6th FORM OPTIONS BOOKLET

2027-2029

THE PALMER CATHOLIC ACADEMY

Welcome

Selecting Advanced Level 3 Subjects

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

How do you choose?

Level 3 courses are more specialised and you need to make your choice on the basis of **interest**, **ability** and **future aspirations**. Before making your choice of Sixth Form subjects you should consider the following points very carefully:

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

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

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

Independent Study Requirements

The workload in the Sixth Form is challenging and substantial and requires self-discipline and organisation. Most students select three Level 3 subjects, or in *some* cases four subjects, particularly those choosing Further Mathematics. Students may also do the **Extended Project Qualification.**

All subjects will have five x 100 minutes of teaching over the two-week cycle and five x 100 minutes of timetabled independent study.

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

Minimum Subject Entry Requirements

SUBJECT ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

A-LEVEL's

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

LEVEL 3 QUALIFICATIONS

BUSINESS: OCR Cambridge Level 3 Diploma (Equivalent to two A-Levels)
5 GCSE's Grade 4 or above, including English **AND** Mathematics
CRIMINOLOGY: WJEC Level 3 Applied Diploma (Equivalent to one A-Level)
5 GCSE's Grade 4 or above including English **AND** Mathematics
HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE: OCR Cambridge Technical Diploma (Equivalent to two A-Levels)
5 GCSE's Grade 4 or above including English **AND** Mathematics
HUMAN BIOLOGY: OCR Cambridge Level 3 Extended Certificate (Equivalent to one A-Level)
5 GCSE's Grade 4 or above including English **AND** Mathematics

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



CONTACT: MRS BOURNE

Outline of the course

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

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

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

GCE A-LEVEL

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED? Graded A* - E

You will be assessed through two components:
1. Personal investigation 60%
2. Externally set assignment 40%

Through these components, students must:

AO1 Develop ideas through sustained and focused investigations informed by contextual and other sources, demonstrating analytical and critical understanding. 25%

AO2 Explore and select appropriate resources, media, materials, techniques and processes, reviewing and refining ideas as work develops. 25%

AO3 Record ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions, reflecting critically on work and progress. 25%

AO4 Present a personal and meaningful response that realises intentions and, where appropriate, makes connections between visual and other elements. 25%

Want to find out more? Use the link below.

Edexcel A level Art and Design 2015 | Pearson qualifications

CAREERS

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

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

A-LEVEL BIOLOGY:
AQA (7402)



RUSSELL GROUP

CONTACT: MR BEHAN

Outline of the course

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

Year 12:
Biological molecules
Cells
Organisms exchange substances with their environment
Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms

Year 13:
Energy transfers in and between organisms
Organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments
Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems
The control of gene expression

GCE A-LEVEL

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED? Grade A*-E

Paper 1: written exam: 2 hours, 91 marks (35%)
What's assessed?
Any content from topics 1–4, including relevant practical skills
Questions: 76 marks: a mixture of short and long answer questions
15 marks: extended response questions

Paper 2: written exam: 2 hours, 91 marks (35%)
What's assessed?
Any content from topics 5–8, including relevant practical skills
Questions: 76 marks: a mixture of short and long answer questions
15 marks: comprehension question

Paper 3: written exam: 2 hours, 78 marks (30%)
What's assessed?
Any content from topics 1–8, including relevant practical skills
Questions: 38 marks: structured questions, including practical techniques
15 marks: critical analysis of given experimental data
25 marks: one essay from a choice of two titles

Want to find out more? Use the link below.

A-level Biology 7402 | Specification | AQA

CAREERS

Those who aspire to study Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Medicine, Pharmacy, Biological Science, Biotechnology, Biochemistry, Paramedical or Biomedical careers, Radiotherapy and Radiography.

Biology is also very relevant to Environmental Science, Agriculture and Psychology courses. Microbiology provides the basis for many biochemical engineering processes.

A-LEVEL BUSINESS: PEARSONS (9BS0)



CONTACT: MR WATERHOUSE

Outline of the course

Theme 1: Marketing and People
Markets, market research, segmentation, positioning. Marketing mix and marketing strategy. Entrepreneurs, motives, characteristics, leadership. Recruitment, training, organisational design, motivation.

Theme 2: Managing Business Activities
Raising finance, internal/external sources, liability. Cash flow, costs, break-even, budgeting, financial statements. Operations: productivity, efficiency, capacity, quality, supply chains. External environment: economic, legal, competitive influences

Theme 3: Business Decisions and Strategy
Corporate objectives, culture, ethics, stakeholder influences. Growth: mergers, takeovers, organic growth, scale issues. Strategic models: Ansoff, Porter, Boston Matrix, SWOT, PESTLE. Decision-making tools: quantitative methods, decision trees, CPA.

Theme 4: Global Business
Globalisation: causes, impacts, internationalisation. Global markets, expansion strategies, protectionism, trading blocs. MNCs: impacts, ethics, stakeholder conflicts & control

Want to find out more? Use the link below.

Edexcel AS and A level Business 2015 | Pearson qualifications

GCE A-LEVEL

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED? Grade A*-E

Paper 1 — Marketing, People & Global Business
Themes assessed: Theme 1 & Theme 4 (2 hours)
Section A: Two short-answer questions + one data-response question
Section B: Same structure as Section A, but with a different business context

Paper 2 — Managing Business Activities & Strategy
Themes assessed: Theme 2 & Theme 3 (2 hours)
Section A: Data-response questions on finance, operations, or external influences
Section B: Data-response questions on strategy, growth, or decision-making

Paper 3 — Synoptic Investigation Based on Pre-Released Context All four themes (2 hours)
Pre-released context: Provided in advance; focuses on a specific industry or business scenario.
Section A: One large data-response question
Section B: One extended essay-style question
Synoptic element: Highest level of integration—students must connect marketing, finance, operations, people, strategy, and globalisation.

CAREERS

Studying A-Level Business opens doors to careers across marketing, human resources, finance, law and management.
Students gain transferable skills in communication, data analysis and decision-making, helping them enter roles such as business administrator, HR assistant, marketing assistant, sales executive or finance support staff. Many progress into business development, project management or operations.

A-LEVEL CHEMISTRY:
AQA (7405)



RUSSELL GROUP

CONTACT: MR BEHAN

Outline of the course

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

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

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

GCE A-LEVEL

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED? Grade A*-E

Paper 1: written exam 2 hours (105 marks)
35% of A-level

What's assessed?
- Physical chemistry topics
- Inorganic chemistry
- Relevant practical skills

Paper 2 : written exam 2 hours (105 marks)
35% of A-level

What's assessed?
- Relevant Physical chemistry topics
- Organic chemistry
- Relevant practical skills

Paper 3: written exam 2 hours (90 marks)
30% of A-level

What's assessed?
- Any content
- Any practical skills

Want to find out more? Use the link below.

A-level Chemistry 7405 | Specification | AQA

CAREERS

Chemistry is an important subject for careers in, environmental science,, toxicology, developing consumer products, space exploration, developing perfumes and cosmetics, pharmaceuticals, energy, teaching, science writing, development research.

Senior clinical pharmacist average salary is £46,671.

A-LEVEL COMPUTER SCIENCE:
OCR (H446)



CONTACT: MR WATERHOUSE

Outline of the course

01 COMPUTER SYSTEMS:

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

02 ALGORITHMS AND PROGRAMMING:

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

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

03 PROGRAMMING PROJECT:

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

Want to find out more? Use the link below.

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

GCE A-LEVEL

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED? Grade A* - E

01 COMPUTER SYSTEMS:
[A2 40% - Externally Marked Question Paper – 2hrs 50mins]

02 ALGORITHMS AND PROGRAMMING:
[A2 40% - Externally Marked Paper – 2hrs 30mins]

03 PROGRAMMING PROJECT:
[A2 20% - Internally assessed, externally moderated – 70 marks].

CAREERS

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

Computer Science qualification are highly sought by modern businesses & universities.

A-LEVEL ECONOMICS:
AQA (7136)



CONTACT: MR WATERHOUSE

Outline of the course

Markets and market failure:

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

The national and international economy:

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

Economic principles and issues:

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

Want to find out more? Use the link below.

A-level Economics 7136 | Specification | AQA

GCE A-LEVEL

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED? Grade A*-E

Paper 1 - Markets and market failure [Written examination - 2hours]
Section A: A choice from two data response questions. Extended written answers [40 marks]
Section B: A choice from three essay questions (a) 15 marks + (b) 25 marks [40 marks].

Paper 2 – The national and international economy [written examination – 2hours]
Section A: A choice from two data response questions. Extended written answers [40 marks]
Section B: A choice from three essay questions (a) 15 marks + (b) 25 marks [40 marks].

Paper 3 – Economic principles and issues [written examination – 2hours]. Synoptic.
Section A: 30 multiple choice questions [30 marks]
Section B: Single case study. Questions requiring written answers [50 marks]

CAREERS

Economics provides a wide array of both subject-specific and transferable skills, all of which highly sought after by employers and can lead to a wide range of careers such as a Chartered Accountant, Economist, Financial Risk Analyst, Investment Analyst and Stockbroking.

A stockbroker earns an average of £36,000 with bonuses adding to this.

A-LEVEL ENGLISH LITERATURE: PEARSONS (9ET0)



RUSSELL GROUP

CONTACT: MR MUKHERJEE

Outline of the course

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

The course is spilt into four components:

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

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

Component 3: Poetry. Students will study a selection of contemporary poems and the Everyman and Medieval Miracle Plays.

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

Want to find out more? Use the link below.

Edexcel AS & A level English Literature 2015 | Pearson qualifications

GCE A-LEVEL

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED? Grade A*-E

Components 1-3 are assessed by exam.
Component 4 is assessed internally and externally moderated by Edexcel.

Component 1 Drama – 20% weighting, 60 marks, 2 hours 15 minutes
Two questions: 1) Othello (35 marks), 2) A Streetcar Named Desire (25 marks)

Component 2 Prose – 20% weighting, 40 marks, 1 hour 15 minutes
One question: Comparison of Frankenstein and Handmaid's Tale

Component 3 Poetry – 30% weighting, 60 marks, 2 hours 15 minutes
Two questions: 1) Contemporary Poetry (30 marks), 2) Medieval Miracle Plays (30 marks)

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

CAREERS

A-Level English Literature offers a wide variety of careers and university courses. Ranging from online digital media, journalism, publishing, advertising, marketing, teaching and law.

English is a respected qualification owing to the numerous transferable skills it demonstrates and is a strong complimentary course for university studies based in Humanities.

A-LEVEL GEOGRAPHY: PEARSONS (9GEO)



RUSSELL GROUP

CONTACT: MR ALLITT

Outline of the course

There are seven main topics that you study:

Topic 1:
Tectonic Processes and Hazards

Topic 2:
Landscape Systems, Processes and Change

Topic 3:
Globalisation

Topic 4:
Shaping Places

Topic 5:
The Water Cycle and Water Insecurity

Topic 6:
The Carbon Cycle and Energy Security

Topic 7:
Superpowers

Topic 8: Global Development and Connections

Want to find out more? Use the link below.

Edexcel A level Geography (2016) | Pearson qualifications

GCE A-LEVEL

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED? Graded A* - E

(01) Physical Geography.105 marks,(30%)
The examination includes short open, open response and resource-linked questions. The examination includes 12-mark and 20-mark extended writing questions.

(02) Human Geography. 105 marks, (30%)
The examination may include short open, open response and resource-linked questions. The examination includes 12-mark and 20-mark extended writing questions.

(03) Global issues paper. 70 marks, 20%)
The examination may include short open, open response and resource-linked questions. The examination includes 8-mark, 18-mark and 24-mark extended writing questions.

(04) Non-examined assessment. 70 marks, (20%)
The investigation report is internally assessed and externally moderated. The student will produce a written report of 3000–4000 words.

CAREERS

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

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

A-LEVEL HISTORY:
OCR (H505)



RUSSELL GROUP

CONTACT: MR CHAN

Outline of the course

UNIT 1: Britain 1930-1997 (Y113)

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

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

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

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

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

Non Exam Assessment: Topic Based Essay

Want to find out more? Use the link below.

AS and A Level - History A - H105, H505

GCE A-LEVEL

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED? Grade A*- E

British period study and enquiry
(Unit group 1) 50 marks
1 hour 30 mins (25% of grade)

Non-British period study
(Unit group 2) 30 marks
1 hour (15% of grade)

Thematic study and historical interpretations
(Unit group 3) 80 marks
2 hour 30 mins (40% of grade)

Topic-based essay (unit Y100)
An independently researched essay of 3000-4000 words in length. Independent investigation of a historical issue and may arise from the study of a period or topic in units 1-3, or it may be a topic from a different period.

CAREERS

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

Careers can include; Archaeologist, Broadcast Journalist, Civil Service administrator, Editorial Assistant, Human Resources officer, Solicitor or an Information Officer.

Salaries for trainee Solicitors range from around £25,000 to £40,000.

A-LEVEL LAW:
AQA (7162)



CONTACT: MRS MILLER

Outline of the course

Paper 1:
The nature of law and the English legal system (Law and society, law and morality, law and justice, the rule of law)
Criminal law (Civil and Criminal Courts, Judiciary, Funding)

Paper 2:
The nature of law and the English legal system
Tort(Rules and principles concerning liability and fault in actions for negligence, occupiers' liability, nuisance and vicarious liability)

Paper 3:
Law of contract (Rules and principles of contract law concerning formation, terms, vitiating factors, discharge of a contract and associated remedies
The nature of law and the English legal system

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

GCE A-LEVEL

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED? Graded A* - E

Paper 1:
Written exam: 2 hours—100 marks
33% of A-level

Questions
A combination of multiple choice, short answer and extended writing questions.

Paper 2:
Written exam: 2 hours—100 marks
33% of A-level

Questions
A combination of multiple choice, short answer and extended writing questions.

Paper 3:
Written exam: 2 hours—100 marks
33% of A-level

Questions
A combination of multiple choice, short answer and extended writing questions.

Want to find out more? Use the link below.

A-level Law 7162 | Specification | AQA

CAREERS

Solicitors (Average salary £62,000)
Individuals or companies usually approach legal advice. Most solicitors work for a law firm or partnership.

Barristers (Average salary £89,400)
Barristers consulted by solicitors when specialist advice or representation in court is needed.

A-LEVEL MATHEMATICS: PEARSONS (9Ma0)



CONTACT: MRS SHARMA

Outline of the course

Papers 1 & 2

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

Paper 3

Section A Topics are;
Statistics: Statistical sampling, Data presentation and interpretation, Probability, Statistical distributions, Statistical hypothesis testing

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

GCE A-LEVEL

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED? Grade A*-E

Paper 1: Pure Mathematics
33%, 2 hours, 100 marks

Paper 2: Pure Mathematics
33%, 2 hours, 100 marks

Any A-Level pure mathematics content can be assessed on either paper

Paper 3: Statistics and Mechanics
33%, 2 hours, 100 marks

Any A-Level applied content assessed
Section A: Statistics (50 marks)
Section B: Mechanics (50 marks)

Want to find out more? Use the link below.

Pearson Edexcel AS and A level Mathematics (2017) | Pearson qualifications

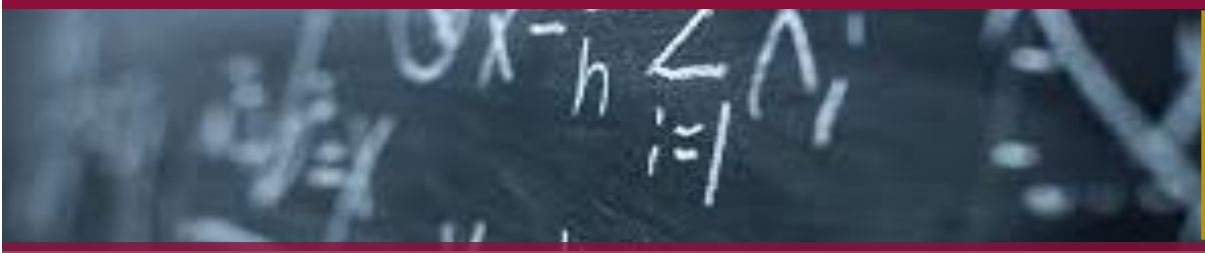
CAREERS

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

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

A professional actuary can expect to earn an average of £52,000 + bonus.

A-LEVEL FURTHER MATHEMATICS: PEARSONS (9FM0)



RUSSELL GROUP

CONTACT: MRS SHARMA

Outline of the course

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

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

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

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

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

GCE A-LEVEL

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED? Graded A* - E

Paper 1: Core Pure Mathematics 1
1 hour and 30 minutes written examination
25% of the qualification (75 marks)

Paper 2: Core Pure Mathematics 2

1 hour and 30 minutes written examination

25% of the qualification (75 marks)

Paper 3: Further Mechanics 1

25%, 1 hour and 30 minutes (75 marks)

Paper 4: Paper 4: Decision Mathematics 1

25%, 1 hour and 30 minutes (75 marks)

Want to find out more? Use the link below.

A level Further Mathematics specification

CAREERS

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

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

A-LEVEL MEDIA STUDIES:
WJEC Eduqas (A680QS)



CONTACT: MR MUKHERJEE

Outline of the course

Component 1: Media, Products, Industries & Audiences

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

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

Component 2: Media Forms & Products

Section A: Television in the Global Age: (Peaky Blinders and The Bridge)

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

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

GCE A-LEVEL

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED? Graded A* - E

Paper 1 90 Marks (2 hours 15 minutes)
Section A: Section A: Analysing Media Language and Representation 2 questions
Question 1 will be on an unseen text (print or audio visual), question 2 a comparison of the unseen text and a set text

Section B: Understanding Media Industries and Audiences
One stepped question on industries
One stepped question on audiences

Paper 2 90 Marks (2 hours 30 minutes)
Section A, Section B & Section C will have one two-part or extended response question

Non-exam assessment; 60 marks
10 marks - written statement of aims
20 marks - meeting the brief
30 marks - creative & technical use of media language.

Want to find out more? Use the link below.

AS and A Level Media Studies | Eduqas

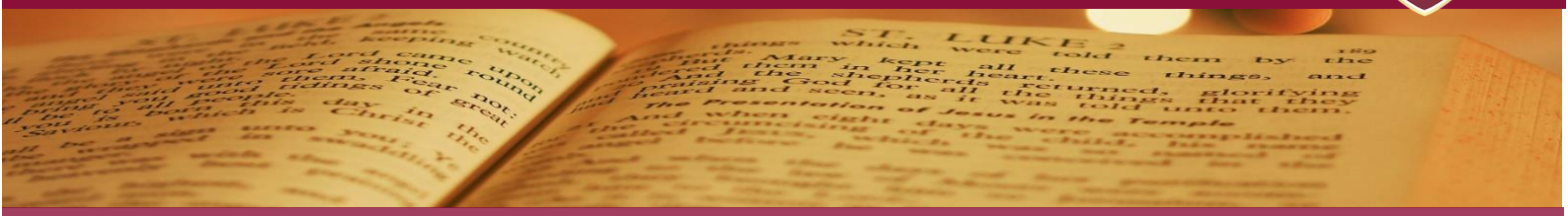
CAREERS

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

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

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

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



CONTACT: MRS EGHAN

Outline of the course

There are three separate components, each exploring four themes:

Component 1:

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

Component 2:

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

Component 3:

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

GCE A-LEVEL

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED? Grade A* - E

Each component/paper will ask candidates to answer two questions, each worth 50 marks.

Each question assesses:

AO1 (knowledge and comprehension) and AO2 (evaluation) criteria.

Component 1:
Christianity. (2 hours. 100 Marks. 33.3% of qualification)

Component 2:
Philosophy of Religion. (2 hours. 100 Marks. 33.3% of qualification)

Component 3:
Religion and Ethics. (2 hours. 100 Marks. 33.3% of qualification)

Want to find out more? Use the link below.

AS and A Level Religious Studies | Eduqas

CAREERS

If you are planning to go into medicine or law this is an ideal course for you.

Ethics and philosophy are equally useful in many other careers, such as politics, education, social work and business.

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

A-LEVEL PHYSICS:

AQA A-Level Physics 7408



RUSSELL GROUP

CONTACT: MR BEHAN

Outline of the course

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

Paper 2
6.2 (Thermal Physics)
6 Further mechanics and thermal physics
7 Fields and their consequences
8 Nuclear physics

Assumed knowledge from sections 1 to 6.1

Paper 3
Section A Compulsory section:
Practical skills and data analysis

Section B: Students enter forthe following:
9 Astrophysics
11 Engineering physics

GCE A-LEVEL

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED? Grade A*-E

Paper 1
Written exam: 2 hours
85 marks, 34% of A-Level

Paper 2
Written exam: 2 hours
85 marks, 34% of A-Level

Paper 3
Written exam: 2 hours
80 marks, 32% of A-Level

Want to find out more? Use the link below.

A-level Physics 7408 | Specification | AQA

CAREERS

Physics is highly valued by universities and employers as a subject that prepares candidates in critical thinking and the ability to reason out and explain data.

You can progress on to degree courses in for example physics, astronomy, engineering and computer science.

It is essential for careers in optometry or radiography and many other science-based industries.

A-LEVEL: POLITICS: PEARSONS (9PL0)



CONTACT: MR AVIS

Outline of the course

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

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

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

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

Want to find out more? Use the link below.

Edexcel AS & A level Politics (2017) | Pearson qualifications

GCE A-LEVEL

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED? Graded A* - E

Component 1: UK Politics (*Component code: 9PL0/01)

Written examination: 2 hours 33⅓% of the qualification
84 marks

Component 2: UK Government (*Component code: 9PL0/02)

Written examination: 2 hours 33⅓% of the qualification
84 marks

Component 3: Comparative Politics (*Component code: 9PL0/3A or 3B)

Written examination: 2 hours 33⅓% of the qualification
84 marks
Students study Global Politics (9PL0/3B)

CAREERS

You will learn and use a variety of transferable skills throughout the course such as analysing information and evaluating ideas and systems.

The subject is good preparation for many university courses in Business, Economics, Law, Media, Philosophy, History and Politics.

A wide range of employment possibilities in business, Government and Civil Service are opened up.

A-LEVEL PSYCHOLOGY:
AQA (7182)



CONTACT: MISS OSO

Outline of the course

Unit 1: Introductory topics in Psychology
Social Psychology: Conformity, obedience, resistance to social influence and change. **Memory:** Models of memory (short-term/ long-term), eyewitness testimony, interviews. **Attachment:** Caregiver interactions, attachments and maternal deprivation. **Approaches:** Cognitive, behaviourists, social learning, psychodynamic, biological and humanistic. **Psychopathology:** Abnormality, phobias, depression, obsessive compulsive disorder, treatments. **Research Methods:** Hypotheses, variables, research methods and experimental designs.

Unit 2: Psychology in Context
Approaches: Cognitive behaviourists, social learning, psychodynamic, biological and humanistic. **Biopsychology:** Nervous system, neurotransmitters, localisation of brain function and brain scans. **Research Methods:** Experimental methods, scientific processes, data handling, inferential statistics

Unit 3: Issues and Debates and Application
Issues and Debates: Free will, determinism, holism, reductionism, nature-nurture, ethical issues. **Relationships, Stress and Addiction.**

Want to find out more? Use the link below.

[A-level Psychology 7182 | Overview | AQA]

GCE A-LEVEL

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED? Graded A* - E

A2 Unit 1: Paper 1: Introductory Topics in Psychology
Written exam: 2 hours
96 marks in total
33.3% of A-Level

A2 Unit 2: Paper 2: Psychology in Context
Written exam: 2 hours
96 marks in total
33.3% of A-Level

A2 Unit 3: Paper 3: Issues and Options in Psychology
Written exam: 2 hours
96 marks in total
33.3% of A-Level

CAREERS

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

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

A-LEVEL SOCIOLOGY:
AQA (7192)



CONTACT: MISS OSO

Outline of the course

Unit 1: Education with Methods in Context
Role of the education system & achievement. Analysis of social class, gender, ethnicity & policies. Significance of educational policies & the impact of globalisation. Sources of data, (observations, questionnaires, official statistics). Distinction between positivism, interpretivism & sociological methods.

Unit 2: Families and Households and Beliefs in Society
Patterns of marriage, divorce, childbearing & household structures. Gender roles, domestic labour, childhood & the status of children in society. Demographic changes in the UK (births, deaths & marriages). Religious organisations; cults, sects, denominations, churches & New Age movements. Relationship between age, gender, ethnicity, religious beliefs & practices.

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

Want to find out more? Use the link below.

A-level Sociology 7192 | Specification | AQA

GCE A-LEVEL

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED? Graded A* - E

A2: Unit 1: Education with Methods in Context
Assessment: Written paper 1 (2 hours)

A2: Unit 2: Families and Households and Beliefs in Society
Written paper 2 (2 hours)

A2: Unit 3: Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods
Assessment: Written paper 3 (2 hours)

CAREERS

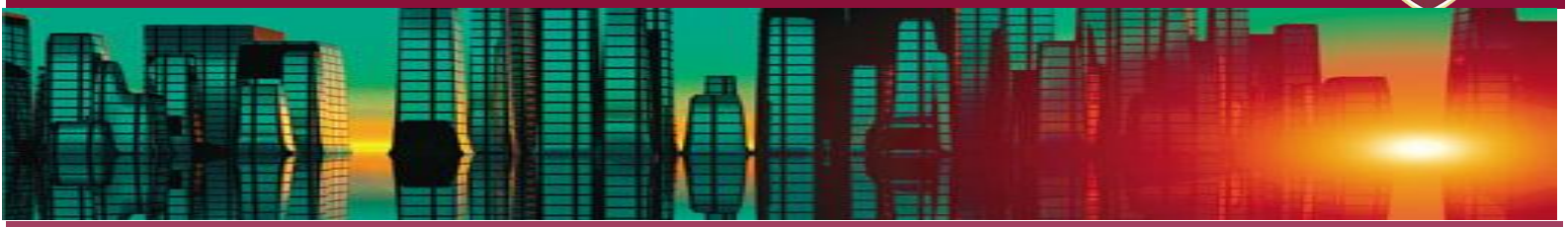
The study of sociology will provide a strong basis for a career in social work, social research, criminology, teaching or the police force.

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

Salaries range from £25,000 to £40,000.

BUSINESS:

OCR Cambridge Level 3 Diploma



CONTACT: MR WATERHOUSE

Outline of the course

Mandatory Core Units (Must Pass All)

Unit 1: The business environment:
Covers business ownership structures (PLCs, LTDs, social enterprises), stakeholder impacts, and external influences like market competition, technology, and government policy.

Unit 2: Working in business:
Focuses on essential workplace skills, business protocols, documentation design, and running corporate meetings.

Unit 3: Business decisions:
Corporate finance, budgeting, cash flow forecasting, profit/loss tracking, and financial problem-solving.

Unit 4: Customers and communication:
Strategies for delivering exceptional customer service, analysing consumer behaviour, and executing business communication.

Optional Coursework Units (6 Units Required)

Six optional units to tailor the diploma into a specific professional pathway. Common options include:

- Marketing & Sales: Unit 5 (Marketing campaigns), Unit 7 (Marketing strategy), Unit 8 (Public relations).
- Management & HR: Unit 12 (Human resource management), Unit 15 (Change management).
- Operations & Finance: Unit 11 (Accounting concepts), Unit 16 (Principles of project management), Unit 19 (International business).

Want to find out more? Use the link below.

https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/cambridge-technicals/business/#level-3

Level 3 Diploma

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED? Distinction* - Pass

The final certificate will show a double grade (e.g. DD for a double Distinction or MM for a double Merit).

External Examinations (40%)

3 written exam papers (Units 1, 2, and 3) set and marked by OCR. Available to sit or resit in January and May/June series.

Internal Assignments (60%)

7 coursework portfolios (Unit 4 + 6 optional units) involving reports, mock business pitches, and practical projects marked by teachers.

CAREERS

This qualification acts as an excellent springboard for:

University Degrees: BA Business Management, Marketing, International Business, Accounting and Finance, or Human Resource Management.

Professional Apprenticeships: Higher or Degree **Apprenticeships** in digital marketing, project management, corporate banking, or human resources.

Direct Careers: Immediate entry into trainee management schemes, corporate administration, retail management, or starting your own business enterprise.

CRIMINOLOGY:
WJEC Level 3 Applied Diploma (601/6248/X)



CONTACT: MRS MILLER

Outline of the course

Unit 1: Changing Awareness of Crime

Focus: Explores types of crime, why some crimes go unreported (e.g., white-collar or domestic abuse), and how the media influences public perception. You will design a "campaign for change" to raise awareness of a specific issue.

Unit 2: Criminological Theories

Focus: Deep dives into *why* people commit crimes using biological, psychological, and sociological theories (e.g., Lombroso's physical traits, Freud's psyche, or Marxism).

Unit 3: Crime Scene to Courtroom

Focus: Examines the criminal justice process from the moment a crime is committed. Covers forensics, police personnel, the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), and how trials work.

Unit 4: Crime and Punishment

Focus: Looks at law-making, the effectiveness of the criminal justice system in England and Wales, social control, and the different forms and aims of punishment (e.g., rehabilitation vs. deterrence)

Level 3 Applied Diploma

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED? Graded A* - E

The course uses has a 50/50 split between coursework (Controlled Assessments) and traditional exams:

Unit 1: Internal Controlled Assessment
An 8-hour open-book assignment completed on computers over a couple of days.

Unit 2: External Examination
A 1.5-hour written exam (75 marks) sat in May/June.

Unit 3: Internal Controlled Assessment
An 8-hour open-book assignment focusing on a realistic case study.

Unit 4: External Examination
A 1.5-hour written exam (75 marks) sat in May/June.

Want to find out more? Use the link below.

https://www.wjec.co.uk/media/21xjkr24/wjec-applied-diploma-in-criminology-spec-e-22-06-22-1.pdf

CAREERS

The diploma is widely accepted by UK universities and is excellent preparation for higher education or careers in fields such as:

University Degrees: BSc Criminology, Law (LLB), Sociology, Psychology, or Forensic Science.

Professional Careers: Joining the Police (including Police Apprenticeships), Probation Service, Prison Service, Youth Offending Teams, or Victim Support.

HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE:
OCR Cambridge Technical Level 3 Diploma



CONTACT: MRS PEEL

Outline of the course

The OCR Cambridge Technical Level 3 Diploma requires completing 12 units over two years, equivalent to 2 A-Levels.

Unit 1:
Building positive relationships in health and social care (Internal)
Unit 2:
Equality, diversity and rights in health and social care (External)
Unit 3:
Health, safety and security in health and social care (External)
Unit 4:
Anatomy and physiology for health and social care (External - 90 GLH)
Unit 5:
Infection control (Internal)
Unit 6:
Personalisation in health and social care (External)
Unit 7:
Safeguarding (External)

There are additional units including specialised topics on:

- **Mental Health & Specialised Care Pathways**
- **Age-Specific Care Pathways**
- **Public Health & Wellbeing Pathways**
- **Academic & Foundation Pathways**

Want to find out more? Use the link below.

https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/cambridge-technicals/health-and-social-care/#level-3

Technical Level 3 Diploma

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED? Distinction* - Pass

The final certificate will show a double grade (e.g. DD for a double Distinction or MM for a double Merit).

40% External Exams (5 Units)
You must sit and pass 5 mandatory written exam papers. Set and marked directly by the exam board

Unit 2: Equality, diversity and rights (1.5 hours)
Unit 3: Health, safety and security (1.5 hours)
Unit 4: Anatomy and physiology (2 hours)
Unit 6: Personalisation and person-centred care (1.5 hours)
Unit 7: Safeguarding (1.5 hours)
60% Internal Coursework (~7 Units)
The remaining 7 units (made up of 2 mandatory core units and chosen optional units) are assessed via coursework portfolios.

Grading Criteria: Each coursework is graded as: **Pass (P), Merit (M), and Distinction (D).**

CAREERS

Health and Social Care unlocks career paths across clinical healthcare, social services, and education, typically pursued via university degrees, higher apprenticeships, or direct post-college employment. It serves as an excellent foundation for vital NHS clinical roles, including adult, child, or mental health nursing, midwifery, and paramedic science. Additionally, the qualification provides a pathway into primary or special educational needs (SEN) teaching, or immediate direct-entry roles like an NHS healthcare assistant or residential support worker.

HUMAN BIOLOGY:
Level 3 Cambridge Extended Certificate (H149)



CONTACT: MR BEHAN

Outline of the course

The curriculum blends rigorous human physiology with medical laboratory techniques and disease analysis:

1. Mandatory Core Units

Unit F170: Fundamentals of Human Biology:
Covers human cells and tissues, organ systems, neurobiology, endocrinology, and basic microbiology.

Unit F171: Health and Disease:
Explores the causes/effects of illnesses, immunology, preventative treatments, and medical diagnostics.

Unit F172: Genetics:
Non-Examined Assessment. Covers DNA replication, transcription/translation, genetic testing, and genetic counselling.

Unit F173: Biomedical Techniques:
Non-Examined Assessment. Focuses on hands-on practical work in professional-standard laboratories.

2. Two Optional Coursework Units

Two units from a vocational menu to complete the remainder of the course curriculum, which includes:

- **Nutrition and Metabolism**
- **Human Reproduction and Reproductive Health**
- **The Brain and Neurological Function**
- **Drug Development**

Want to find out more? Use the link below.

https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/cambridge-advanced-nationals/human-biology-level-3-h049-h149/#extended-certificate

Level 3 Extended Certificate

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED? Distinction* - Pass

The specification uses a 40/60 compensatory assessment split distributed across the modules:

40% External Examination:
Divided across two traditional written papers (Unit F170 and Unit F171) evaluated directly by the exam board.

60% Non-Examined Assessment (NEA):
Continuous practical assignments, lab journals, and patient communication case studies graded by teachers and verified externally by OCR.

Students receive Pass, Merit, or Distinction criteria on tasks.

CAREERS

Provides a vital, scientifically rigorous pathway into healthcare, clinical research, and laboratory science careers. Frequently paired with health, social care, or psychology qualifications, it prepares students directly for competitive university degree courses or higher-level NHS apprenticeships.
Key clinical and therapeutic career pathways include adult or paediatric nursing, midwifery, paramedic science, physiotherapy, and occupational therapy.