hours per week**. Independent research has shown that an out-of-hours commitment in excess of twelve hours harms academic performance, so we insist that this limit is respected.

SHSB CHARGING POLICY

SHSB will pay for each student's examination entry in all school A Level subjects. This is conditional on the student meeting the course requirements, which include being consistently reliable in terms of:

- attendance
- punctuality (school & lessons)
- meeting deadlines

Students whose candidature is withdrawn by the school will need to register as private entrants in order to sit an exam in a subject in which they have defaulted. Similarly, the school will charge for a public examination entry where the candidate has not been prepared by the school, or where the student has failed, for no good reason, to complete the requirements of an examination. We do not accommodate private entry for A Level exams.

16-19 BURSARY FUND

The Government has delegated a calculated sum of money to schools and entrusted them with the task of awarding bursaries to students. The level of bursary available will be dependent upon the number of applications approved and the amount of funding allocated to the school. To apply, or find out if you are eligible, please contact the Sixth Form office. Please note that the school is tasked with granting or withholding payment to registered students, and in doing so we have to consider such factors as attendance, punctuality, conduct and work rate. Receipt of the bursary is not automatic, and participation in the scheme brings with it an expectation of professional conduct similar to that of a normal workplace.

EFFORT AND ENJOYMENT

If you throw yourself enthusiastically into your work – and involve yourself in a range of other activities – you will find the next two years enjoyable and fulfilling. Sixth Form life requires considerable time and effort, and it is your attitude and commitment that will allow you to achieve your goals.

GCE A Levels

All A level courses are linear, with examinations taking place at the end of the course.

At Southend High School for Boys, students begin Year 12 studying **four A levels**. We believe that studying four subjects provides students with a broader range of knowledge and skills and offers the appropriate level of academic challenge for our Sixth Form.

Students' progress and subject choices are reviewed at the end of Year 12. Following this review, students may be permitted to reduce their programme from four A levels to three for Year 13. **All students must continue with at least three A levels through to the end of Year 13.**

Our four-subject model reflects our commitment to providing an academically ambitious Sixth Form experience, while allowing students to review their programme at the end of Year 12.

Choosing your subjects

The subjects shown below are those the school intends offering to A Level during 2027-29. Please note it is not possible to guarantee that a particular subject will run. The viability or otherwise of a subject can depend on such issues as low uptake, unforeseen staffing difficulties or unexpected changes to the curriculum.

Art & Design (Fine Art)

Biology

Business

Chemistry

Computer Science

Design & Technology
Product Design

Drama

Economics

English Language

English Literature

French

German

Geography

History

Mathematics

Further Mathematics

Music

Music Technology

Physical Education

Physics

Politics

Psychology

Religious Studies

Spanish

Additional Qualification

Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

Choice of Subjects

The choice of A Level subjects is a personal one and should be based on ·

- your likely ability to succeed in the subject.
- your interest in the subject.
- the demands of an intended career or degree course.

Where subjects have significant cost implications, these are included on the relevant page of this handbook. Financial support is available on application in cases of hardship and for families dependent on benefits.

NEW SUBJECTS AT THIS LEVEL

Some subjects at this level will be new to most students. Anyone wishing to select one of these subjects will be expected to achieve Grade 6, or above in a closely related area at GCSE, e.g. English (for Politics), Music (for Music Technology) or Mathematics, Biology and one Humanity subject (for Psychology). Please refer to the subject course requirements.

We advise students to carefully consider the potential impact of taking too many ‘new’ subjects at A Level, in terms of content, exam skills and learning approaches.

GCSE GRADES – Minimum Requirements for entry to the Sixth Form

Minimum entry criteria for admission to the Sixth Form at SHSB are as follows:

Applicants will need to accrue at least 52 points from their 8 best GCSE grades (where numerical grades are scored at face value). Grades below 6 do not contribute to this points score. Short course GCSEs may be included within this calculation.

Applicants must achieve at least GCSE Grade 5 in English and Mathematics.

Applicants must achieve at least GCSE Grade 6 in subjects to be taken at A Level (or, in the case of new subjects, in related subject areas).

Please note:

GCSE Grade 7 is a course requirement for A Level Maths, Chemistry, Physics and Biology.

We do not accept vocational qualifications such as BTECs.

Those who wish to study Further Maths at A Level must achieve Grade 8 or above in GCSE Mathematics. We also request that they sit a Further Mathematics entrance exam on Induction Day which will be used to discuss suitability for the course.

Attainment of our minimum threshold allows applicants to be considered for admission to the Sixth Form. **Constraints on the size of the Sixth Form means that this alone does not guarantee admission.**

Students should only consider joining the Sixth Form at SHSB if they are likely to cope with the rigorous demands of A Level study. Experience has taught us that students who fall below these realistic entry thresholds do not thrive in our academically challenging environment. SHSB is a grammar school with a traditional curriculum, and our approaches to teaching and learning are geared towards preparing students for entry into higher education.

Minimum Requirements for Course Continuation

Students must demonstrate a consistently high level of commitment to each of their courses throughout the Sixth Form. They are expected to engage fully with their lessons, complete independent work and respond positively to feedback and support.

Admission to the Sixth Form is for two years of study. Students are expected to meet the school's minimum academic requirements at the end of Year 12 in order to continue with their courses into Year 13. Students who do not meet these requirements may be advised that continuing with a particular course is not appropriate.

Students' progress and subject choices are formally reviewed at the end of Year 12. Any change to a student's programme must be discussed with and approved by the Sixth Form team; students should not assume that a request to drop a subject will automatically be agreed.

THE INDUCTION COURSE

Every effort should be made to find out as much as possible about each subject before entering Year 12 in order to avoid the need to make changes. There will be an **Induction Day on 1st July 2027** at which prospective Sixth Formers may sample lessons in the subjects they wish to study. **Every student who wishes to join the Sixth Form is expected to attend the Induction Course.** If you have a good reason for non-attendance, you must notify us in advance.

LIMITATIONS ON CHANGING SUBJECT CHOICES

Be certain about your subject options as early as possible. Once you have registered your initial choices with us, it will not be possible for you to switch to a different fully subscribed subject unless a place becomes vacant. The maximum size for Sixth Form classes is 26 (18 in practical subjects) and this figure will not normally be exceeded. In rare cases, where demand is substantially above this figure *and* staff are available, an additional set may be created.

A CAREFUL DECISION

The move into the Sixth Form is a decision that needs to be taken very carefully, after a lot of thought and discussion. If you wish to study A Levels at SHSB you should find out as much detail as possible about the nature of your specific subject courses, the life of a Sixth Former and the school's expectations of you.

How to join the Sixth Form

APPLICATION PROCEDURE FOR NEWCOMERS

Prospective students who wish to be considered for admission to the school in September 2027 must complete an Application for Entry online at www.shsb.org.uk. All applications received by **1st December 2026** will be given equal consideration. We will require confirmation of your predicted grades from your school and early in 2027 we will make offers, subject to the constraints of numbers within subjects and within the Sixth Form as a whole. **N.B. space in our Sixth Form is limited, so we cannot guarantee a place for every student who achieves or is predicted to achieve the minimum entry threshold.**

We always welcome applications from students who are serious about wishing to join us but do bear in mind that if you accept an offer knowing you do not intend to take it up, this prevents us from making a place available to another student.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE FOR SHSB YEAR 11 STUDENTS

Members of SHSB's own Year 11 who wish to continue into the Sixth Form will be asked to fill in an **internal** online form to indicate their A Level subject preferences. The deadline for this is also 1st **December 2026**. They do not need to do anything else at this time.

When the Results are in

It is not assumed that existing SHSB students will take up their places as a matter of course; they will be expected to confirm their intention to take up a place on Results Day in August 2027, according to their registered subject choices. Where there are unresolved issues with these choices (e.g. if the student fails to attain the qualifying score in a subject) the Leader of Year 12 will explore possible alternatives with candidates in the days immediately following the publication of results.

External applicants who hold a conditional offer are asked to present their GCSE results slip, in person, at the school **by 1pm on Results Day in August 2027**. A new student who fails to contact the school by that time, to confirm acceptance of their offer, will be deemed to have withdrawn his or her application. That place will then be offered to the next candidate on our waiting list.

GETTING IT RIGHT – TAKE TIME TO RESEARCH

If you are considering joining our Sixth Form, it is important that you take the time to make informed decisions about your subject choices and understand what you are taking on. Use every opportunity available to research your options, including subject information, websites and other resources, and speak to teachers at Southend High School for Boys or, if you are an external applicant, teachers at your current school.

Above all, **read this handbook carefully**. Make sure you understand the content, requirements and expectations of each subject before making your choices. Follow up your reading by talking to subject teachers, tutors and, where possible, current Sixth Form students.

The more research you do now, the clearer your choices will become and the more prepared you will be for a successful and rewarding Sixth Form experience.

*Examination board web pages are as follows. AQA: www.aqa.org.uk; EdExcel: www.edexcel.com; OCR: www.ocr.org.uk.; www.eduqas.co.uk The SHSB website is: www.shsb.org.uk.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Mrs Jill Gallagher
Sixth Form Administrator
Southend High School for Boys Prittlewell Chase
Southend-on-Sea
Essex SS0 0RG
E-mail enquiries@shsb.org.uk

Alternatively, contact the appropriate Department Leader directly. The email and postal address is the same.

Art & Design (Fine Art) **Awarding Body: AQA** **Specification numbers: 7202**

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimum GCSE grade 6 in Art is required to study the course at A Level (non-negotiable).

COURSE CONTENT

Students will complete 3 projects. Alongside a visual journal, students must create several larger, personal, and meaningful responses (outcomes) outside of the sketchbook. Whilst the first term of Year 12 is teacher-led, it is expected that A Level Art students will lead their own projects from term 2 onwards. Support, guidance and teaching from staff will continue of course, but the art A level curriculum is student-centric and student-driven.

Students will have mini deadlines to meet throughout each project. Regular group critiques will give students the opportunity to share ideas and reflect critically on their own and their peers' practice, in a safe and spacious purpose-built studio environment, like those found in Arts universities. Students have their own, personalised space within the 6th form Art Studio, which they are expected to use both during lessons and in study periods. Students are required to convert their studio space into a gallery space at the end of the year, curating their work to ensure it is seen at its very best, exploring the realm of curatorship as a potential career path. Students are free to explore the genre of Installation Art and create walk-in, multi-sensory experiences, rather than simply hanging work on the walls. All students must create a website, in which to house their work online, which many use (along with other methods) as a way of marketing their work to the public, beyond their life at school.

To further develop their ability to speak and write about personal work, as well as the work of others, Y12 students are asked to enter the annual "Write on Art" competition, as well having to coordinate and create work for a group exhibition in a public space in Southend. 6th Form Art students will be invited to attend trips to museums and galleries. All 6th form Art students are also entered in the annual Royal Academy Young Artists Summer Show, in which we have had many years of success.

A LEVEL FORMAT

Project 1 - "Discovery" (a foundation for A Level)

- Not formally assessed
- Y12, Term 1 (4 months)
- Teacher-led
- Covers art theories and philosophies, answers commonly asked questions, teaches new techniques and builds student confidence.

- **Project 2 – "Personal Investigation"** (A Level coursework Unit)
- Formally assessed (worth 60% of A Level)
- Y12, Term 2 – Y13 Term 1 (12 months)
- Student-Led, Teacher guided (includes 'Mock Exam' - a timed, controlled assessment of 10 hours)
- Student chooses an art-related topic to explore independently, using academic research to further their studio practice. Includes a short, compulsory essay (1000-3000 words.)

Art & Design (Fine Art cont.) Awarding Body: AQA Specification numbers: 7202

Project 3 – "Exam Unit" (Title chosen by student, from AQA-issued exam paper)

- Formally Assessed (worth 40% of A Level)
- Y13, Term 2 – Y13 Term 3 (3 months)
- Student-Led (includes public exam – a timed, controlled assessment of 15 hours)
- Very short project. Student independently explores a topic, related to a title chosen from the exam paper. Student chooses own materials, processes, inspiration and direction of study, and explores areas of art which they find interesting, and which help them to further develop their own artistic vocabulary.

Students are given exceptionally detailed support booklets at the start of each project, with plenty of artistic and cultural links, as well as ideas on how to develop their projects from conception to realisation and examples of ex-students' work.

STUDY METHODS

Sessions are mostly practical, with theoretical input and discussion playing a crucial but secondary role. Self-directed study along with directed lessons will run alongside ongoing individual assessment. Summer work will need to be completed prior to the start of Year 12. A list of books deemed "essential reading" will be provided with the summer work.

SUBJECT COMMITMENT ADDITIONAL TO NORMAL LESSONS AND HOMEWORK

6 hours per fortnight extra time in Year 12.

13 hours per fortnight in Year 13.

These additional hours should be completed outside of lesson time, in the 6th form studio.6th Form Art students are expected to produce the equivalent of 1x sketchbook page (or equivalent,) per day.

CAREERS AND FURTHER POTENTIAL

Students are given many opportunities throughout the 2-year course, to meet with working professionals with the creative industries, in a variety of different fields. These meetings happen both on site, and in the workplace, in the form of group trips. Students with a desire to study arts-based subjects at university will most likely need to create a portfolio of work for interview, with which your Art teachers will be more than happy to help. Our previous students have pursued courses at many of the top UK Art schools and Universities, such as UAL (inc. Camberwell, St Martins and Chelsea) Goldsmiths, Brighton, Leeds, UCL (Slade), Cambridge and Oxford. Students have gone on to study courses such as Architecture, Engineering, Product Design, Advertising, Fashion, Set design, Stage Lighting, Prop Production, Marketing, Fine Art, TV and Film, History of Art, Illustration, Photography, Performing Arts, and more.

Biology

Awarding Body: AQA

Specification numbers: 7402

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimum grade 7 GCSE Biology. GCSE Science + Combined Science, grade 7+7, however, a higher GCSE Grade in Combined Science or Biology is desirable

ALLIED SUBJECTS

It is recommended that students study A Level Chemistry in addition to A Level Biology, as this will enhance their understanding of the biochemical aspects of the course. Many degree courses in pure and applied Biological Sciences require A Level Chemistry.

COURSE CONTENT FOR FIRST YEAR OF A-LEVEL

1. Biological molecules; 2. Cells; 3. Organisms exchange substances with their environment; 4. Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms

COURSE CONTENT FOR SECOND YEAR OF A-LEVEL

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

PRACTICAL SKILLS

Alongside your A-level exams, you are expected to pass a separate 'Practical Endorsement'. 'Twelve required practical tasks will be completed during the A-level course (six first year of A-level and six in the second year of A-level). These practical skills are taken from across fields of biology and include enzymology, microscopy, cell biology, dissection, aseptic technique (microbiology) and using calibration curves.

CAREERS AND FURTHER STUDY

Careers in Biological Sciences are varied and exciting. The field of Biological Studies encompasses Biochemistry, Molecular Biology, Genetics, Immunology, Pharmacology, Microbiology, Ecology and Environmental Science, Physiology, Neurology, Developmental Biology, Biophysics, Marine Biology, Agriculture and the Plant Sciences. Biology graduates are employed in industry, research, medicine, education, law, management and finance. Students intending to study medicine, dentistry or veterinary medicine choose to study Biology at A Level.

ASSESSMENT FOR A-LEVEL

Paper **1**	Paper **2**
Content: Any content from topics **1-4**, including relevant practical skills	Content: Any content from topics **5-8**, including relevant practical skills
Assessment: Written exam: 2 hours 91 marks 35% of A-level	Assessment: Written exam: 2 hours 91 marks 35% A-level
Questions: 91 marks: short answer questions 15 marks:	Questions: 91 marks: short answer questions 15 marks: extended response questions
Paper **3**	
Content: Any content from topics **1-8**, including relevant practical skills	
Assessment: Written exam: 2 hours 78 marks 30% of A-level	
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	

Business*

Awarding Body: AQA

Specification numbers: 7138 (Provisional)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Whilst it is beneficial, it is not essential to have taken Business at GCSE, it is important that students can express themselves clearly in written work and join the course prepared to appreciate and challenge business objectives and the changing economy.

More importantly it is essential to have an interest in the world of money, commerce and entrepreneurship. The course is a great stepping-stone for university courses in the fields of Business, Management, and Finance; some of the most popular university courses in the UK. You may be interested in starting your own business in the future, or following a career in finance, accounting, marketing, or management after university.

There are opportunities to take part in competitions e.g. IFS share game and BASE, the ICAEW's national Business, Accounting and Skills Education competition for students aged 16-19. This is a unique and exciting experience where students can engage in a challenging business game that enables them to develop key employability skills and understand what it's like to be an ICAEW Chartered Accountant.

ALLIED SUBJECTS

Business combines well with a variety of subjects, including the sciences and Mathematics, as well as languages, arts and humanities.

*** At SHSB Business may not be taken alongside Economics at A Level.**

ASSESSMENT FORMAT

A Level Content

1. **Business and Objectives (Year 12)**
2. **Forms of Business and Stakeholders (Year 12)**
3. **Marketing Management (Year 12)**
4. **Financial Management (Year 12)**
5. **People Management (Year 12)**
6. **Operations Management (Year 12)**
7. **Managing Business Culture (Year 13)**
8. **Business and Society (Year 13)**
9. **Business and the External Environment (Year 13)**
10. **Strategy (Year 13)**
11. **Change (Year 13)**

A Level Assessment

- **Three written exams: 2 hours each**
- **90 marks each**
- **33.3% of A-level weighting for each paper**
- **100% of the A level**
- **Each paper has two case studies, each of which has a series of five questions. Worth 45 marks for each case study.**

CAREERS AND FURTHER POTENTIAL

Distribution/Logistics Manager
Human Resources Manager
Recruitment Consultant
Management Consultant
Marketing Executive Retail Manager
Company Secretary
Accountant
Banker: Investment/Commercial
Buyer (Industrial or Retail)
Market Research Executive
PR Account Executive
Insurance Underwriter
Market Research Executive
Human Resources Manager
Sales Executive
Stockbroker
Advertising Account Executive
Banking Manager

Chemistry

Awarding Body: Edexcel

Specification numbers: 9CHO

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

The minimum prerequisite for entry is a grade 7 in GCSE Chemistry (or Science and Combined Science) and Grade 6 in Maths.

Students who have studied Additional Science may have to make a special effort for the first few weeks, as they will not have as much background knowledge as those who studied Chemistry as a separate science. However, this should not discourage students from studying the subject if they wish to do so.

ALLIED SUBJECTS

The subject combines well with studies in Biology, Physics and Maths.

COURSE CONTENT

EdExcel Chemistry Advanced Level consists of 19 topics, arranged into two units. The third exam paper is synoptic and examines the whole course. Exam papers may include multiple-choice, short open, open-response, calculation and extended writing questions. 20% of the marks awarded for all papers will be for students' application of mathematics in Chemistry.

The specification has been designed to build on the knowledge and skills acquired in GCSE Science and provide opportunities for students to consider the applications and implications of chemistry and the development of scientific ideas. In addition to the traditional areas of chemistry described below, students will study aspects of chemistry that are often in the media and affect their lives. It is important that students have the necessary knowledge and understanding to explain many different aspects of contemporary chemistry.

The main areas of study are:

· Physical: atomic structure, bonding, thermochemistry, equilibria, reaction rates;

· Inorganic: periodicity, s-block, transition metals, redox, groups 2 & 7, and analysis; with the emphasis upon patterns and trends rather than on detail;

· Organic: the chemistry, synthesis and analysis of the important series of carbon compounds, with an emphasis upon reaction mechanisms linked to the nature of the bonding in the compounds involved.

· Laboratory chemistry and experimental skills.

There will be periodic testing so that students can make regular assessments of their progress. Students are expected to develop their personal study skills so that the principles encountered in class are reinforced through the use of other resources.

Chemistry (cont.)

Awarding Body: Edexcel

Specification numbers: 9CHO

A LEVEL FORMAT % of A Level

Unit 1: Advanced Inorganic and Physical Chemistry Unit 2: Advanced Organic and Physical Chemistry Unit 3: General and Practical Principles in Chemistry Unit 4: Science Practical Endorsement

Written exam	30%
Written exam	30%
Written exam	40%
Internally Assessed	(pass/fail)

STUDY METHODS

Large number of short-term tasks. Practical work and demonstrations.

CAREERS AND FURTHER POTENTIAL

There is a shortage of good Chemistry and Chemical Engineering graduates in research and industry. Chemistry graduates enter a wide variety of professions including accountancy, law and politics. High grades in A Level Chemistry are required for entry to medical, dental and veterinary courses. The study of A Level Chemistry is desirable for a wide variety of scientific and technological careers.

Computer Science

Awarding Body: OCR

Specification numbers: H446

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A keen interest in computer programming and on how computer systems work. Students will have achieved a grade 6 or above in **Computer Science GCSE**.

APPLIED SUBJECTS

The course and syllabus for this subject do not have an advanced mathematical background, and therefore it is suitable for science and non-science students. However, do note that students wishing to take certain Computer Science degrees may need to take Mathematics in A Level.

STUDY METHODS

Lessons during the academic year are split between theory and practical content. The Computer Science specification focuses a great deal on problem solving and, ultimately, computer programming. The practical unit involves a good deal of individual work. The A Level project spans over 24 weeks so students must be prepared to manage their time effectively in order to meet necessary deadlines.

CAREERS AND FURTHER POTENTIAL

Increasingly, computer science is being considered a desirable subject by many universities. For those students intending to study computer science further, it provides a sound foundation but is also useful for a wide range of other courses, scientific and otherwise. Prospective employers will count the A Level as a suitable qualification for a wide variety of careers.

A LEVEL FORMAT

Year 1 - Based on OCR's Specification	Assessment	% of A Level
Computer Science Principles (01): The characteristics of Comtemporary Processors, Input, Output and Storage Devices, Software and Software Development, Programming, Exchanging Data, Data Types, Data Structures and Algorithms, Legal, Moral, Ethical and Cultural.	Internal school assessment	
Algorithms and problem solving (02): Elements of computational thinking, Algorithms, Problem solving and programming.		
Programming Project (03): The learner will choose a Computer Science problem to work through according to the guidance in the specification. Analysis of the problem + Design of the Solution. This is continued into Year 2. The entire project is worth 20% of the A Level.		
Year 2	**Assessment**	**% of A Level**
Computer Science Principles (01): The characteristics of Comtemporary Processors, Input, Output and Storage Devices, Software and Software Development, Programming, Exchanging Data, Data Types, Data Structures and Algorithms, Legal, Moral, Ethical and Cultural.	Written paper 2 hours and 30 minutes 140 marks	40%
Algorithms and problem solving (02): Elements of computational thinking, Algorithms, Problem solving and programming.	Written paper 2 hours and 30 minutes 140 marks	40%
Programming Project (03): The learner will continue their Computer Science problem to work through according to the guidance in the specification. Developing the solution & Evaluation	Non-exam assessment 70 marks total	20%

Design & Technology (Product Design)

Awarding Body: AQA **Specification numbers: 7552**

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

This course develops the student's knowledge and understanding of three-dimensional product design and based on practical work. Although a **grade 6** at GCSE would be considered the minimum entry requirement, greater success than this indicates that a potential candidate has been able to maintain an appropriate level of motivation, enabling the production of high-quality coursework. Students following this course must possess a strong interest in designing, modelling, manufacturing and evaluating products and systems; they should also show a keen interest in the processes and products of design & technology activity. An ability and willingness to work independently is also considered to be essential. Although this course could closely associated with GCSE Product Design, it is equally appropriate for students who have followed courses in Resistant Materials Technology, Graphic Products or Electronic Products.

ALLIED SUBJECTS

This subject provides a complement to science-based courses or, alternatively, a balance to language and humanities-based courses.

A LEVEL FORMAT

Paper 1 Technical Principles	Written exam	30%
Paper 2 Designing and Making Principles	Written exam	50%
Non-Exam Assessment (NEA)	Internal assessment	50%

Non-Exam Assessment will take the form of several design activities, with the highest quality material being submitted for assessment.

All material that is internally assessed is subject to external moderation.

SUBJECT COMMITMENT ADDITIONAL TO NORMAL LESSONS AND HOMEWORK

Students should be willing to continue to develop their technological awareness out of study time.

CAREERS AND FURTHER POTENTIAL

A wide range of Product Design and Industrial Design courses are offered by universities leading to honours degrees. Students who are seriously thinking of a career in the field of engineering or 3D design would find this subject appropriate.

Drama

Awarding Body: WJEC Eduqas **Specification numbers: A6920QS**

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Any suitable candidate will find A Level Drama consistently enjoyable and rewarding, but you must be aware of its challenging academic and practical demands and of the need for extensive commitment beyond the classroom. A willingness to attend theatre visits out of school hours and to become involved in production work, also out of hours, is essential. A good pass (**grade 6 or above**) at GCSE Drama is expected of every student. Previous experience is not essential, but an open mind, a strong sense of team spirit and a real commitment to the course, plus a genuine, proven interest in the theatre, are vital qualities for success at this subject. Those who have not had an opportunity to study Drama will be dealt with on a 'case-by-case' basis

ALLIED SUBJECTS

English Literature and Music are excellent complementary subjects, but there are no essential combinations.

A LEVEL FORMAT	Assessment	% of A Level
Component 1: Theatre Workshop	Internally Assessed	20%
Component 2: Text in Action	External Examiner	40%
Component 3: Text in Performance	Written examination	40%

STUDY METHODS

There is a substantial emphasis on directing and understanding performance text and work of practitioners; all written assessments are based on the work completed in class. Play texts are studied purely as theatre, through performance and workshop activities, and are not an extension of English Literature.

SUBJECT COMMITMENT ADDITIONAL TO NORMAL LESSONS AND HOMEWORK

Students need to develop their experience of live theatre, both independently and via regular attendance at organised theatre visits and workshops. Students are expected to attend all theatre visits during the course, both locally and in London or other venues in the South-East. We travel by coach or train immediately after school or to a matinee. Preparation of the practical examination at A Level is the responsibility of the students themselves and will require substantial time commitments with extra rehearsals. N.B. The balance of other homework assignments will reflect the weight of these commitments.

CAREERS AND FURTHER POTENTIAL

Some students will decide to take Drama with a view to embarking on a theatre/drama degree course. Many find Drama a significant adjunct to English Literature or other essay-based subjects. Two great strengths of Drama are its qualities as a broadening subject and as a route to personal development. The subject is useful in any career because it teaches valuable skills of self-confidence, communication, self-awareness, imagination, innovation, independent thinking, problem solving, teamwork, public presentation, eloquence and aesthetic sensitivity.

Over the duration of the course, students will have access to higher educational course tasters, including drama school and BA drama. Students will also see a range of theatre online and in London and explore different areas of the theatre industry within their studies.

Economics*

Awarding Body: AQA

Specification numbers: 7136

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Those who have taken Economics or Business at GCSE will have an advantage in the first half term, when basic principles are learned. However, it is more important to have an interest in economic matters, supported by the ability to express oneself clearly and coherently in written work. Often, students with a Level 7 in Mathematics do well in Economics, because a logical mind is required, not because there is any sophisticated level of mathematical ability needed: there isn't!

ALLIED SUBJECTS

As a social science, Economics combines well with many other subjects, but students will find Politics, Physics, Psychology, Religious Studies, Geography and History are subjects which have cross-curricular links. Anyone wishing to pursue Economics at University should have Mathematics as one of their options. Moreover, Economics complements all modern foreign languages, as many students go on to work in Europe and beyond.

A-Level is an intensive course, requiring wide reading and an interest in economics and business. Initially, students must become familiar with economic principles and economic terminology. In this respect, the first few months are vital in setting the foundation for success at A-Level.

A-LEVEL FORMAT Assessment: a written exam accompanies each unit of work

Unit 1: Markets and Market Failure	33.3%
Unit 2: National Economy	33.3%
Unit 3: Economic Principles and Issues	33.3%

CAREERS AND FURTHER POTENTIAL

Whilst it is not essential, those considering careers in the Financial Sector will find that A-Level Economics provides them with an excellent insight into the world of finance and the economy in general. Jobs directly related to a degree in Economics include:

Actuarial Analyst
Chartered Accountant
Chartered public finance accountant
Data analyst
Economist
External auditor
Financial risk analyst
Forensic accountant
Investment analyst
Statistician
Stockbroker

*** At SHSB Economics may not be taken alongside Business at A-Level.**

English Language

Awarding Body: AQA

Specification number: 7702

INTRODUCTION

Students study a broad range of non-literary texts, exploring how English is used in spoken, written, and digital contexts and how it varies across time, place, and social groups. As with English Literature, students are encouraged to recognise that meanings are not fixed: multiple readings of a text or data set are often possible, and essays frequently involve setting up a debate, evaluating different viewpoints, and constructing a carefully argued case. Throughout the course, students explore how children acquire language skills, how contexts shape language and influence meaning, compare texts to identify patterns and differences, and investigate how English changes and diversifies according to time and place. Independent research and wider reading are also essential, particularly for the NEA, where students design and carry out their own real-world language investigation.

In Year 13, students are assessed by both exam and non-exam components (e.g. a personal investigation that will be assessed by a teacher and moderated by AQA).

The qualification is linear, meaning that students will sit all A Level exams at the end of the A Level course at the end of Year 13.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Students must gain **at least Grade 6 in both GCSE English Language and English Literature.** A willingness to read, discuss, and write about literature is essential.

ALLIED SUBJECTS

English Language sits very well with most subjects. It complements English Literature, Modern Foreign languages, Drama & Theatre Studies, Psychology and History particularly well.

STUDY METHODS

Independent research is central to the course, especially for the NEA, where students, with guidance, follow their personal interests to design and carry out their own investigation; this requires careful data collection, methodical analysis, and critical engagement with academic sources. Strong study habits—such as regular wider reading, revisiting key theorists, annotating texts systematically, and reflecting on feedback—help students deepen their understanding of how English works and develop the analytical confidence needed for success at A Level.

CAREERS AND FURTHER POTENTIAL

AQA English Language A Level equips students with a wide range of highly transferable skills that open doors to diverse career paths. Because the course develops precise analytical thinking, confident communication, and an understanding of how language shapes people and society, it is a respected foundation for careers in journalism, law, marketing, publishing, education, speech and language therapy, the civil service, and roles across business where clear, purposeful communication is essential. Students learn to analyse real-world language data, craft effective written texts, and understand how language influences identity, power and culture — giving them a competitive edge in any field that values critical thinking, interpersonal awareness and the ability to interpret and shape communication.

English Literature

Awarding Body: AQA (English Literature Specification A) **Specification number: 7712**

INTRODUCTION

Students study a wide range of literary texts which are drawn from different time periods and from the three main genres of prose fiction, poetry, and drama. Students develop the skills of writing well-organised and clear essays which discuss issues raised in set texts, analyse writers' techniques and describe and explain their own response to what they have read. At A Level, English Literature students are encouraged to see that meanings of texts are not fixed and that multiple interpretations are often possible. Essays often set up a debate and students must carefully argue a case, challenging the interpretations of other readers and developing their own informed personal responses. Students are also required to explore links between texts and develop their appreciation of how different contexts shape texts and possible meanings. Independent reading is also a requirement.

In Year 13, students are assessed by both exam and non-exam components (e.g. a personal investigation that will be assessed by a teacher and moderated by AQA).

The qualification is linear, meaning that students will sit all A Level exams at the end of the A Level course at the end of Year 13.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Students must gain **at least Grade 6 in both GCSE English Language and English Literature.** A willingness to read, discuss, and write about literature is essential.

ALLIED SUBJECTS

English Literature sits very well with most subjects. It complements English Language, Modern Foreign languages, Drama & Theatre Studies, and History particularly well.

STUDY METHODS

Essay work is regularly required, though writing in this course will vary in length and style. Students will also be expected to research topics and to lead presentations to the other members of their class. They should be prepared to pursue their own reading interests and to read around the set texts, including reference to critical sources. Students are expected to work collaboratively and independently. Teachers use study methods that encourage students to develop their own informed responses to texts including, for example, literary debates.

CAREERS AND FURTHER POTENTIAL

Studying English Literature equips students with a broad range of highly valued and transferable skills that can be applied to many future jobs and career paths. English Literature A Level is a suitable and highly respected qualification for careers in the legal profession, journalism, administration, education, the civil service, and the wider world of business, where a knowledge of or sensitivity to language is essential. In an increasingly competitive world, studying English Literature may provide students with a winning edge over others when it comes to interpersonal skills, analytical and critical thinking, and creativity. English Literature is much more than reading books – it helps students to understand other people, society, culture, and themselves.

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Geography

Awarding Body: AQA

Specification number: 7037

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Grade 6 or above at GCSE is required to study for A Level, as is at least a 6 in Maths owing to the increased focus on statistical analysis. **To take A Level Geography at this school, it is a non-negotiable requirement to have obtained a GCSE in Geography**. In order to succeed at A Level students must be prepared to undertake individual research in the second year of the course. Provided you are willing to work consistently and are prepared for a large volume of work (resulting from the wide coverage of the specification and wider reading for synopticity and critical understanding), then a good A Level grade should be attainable for most students.

ALLIED SUBJECTS

Any – but if you are considering a university course, then Economics, Government and Politics or Maths are useful for Human Geography, and Physics, Chemistry, Biology for Physical Geography.

COURSE CONTENT

Water and Carbon Cycles, Coasts, Hazards, Contemporary Urban Environments, Global Governance and Changing Places.

A LEVEL FORMAT

A Level Geography is a linear subject

We do two field trips, one to Walton-on-the-Naze to study coastal processes and another to London to study concepts looked at in Changing Places.

A Level Geography - 2 examination papers plus teacher assessed (and exam board moderated) individual geographical investigation.

Paper 1: Physical geography 2 hours 30 minutes 96 marks (40%) split into 3 sections with final section containing extended responses.

Paper 2: Human geography 2 hours and 30 minutes 96 marks (40%) split into 3 sections with final section containing extended responses.

Field trip to London to study concepts in Changing Places and Contemporary Urban Environments.

Geography (cont.)

Awarding Body: AQA

Specification number: 7037

Paper 3: Teacher assessed geographical investigation (Non-Examined Assessment –NEA*) 60 marks (20%) –word guidance is a 5000-word report on an individual research question (it can link to any area of the geography curriculum we study). The exam board is strict in its requirement for students to establish an enquiry **of their own**. To facilitate this a 3-day residential fieldtrip to Southwold has been organised in the past, where students were guided and taught the necessary skills. Students will then undertake research, write up the report and submit. **No draft forms are allowed and there are very strict rules regarding the independent nature of this work (this will be made very clear to students from the outset).**

Students will still experience fieldwork and will be required to complete their NEA as well as answer fieldwork questions in the exam paper.

STUDY METHODS

A level Geography seeks to examine geographical skills and understanding in a variety of ways. There will be an opportunity for extended response questions, discussion and research.

SUBJECT COMMITMENT ADDITIONAL TO NORMAL LESSONS AND HOMEWORK

The A level requires four days of fieldwork, spanning both the physical and human elements of the subject. Students will write up their findings in a 5000-word report to be teacher-assessed initially, then moderated by AQA.

CAREERS AND FURTHER POTENTIAL

Geography is a useful and acceptable qualification in a wide variety of careers. Geography specialists can work in particular areas such as insurance, investment banking planning, landscape architecture, surveying and education; generally, any career in industry and commerce is available to a student with a geography qualification. Geography graduates are considered amongst the most employable due to their skillset. Given the current Climate Crisis and drive towards sustainability, geographers are extremely well placed in the job market.

History

Awarding Body: Edexcel

Specification number: 9H10

Exam options 1E, 2E.1, 36.1 and a coursework unit

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Grade 6 or above at GCSE is required to study for A Level (this is a non-negotiable requirement) as well as a high standard of written English that will allow you to present logical, independent analyses of historical problems and descriptions of events and courses of events. Please note that is it more usual for students wishing to take the course to have obtained at least a Grade 8 at GCSE. This is a knowledge-heavy course, and you should be genuinely interested in and enthusiastic about studying the periods of History covered by the course. You need to be prepared to take part in class, not merely listen to others. It helps if you are confident in defending your opinion. Above all, you must be willing to read a wide range of books/articles throughout the two years of the course.

ALLIED SUBJECTS

Most combinations work academically with Modern History. English is a particularly useful partner subject, since the skill of writing essays is common to both A Levels. History is excellent support for Economics and for Politics: these subjects complement each other at A Level and contain many overlapping concepts. Those studying History develop good general knowledge and writing skills, and therefore History will complement many subjects.

A LEVEL FORMAT

Section code	Section title	Assessment	% of A Level Marks
1E	Russia, 1917-91: from Lenin to Yeltsin	Exam	30%
2E.1	Mao's China, 1949-76	Exam	20%
36.1	Protest, agitation and parliamentary reform in Britain, c.1780-1928	Exam	30%
Part 4	Start of the Cold War c. 1945-1953	Coursework	20%

STUDY METHODS

Presentations, discussions, individual and pair/group work, use of DVDs, TV documentaries and internet research. Various extended writing tasks and source work. Students are also advised that there is a lot of exam practice work, exam practice feedback and basic facts tests.

History (cont.)

Awarding Body: Edexcel

Specification number: 9H10

Exam options 1E, 2E.1, 36.1 and a coursework unit

SUBJECT COMMITMENT ADDITIONAL TO NORMAL LESSONS AND HOMEWORK

Readiness to read as widely as possible around the subject content. History is not an easy option, though it is rewarding and enjoyable. The more you put in, the more likely it is that you will do well.

CAREERS AND FURTHER POTENTIAL

History is a sound A Level on its own or it can complement many groups of subjects in preparation for Higher Education. It is a 'preferred subject' in a number of fields from the obvious ones, like Law and Journalism, to Architecture and even Computer Science. Careers for which History prepares you directly are, for example teaching and museum/archive work, yet the majority of those who study it in the Sixth Form and at Higher Education (and it is a well-subscribed subject) go into other professions such as law, the police and business. It is accepted, therefore, as a training which prepares people for a wide range of opportunities. If you wish to go into this more closely, please ask the History Department (Mr Sanders, Mr Nagle or Mrs Foley), or Sixth Formers who are currently studying the subject.

Mathematics

Awarding Body: Edexcel

Specification number: 9MA0

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A minimum GCSE Grade 7 is required; a good grasp of Algebra is essential.

ALLIED SUBJECTS

Any of the Mathematics courses may be effectively combined with other A Level subjects including the Physical Sciences, Biology, Economics, Computer Science and Geography.

STUDY METHODS

The subject material covered must be consolidated at home by further practice of suitable questions from exercises started in class. In addition to these, weekly worksheets covering topics being covered will be issued and the expectation is that these will be attempted well; support from teachers will be available to help achieve this. Short topic tests every half term are used to assess progress towards A level grades as appropriate. Students are prepared fully for the module examinations, but they will need to prepare for the examinations by working through past papers on their own which will then be discussed in lessons.

SUBJECT COMMITMENT ADDITIONAL TO NORMAL LESSONS AND HOMEWORK

Regular perusal of the online Plus Magazine, which gives insight into practical applications of mathematics in a variety of fields, will benefit all mathematics students. Extra practice of topics may be required to strengthen understanding.

A LEVEL FORMAT

A Level	Assessment (all exam)	% of A Level
Unit 1: Pure Mathematics 1	Written exam	33.3%
Unit 2: Pure Mathematics 2	Written exam	33.3%
Unit 3: Statistics and Mechanics	Written exam	33.3%

A Level Mathematics is strongly recommended for Higher Education courses in Economics, Medicine, Architecture, Engineering, Accountancy, Teaching, Psychology and Computer Science.

CAREERS AND FURTHER POTENTIAL

A Level Mathematics provides a compelling, highly valued qualification for many higher education courses and for entry into a wide range of professions. There are also many areas of employment that regard an A Level in Mathematics as an important qualification.

A Level Mathematics is strongly recommended for Higher Education courses in Economics, Medicine, Architecture, Engineering, Accountancy, Teaching, Psychology and Computer Science.

Further Mathematics

Awarding Body: Edexcel

Specification number: 9FM0

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

GCSE Grade 8/9 in GCSE Mathematics. In addition, students need to achieve the required pass-mark in the Further Maths Entrance Test during Year 12 induction.

ALLIED SUBJECTS

These A Levels may be effectively combined with other A Level subjects, especially the Sciences, Economics and Computer Science.

STUDY METHODS

The same methods as for Mathematics apply.

SUBJECT COMMITMENT ADDITIONAL TO NORMAL LESSONS AND HOMEWORK

As for Mathematics.

CAREERS AND FURTHER POTENTIAL

If you are hoping to study a Physical Science to degree level, A Levels in Mathematics and Further Mathematics are highly advantageous. Further Mathematics is extremely useful if you are looking to study Mathematics at university which will lead to numerous career choices. It is also relevant to many Engineering and Economics degree courses. Those who wish to study Medicine, Veterinary Sciences or Dentistry should look carefully at universities before applying . A number of these universities will see Further Mathematics and Mathematics as a combined A Level as they are looking for breadth of knowledge. In these cases, it may not be beneficial to choose Further Mathematics at A Level unless you have also completed Mathematics and two other A Levels.

A LEVEL FORMAT	Assessment (all exam)	% of A Level
A Level		
Unit 1: Core Pure 1	Written exam	25%
Unit 2: Core Pure 2	Written exam	25%
Unit 3: Further Mechanics 1	Written exam	25%
Unit 4: Further Mechanics 2	Written exam	25%

Further Mathematics is a separate A Level qualification. Mathematics and Further Mathematics are taught as an integrated pair of A Level subjects so the topics leading to Further Mathematics follow those for Mathematics. Students progress steadily through the content so that they gradually gain the skills needed for Further Maths, once they have succeeded at Mathematics.

Modern Foreign Languages
French, German, Spanish

Awarding Body: AQA

Specification numbers: French 7652
German 7662
Spanish7692

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A minimum of Grade 6 is required, but those with a Grade 7 or above in GCSE French, German or Spanish may find it easier; please consult staff with regard to suitability. Students should be genuinely interested in expressing their views in French, German and Spanish on a range of issues and are encouraged to visit the target language country during the course. Languages at Sixth Form level suits people who enjoy the opportunity to discuss and debate across a number of different themes and who are prepared to do this accurately and concisely.

ALLIED SUBJECTS

Languages complement many courses of study. French, German, English and Spanish are interrelated disciplines; Economics, Business and Computer Science with a language can lead to work in European Business Studies; English, History and a language are an excellent preparation for Law. Many degree courses include opportunities for a year abroad.

A LEVEL FORMAT

Paper 1 – Listening, reading and translation - written exam (50%)

Paper 2 – Questions on set texts (film and book) -written exam (20%)

Paper 3 -Discussion on sub-themes and on a research, project chosen by the student -speaking exam (30%)

STUDY METHODS

You will be expected to work individually and in groups and be required to carry out independent research as part of the coursework element. The four skills of Speaking, Listening, Reading and Writing form a major part of the course.

CAREERS AND FURTHER POTENTIAL

Foreign language qualifications can lead to careers with multinational companies abroad or in this country, with the Government, in public service and in teaching/lecturing. Demand for linguists is increasing all the time.

Music Awarding Body: WJEC Eduqas

Specification number: A660QS

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

The course demands a high level of practical skill as well as aural awareness, historical perspective, a sound understanding of harmony and other aspects of music theory, together with composing ability. Students need to have a reasonable background in these areas before embarking on the A Level course, and we would normally expect a **minimum of a grade 6 in GCSE Music**.

ALLIED SUBJECTS

Music may be taken with any other combination of subjects, although the combination of Music **and** Music Technology **may not both** normally be appropriate, although in exceptional circumstances (for example, those intent on a music related degree), this may be considered.

SUBJECT CONTENT (Students must complete all three components, although choose a pathway, majoring in either performance or composition, by Year 13)

Component 1: Performance

What's assessed: Performance skills

How it's assessed: Solo and/or ensemble performing as an instrumentalist and/or vocalist and/or music production. The recital is marked by an Eduqas examiner who visits the school.

Requirement: Between six and twelve minutes of live performance in total is required, depending on the pathway chosen. This component is worth between 25% to 35% of the qualification (depending on the pathway)

Component 2: Composition

What's assessed: Creative composition skills

How it's assessed: Composition based on an exam board brief, plus one or two free choice compositions. The compositions are marked externally by Eduqas.

Requirement: Between two or three compositions, totally between four to ten minutes of music, depending on the pathway chosen. This component is worth between 25% to 35% of the qualification (depending on the pathway)

Music (cont.) Awarding Body: WJEC Eduqas

Specification number: A660QS

Component 3: Appraising music

What's assessed: Listening / Analysis / Contextual understanding

How it's assessed: Exam paper with listening and written questions using excerpts of music. This component is worth 40% of the qualification

STUDY METHODS

This is a skills- and knowledge-based exam. Students are required to practise the various skills in their own time. To aid this, students are given access to tailor-made online resources, including a comprehensive OneNote resource. Students must, of course, practise their instrument regularly and often.

SUBJECT COMMITMENT ADDITIONAL TO NORMAL LESSONS AND HOMEWORK

All students are required to become fully involved in extra-curricular music, as well as performing solo and ensemble works regularly in lunchtime and whole-school concerts.

CAREERS AND FUTURE POTENTIAL

The A Level Music course will attract and satisfy students with a keen interest in music and the necessary aptitude, practically, academically or both. A Level Music carries an academic status, and it is, of course, an essential prerequisite for most university and higher education courses in music, musical performance, music technology, acoustics, etc. However, the course is self-contained, and entirely suitable for musically inclined students who do not intend to continue their formal musical studies beyond Sixth Form level. The potential for enriching future lives, as well as future careers, is great.

Useful document – 'Why study A Level Music?' https://www.eduqas.co.uk/media/tkzfbcb0/why-study-a-level-music.pdf

Music Technology

Awarding Body: Edexcel

Specification number: 9MT0

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Students wishing to embark on this course must be performing musicians. The course demands a keen aural awareness, an interest in technology and computing, the ability to read music fluently from score and an ability to compose and arrange music. It is expected that students wishing to embark on this course would obtain **a minimum of a grade 6 in Music**, **and an equivalent level in ICT would be an advantage**. Those wishing to start this course without these should talk to Mr Worth.

ALLIED SUBJECTS

Music Technology may be taken with any other combination of subjects, although the combination of Music **and** Music Technology **may not both** normally be appropriate, although in exceptional circumstances (for example, those intent on a music related degree), this may be considered.

STUDY METHODS

A thorough working knowledge of all the equipment on the course is essential, so students are encouraged to spend as much time as possible using the facilities. An amount of historical knowledge of both recording practice and the development of music through history is also required, so an academic as well as practical 'skills based' approach is crucial. Students must also maintain their own standard of musician ship through diligent personal practice.

SUBJECT COMMITMENT ADDITIONAL TO NORMAL LESSONS AND HOMEWORK

All students are required to become fully involved in extra-curricular music, as well as performing in lunchtime and whole-school concerts.

A LEVEL FORMAT

The course explores two main areas: the **history** of technology and studio production (from the 1930s) and **current practice** in studio craft and digital music composition. Lessons explore technique and skills practically, as well as examining their application in modern and historical popular music.

Paper	Assessment	%
9MT0/01 Recording	Externally assessed	20%
9MT0/02 Technology-based Composition	Externally assessed	20%
9MT0/03 Listening and Analysing	Written exam	25%
9MT0/04 Producing and Analysing	Written exam	35%

CAREERS AND FUTURE POTENTIAL

The use and application of Music Technology is the fastest growing area within the music industry. Many universities now offer highly respected degree courses in sound recording, studio practice, music computing or courses linked to the above areas. This A Level is beneficial for anyone intending to become involved in the popular music industry, and complements interests in music, the theatre, ICT and technology.

Physical Education

Awarding Body: WJEC Eduqas

Specification number: 3311

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Positive attitudes toward physical education; an understanding of the spirit of competition; self-determination and the spirit of co-operation with others. **Grade 6 or above at GCSE PE is required**. If GCSE PE was not available, a strong knowledge of human biology is an advantage, whilst evidence of high-level performance in your chosen sport is desirable. Please note that where GCSE has not been studied, there will be a small knowledge gap that the candidate will have to bridge in their own time to supplement their studies.

A-level candidates are assessed in ONE sport. The student should therefore be committed to improving their performance in this sport to as high a standard as possible. **As such, the A-level course is not for 'social' sportsmen/women**. Commitment to training and competing both inside and out of school is mandatory. The availability to attend school practices (where offered) is compulsory. Students must be able to demonstrate (via video and other relevant evidence) ongoing competitive performance in their sport. It is our expectation that the candidate will already be undertaking regular practice and competition and not 'starting' to play a sport or rejoin a team. This practice and competition should be occurring outside of school and, where applicable, in school also.

COURSE OUTCOMES

This Eduqas A Level in Physical Education will enable students to:

develop theoretical knowledge and understanding of the factors that underpin physical activity and sport and use this knowledge to improve performance

understand how physiological and psychological states affect performance

understand the key socio-cultural factors that influence people's involvement in physical activity and sport

understand the role of technology in physical activity and sport

refine their ability to perform effectively in physical activity and sport by developing skills and techniques and selecting and using tactics, strategies and/or compositional ideas

develop their ability to analyse and evaluate to improve performance

understand the contribution which physical activity makes to health and Fitness

improve as effective and independent learners and as critical and reflective thinkers with curious and enquiring minds.

COURSE INFORMATION

- Theory – 70% of final assessment
- Units: Exercise Physiology; Movement Analysis; Performance Analysis and Technology; Sport Psychology; Skill Acquisition; Sport and Society
- 2 papers (both 2hrs – 105 marks each)
- Non-Examined Assessment – 30% of final assessment
- Practical performance in ONE sport (45 marks - 15%)
- Coursework (45 marks – 15%)

Physics Awarding Body: AQA

Specification number: 7408

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

GCSE Science + Combined Science, grade 7+7 or above, or Physics grade 7 or above, and (in both cases) Mathematics with grade 6 or above. However, a higher GCSE Grade in Combined Science or Physics is desirable.

ALLIED SUBJECTS

Mathematics, Chemistry, Computer Science and/or any other science subject. For those considering an A level in Physics, it would be recommended to also select A Level Mathematics as we use some more difficult mathematics tools such as logarithms which are not taught at GCSE.

YEAR 1 - COURSE CONTENT

Particles – particle types and interactions, quarks and conservation laws *Quantum Phenomena* – photoelectric effect, wave-particle duality

Electricity – charge, current, emf and internal resistance, DC circuits, potential divider *Mechanics* – scalar and vectors, dynamics, work, energy, power, momentum, statics *Materials* – Density, solids under stress

Waves – nature of waves, refraction, superposition, stationary waves, interference, diffraction

YEAR 2 - COURSE CONTENT

Fields – electric, gravitational and magnetic fields, electromagnetic induction, capacitance, AC
Further mechanics – circular motion, simple harmonic motion, resonance
Nuclear physics – radioactive decay, nuclear energy
Thermal physics – Heat, gas laws, kinetic theory of gases
Options – Astrophysics, Engineering and also some potential to study Medical Physics or Electronics

ASSESSMENT	CONTENT	STRUCTURE	LENGTH	PROPORTION OF A-LEVEL
Paper 1	AS content plus further mechanics	Written exam	2hrs	34%
Paper 2	Fields, nuclear physics and thermal physics	Written exam	2hrs	34%
Paper 3	Practical skills (compulsory practicals) and optional module	Written exam	2hrs	32%

STUDY METHODS

Problem-solving, practical work, data analysis, modelling using IT, topic research, comprehension, short prose description & explanation.

CAREERS AND FURTHER POTENTIAL

A Level Physics teaches you to think in an analytical and logical way. It is therefore a very desirable qualification. It is essential for many careers in Science and Engineering. It is usually recommended for Medicine, Computer Science, Surveying, etc. In addition, it is also accepted, and often sought, for many careers in Business and Commerce.

Politics Awarding Body: Edexcel

Specification number: 9PL0

INTRODUCTION

In an increasingly globalised world, the politics department wants to equip students with skills for life. You will be offered critical insights into the changing British political landscape. You will acquire an understanding of different ideological approaches to forming solutions to challenging world problems, such as terrorism and the environment.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Vital to the successful study of Politics is a genuine interest in politics and current affairs. Students must become regular readers of newspapers and keen watchers of in-depth news coverage. Students should be able to express themselves clearly in written work and be prepared to listen, reflect and refine arguments in essays.

It is a requirement that students taking Politics have achieved a **Grade 6 in GCSE English Language and a Grade 6 in at least one of the Humanities group of GCSE subjects**.

ALLIED SUBJECTS

Economics, Business, History, Geography, English, Modern Foreign Languages, Psychology and Religious studies are natural counterparts. There are no essential combinations.

A LEVEL FORMAT

Paper 1 UK Politics 33% of final grade. There are four content areas:

1. Democracy and participation 2. Political parties 3. Electoral systems 4. Voting behaviour and the media. Ideas of liberalism, conservatism and socialism

Paper 2 UK Government 33% of final grade. There are four content areas:

1. The constitution 2. Parliament 3. Prime Minister and executive 4. Relationships between the branches. Ideas of nationalism, feminism, multiculturalism, anarchism and ecologism.

Paper 3 Comparative Politics including Global theories 33% of final grade. There are six content areas: 1. Theories of global politics 2. Sovereignty and globalisation 3. Global governance: political and economic 4. Global governance: human rights and environmental 5. Power and developments 6. Regionalism and the European Union.

CAREERS AND FURTHER POTENTIAL

Politics forms an excellent basis for the following degrees: political science, international relations, law, history, European studies, sociology, business studies, Media Studies, philosophy, economics and languages. The subject also leads to a variety of careers: journalism, the legal profession, banking, commerce, employment with multinational corporations, teaching/lecturing, the diplomatic corps, the civil service, the military, careers within the European Union, United Nations or other international organisations and, of course, professional politics itself!

Psychology

Awarding Body: AQA

Specification number: 7408

INTRODUCTION

Have you ever wondered why people do things they don't really agree with just because their friends do? Or why some people seem to find it easy to make friends and have happy relationships while others always struggle? Maybe you are interested in how your memory works or the causes and treatment of psychological illnesses? These are just some of the questions that psychology tries to answer.

Psychology is the scientific study of mind and behaviour, exploring the fascinating question of why people think, feel and act the way they do. At Southend High School for Boys, A-Level Psychology offers students the opportunity to investigate human behaviour through a wide range of approaches – from the biological workings of the brain to the influence of social groups, to the impact of childhood experiences.

This is a subject for those who are curious about people and eager to apply scientific thinking to everyday life. You will develop skills in critical analysis, research, and written communication, while tackling big questions about memory, attachment, social influence, mental health and more. The course also strengthens your ability to interpret evidence and evaluate arguments – skills highly valued in further study and careers such as medicine, law, business, education, and the sciences.

Psychology at A-Level is both challenging and rewarding. It combines scientific investigation with real-world application, giving you the chance to debate, research, and understand issues that affect all of us. If you enjoy asking questions about human behaviour and are ready to think deeply and analytically, Psychology will be an engaging and inspiring choice.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Grade 6 (minimum) in GCSE Mathematics, Biology, and either English Language, History or R.S.

The A Level Psychology course is designed with the expectation that most students will be new to the subject, and no prior knowledge is required.

A LEVEL FORMAT

Topics		Assessment	% of A Level
Unit 1:	Social Influence, Attachment, Memory and Clinical Psychology and Mental Health	Written exam	33.3%
Unit 2:	Approaches in Psychology, Biopsychology, and Research Methods	Written exam	33.3%
Unit 3:	Issues and Debates in Psychology, Aggression, Schizophrenia & Relationships	Written exam	33.3%

STUDY METHODS

Students of A-Level Psychology engage with a variety of learning approaches designed to develop both subject knowledge and essential academic skills. Lessons combine teacher-led instruction with discussion, debate and the application of psychological theory to real-world examples. Independent study is central to success; students are expected to read widely, review and consolidate class content, and practise extended writing.

Religious Studies (Philosophy, Ethics & Religion)

Specification number: H573

Awarding Body: OCR

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

We strongly recommend that students will have studied GCSE Religious Studies (full or short-course) and achieved at least a Grade 6, however, all students who are interested in studying it as an A Level are welcome to apply

ALLIED SUBJECTS

Religious Studies requires careful reading, analysis and written expression of ideas, and shares many skills with English and History. The ethics and philosophy course content is also useful to those following a science course, and it shares links with Psychology.

STUDY METHODS

Predominantly essay-based. Students will be required to undertake regular reading and make notes from the course textbooks for homework. It is expected that students will undertake a considerable amount of extra reading around topics studied in lessons.

CAREERS AND FURTHER POTENTIAL

Religious Studies would be a good choice for any student wishing to read Philosophy or Theology at University. It is also desirable for any Arts/Humanities degree course or combined degree courses such as PPE. The academic skills and course content are suitable for careers in the legal profession, journalism, social services, the civil service, and education. The ethics paper is also suitable for science/medical students or anyone interested in moral decision-making.

Year 12 course content

Component 01: Philosophy of religion:

- Ancient philosophical influences (Plato and Aristotle's theories on reality)
- The nature of the soul, mind, and body
- Arguments about the existence or non-existence of God (Ontological, Cosmological and Teleological arguments)
- The nature and impact of religious experience
- The challenge for religious belief of the problem of evil.

Component 02: Religion and ethics

Students explore key concepts and the works of influential thinkers, ethical theories and their application:

- Normative ethical theories (Natural Moral Law, Situation Ethics, Kant, Utilitarianism)
- The application of ethical theory to two contemporary issues of importance (Business ethics and Euthanasia)

Component 03: Developments in Christian Thought

- Augustine's view on human nature
- Death and the afterlife
- Knowledge of God's existence
- Christian Moral Action (Bonhoeffer)
- Christian Moral Principles
- The Person of Jesus

Year 13 course content

Component 01: Philosophy of religion: Students study philosophical language and thought, and issues and questions raised by belief:

- The nature or attributes of God
- Religious language: Negative, Analogical or Symbolic
- Religious Language: Twentieth Century Perspectives

Component 02: Religion and ethics

Students explore key concepts and the works of influential thinkers, ethical theories and their application:

- Ethical Language: Meta-ethics
- Significant Ideas- Conscience
- Sexual Ethics

Component 03: Developments in Christian thought

- Religious pluralism and theology
- Religious pluralism and society
- Gender and society
- Gender and theology
- The Challenge of Secularism
- Liberation Theology and Marx

Extended Project Qualification

Awarding Body: AQA **Specification number: 7793**

INTRODUCTION

The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) is a unique opportunity to steer your own learning. It allows you to venture beyond the standard A-Level curriculum and dive deeply into a topic you are genuinely passionate about. Highly valued by universities and employers alike, the EPQ carries up to 28 UCAS points and demonstrates that you possess the advanced, independent study skills required for higher education and the modern workplace. Unlike traditional subjects with fixed syllabuses and exams, the EPQ gives you complete creative and academic freedom. You choose the topic, you define the research question, and you decide the final outcome. The EPQ is explicitly designed to bridge the gap between structured secondary education and undergraduate study. Through this qualification, you will master a sophisticated suite of transferable skills

This can be undertaken in either Year 12 or Year 13, students are assessed by completing an independent dissertation and a 10-minute presentation

The qualification is completed between mid-September and late March of the following year.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

There are no pre-course requirements to undertake an EPQ

ALLIED SUBJECTS

The EPQ provides a unique boost to your other subjects by building advanced academic skills, while remaining completely distinct in its content. Because it is entirely student-led, it bridges the gap between different disciplines and acts as a force multiplier for your A-Levels or BTECs. Skills obtained from completing an EPQ are relevant to all coursework-based subjects but also give an excellent opportunity for developing essential writing and researching skills particularly for the sciences, mathematics and computer science. This is an excellent opportunity to build a skills base for university, apprenticeships and employment.

STUDY METHODS

The EPQ is not taught like a traditional subject; instead, it relies on a blended model of directed skills workshops and one-to-one mentoring. Because the qualification emphasizes independent learning, students spend most of their time working on self-directed research rather than sitting in a standard classroom. However, weekly sessions are timetabled in as part of the Enrichment programme. This will include **Research Methodology:** How to use academic databases (like Google Scholar or JSTOR) and evaluate source credibility. **Ethics and Legalities:** Understanding plagiarism, intellectual property, and data protection rules. **Project Management:** Learning how to set milestones, use Gantt charts, and manage a workflow. **Academic Writing:** How to structure long-form papers and master referencing systems (e.g., Harvard referencing).

CAREERS AND FURTHER POTENTIAL

Studying English equips students with a broad range of highly valued and transferable skills that can be applied to many future jobs and career paths. English A Level is a suitable and highly respected qualification for careers in law, journalism, administration, the civil service, and business, where a knowledge of or sensitivity to language is essential, as well as any Arts degree course.

Head of Sixth Form	**Mrs L Ryan**
Leader of Year 12	**Mr D Sweeting**
Leader of Year 13	**Mrs K Iles**

Sixth Form Administrator	**Mrs J Gallagher**
Post-18 Student Adviser and Careers Lead	**Mrs C Hamilton**

For general enquiries regarding Sixth Form entry email Mrs Gallagher at **enquiries@shsb.org.uk**

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