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FINE ART

“Logic will get you from point A to point B. Creativity will take you everywhere.”
ALBERT EINSTEIN.

THE COURSE SPECIFICATION CAN BE FOUND AT: Edexcel

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/art-and-design-2015.html>

THE COURSE CONTENT OF THE SUBJECT IS AS FOLLOWS:

Component 1 - Coursework (60%) A visual project including final outcomes with an internally set theme. A 1000-3000 word personal study (**worth 12% of Component 1**)

Component 2 - Externally set examination (40%) A visual project with an externally set theme. 15 hour practical exam (over 3 days).

Further Guidance on Component 2 (40%):

Component 2 is a 10 week personal project based on a theme that is externally set by Edexcel. The 10 week preparatory period ends with a 15 hour practical exam in which the final outcome is produced over 3 days. All work from the 10 week period and the practical exam is assessed.

THE NEXT STEP WITHIN THE SUBJECT:

A-Level Fine Art is an excellent precursor to a career in the creative sector. The UK's creative industries are now worth over £111bn to the UK economy. Higher education destinations for past students include prestigious institutions such as Central Saint Martin's College and the Slade School of Fine Art. Courses studied at universities include Fine Art, Fashion, Architecture, Education, Digital Media, Textiles, Graphic Design, Advertising and many more.

WHAT PREVIOUS STUDENTS THOUGHT ABOUT THE COURSE:

“Art is a very independent subject. I have thoroughly enjoyed working on my personal study and having the opportunity to make decisions about the development of my own project. The Art teachers are skilled at guiding us in the right direction, giving us the confidence to achieve high grades I look forward to my lessons. I enjoyed working on a bigger scale, learning how to use oil paints as well as new sculptural techniques and print making processes.”

BIOLOGY

"It seems to me that the natural world is the greatest source of excitement; the greatest source of visual beauty, the greatest source of intellectual interest. It is the greatest source of so much in life that makes life worth living."

David Attenborough

THE COURSE SPECIFICATION CAN BE FOUND AT: OCR

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/171736-specification-accredited-a-level-gce-biology-a-h420.pdf>

THE COURSE CONTENT OF THE SUBJECT IS AS FOLLOWS:

Module 1 – Development of practical skills in biology

Module 2 – Foundations in biology

Module 3 – Exchange and transport

Module 4 – Biodiversity, evolution and disease

Module 5 – Communication, homeostasis and energy

Module 6 – Genetics, evolution and ecosystems

EXAMINATION INFORMATION IS AS FOLLOWS:-

There are three written theory examinations at the end of the course:

- | | |
|--|------------------------|
| 1) Biological Processes: 2 hours 15 minutes | (37% of total A-Level) |
| 2) Biological Diversity: 2 hours 15 minutes | (37% of total A-Level) |
| 3) Unified Biology: 1 hour 30 minutes | (26% of total A-Level) |

The Practical endorsement is by internal assessment of coursework practical activities.

THE NEXT STEP WITHIN THE SUBJECT:

Students go onto further study in a range of fields including:

Biochemistry; Biological Sciences;
Biomedicine; Dentistry; Ecology;
Genetics; Medicine; Physiotherapy

WHAT PREVIOUS STUDENTS THOUGHT ABOUT THE COURSE:

'The variety of topics covered helped me to identify the specific areas I wish to study at university.'

BTEC BUSINESS (SINGLE)

“Vision without action is merely a dream. Action without vision passes the time.
Vision with the right action can change the world.”

Joel A. Barker

THE COURSE SPECIFICATION CAN BE FOUND AT: Edexcel

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-nationals/business-2016.html>

THE COURSE CONTENT OF THE SUBJECT IS AS FOLLOWS:

Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Business

Unit 1 - Exploring Business

Unit 2 - Developing a Marketing Campaign

Unit 3 - Personal and Business Finance

Unit 8 - Recruitment and Selection

Further Guidance on Examinations:

Externally Assessed Units - Units 2 and 3 (58% of the qualification)

Internally assessed - Units 1 and 8 (42% of the qualification)

THE NEXT STEP WITHIN THE SUBJECT:

Read around the subject; keep up to date with the business and political world.

Careers that follow on from this qualification include finance, human resources, marketing and many others.

WHAT PREVIOUS STUDENTS THOUGHT ABOUT THE COURSE:

‘Studying Business at A-Level has given me a lot of confidence to go on and study at degree level; it’s also made me take a keener interest in the marketing strategies of major companies, particularly their harnessing of online media.’

BTEC SPORT & EXERCISE SCIENCE (SINGLE)

“The miracle isn't that I finished. The miracle is that I had the courage to start.”

John Bingham

“If it were easy it would not be any fun.”

T J Taylor

THE COURSE SPECIFICATION CAN BE FOUND AT: Edexcel

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-nationals/sport-and-exercise-science-2016.html#tab-2>

THE COURSE CONTENT OF THE SUBJECT IS AS FOLLOWS:

BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Sport and Exercise Science

Unit 2: Functional Anatomy

Unit 3: Applied Sport and Exercise Psychology

Unit 6: Coaching for Performance and Fitness

Unit 8: Biomechanics in Sport

Further Guidance on Examinations:

Students follow the BTEC National certificate in Sport and Exercise Science. The course consists of four units; two of which will be assessed through the submission of coursework (42%), two units are assessed through externally moderated exams and case studies (58%).

THE NEXT STEP WITHIN THE SUBJECT:

This subject, combined with another A-Level subject, allows you to apply for university across a myriad of courses.

Popular courses involve sport science, teaching, sports injuries, sports therapy and physiotherapy.

WHAT PREVIOUS STUDENTS THOUGHT ABOUT THE COURSE:

“The course was extremely interesting with a variety of units taught, which allowed me to experience sport across such areas as psychology, nutrition, fitness training and testing. It involves a lot of work and organisation. To succeed in this course you most definitely need to be self-motivated!”

BUSINESS STUDIES

“At first they will ask why you are doing it, next they’ll ask how you did it.”

Anonymous

THE COURSE SPECIFICATION CAN BE FOUND AT:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/business->

THE COURSE CONTENT OF THE SUBJECT IS AS FOLLOWS:

Theme 1: Marketing and people meeting customer needs • the market • marketing mix and strategy • managing people • entrepreneurs and leaders.

Theme 2: Managing business activities raising finance • financial planning • managing finance • resource management • external influences.

Theme 3: Business decisions and strategy business objectives and strategy • business growth • decision-making techniques • influences on business decisions • assessing

Further Guidance on Examinations:

This course is 100% externally assessed. You will sit 3 exams, each 2 hours long and worth 33.3% each. Each paper is marked out of 100.

THE NEXT STEP WITHIN THE SUBJECT;

Read around the subject, keep up to date with the business and political world to give you a deeper understanding of the theories and principles learnt in lesson.

Students often go on further study or careers which include finance, human resources, marketing and many others.

WHAT PREVIOUS STUDENTS THOUGHT ABOUT THE COURSE:

“This course uses a lot of real life examples to assist in my understanding of the world”

CHEMISTRY

“A scientist in his laboratory is not a mere technician: he is also a child confronting natural phenomena that impress him as though they were fairy tales.”
Marie Skłodowska Curie (Nobel Prize in Chemistry 1911)

THE COURSE SPECIFICATION CAN BE FOUND AT: OCR

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/171720-specification-accredited-a-level-gce-chemistry-a-h432.pdf>

THE COURSE CONTENT OF THE SUBJECT IS AS FOLLOWS:

Module 1 – Development of practical skills in chemistry

Module 2 – Foundations in chemistry: Atomic structure, calculations, bonding

Module 3 – Periodic table and energy: Periodicity, group 2 and the halogens, enthalpy calculations, equilibrium

Module 4 – Core organic chemistry: Alkanes, alkenes, haloalkanes, alcohols, mechanisms, analysis

Module 5 – Physical chemistry and transition elements: Transition elements, rate, cells, entropy, acid-base chemistry

Module 6 – Organic chemistry and analysis: Benzene, amides, analysis, synthesis

Further Guidance on Examinations:

The periodic table, elements and physical chemistry - Modules 1,2,3 & 5 (100 marks)

Synthesis and analytical techniques - Modules 1,2,4 & 6 (100 marks)

Unified chemistry - all Modules (70 marks)

Practical endorsement in chemistry (non-exam assessment)

THE NEXT STEP WITHIN THE SUBJECT:

Chemistry A Level and degrees:
Required subject for: Chemistry, Chemical Engineering; Medicine; Pharmacy; Dentistry; Veterinary Science

Supportive Subject for: Forensic Science; Engineering; Biological Sciences (e.g. Biochemistry, Biomedical Science, Microbiology); Physics; Environmental Science

WHAT PREVIOUS STUDENTS THOUGHT ABOUT THE COURSE:

“Chemistry is the study of how things work beyond the world we see only with our eyes.”

“Chemistry doesn’t have a lot to remember but every topic is interesting and challenging at the same time.”

“Chemistry is challenging but insightful and interesting.”

CLASSICAL CIVILISATION

"Molon labe!" ('Come and take them!') - Spartans responding to the Persians' command to lay down their weapons at Thermopylae. **Dienekes/Leonidas**

THE COURSE SPECIFICATION CAN BE FOUND AT: OCR

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/315133-specification-accredited-a-level-classical-civilisation-h408.pdf>

THE COURSE CONTENT OF THE SUBJECT IS AS FOLLOWS:

YEAR 12:

- Greek Theatre - Sophocles' 'Oedipus', Euripides' 'Bacchae' and Aristophanes' 'Frogs'
- The World of the Hero: Virgil's 'Aeneid' and Augustan Rome

YEAR 13:

- The World of the Hero: Homer's 'Odyssey'
- Love and Relationships in the Ancient World including Sappho's poetry, Plato's philosophy, Seneca's writings and Ovid's 'Ars Amatoria'

Further Guidance on Examinations:

Three terminal exams:

1. The World of the Hero: 2 hours and 30 mins - 40%
2. Greek Theatre: 1 hour and 45 mins - 30%
3. Love and Relationships: 1 hour and 45 mins - 30%

THE NEXT STEP WITHIN THE SUBJECT:

Students could pursue a range of university degrees given its interdisciplinary nature. It is highly regarded by Oxbridge and Russell Group universities.

It also complements a range of other subjects including History, Art, Drama, R.S., English and Politics

WHAT PREVIOUS STUDENTS THOUGHT ABOUT THE COURSE:

"The subject has opened up entire new vistas in my understanding of History and Literature."

"One of the most dynamic and wide-ranging A Levels I had the pleasure to study."

COMPUTER SCIENCE

“The computer is incredibly fast, accurate, and stupid. Man is unbelievably slow, inaccurate, and brilliant. The marriage of the two is a force beyond calculation.”

Leo Cherne

“Sometimes it is the people no one can imagine anything of who do the things no one can imagine.” **Alan Turing**

THE COURSE SPECIFICATION CAN BE FOUND AT: OCR

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

THE COURSE CONTENT OF THE SUBJECT IS AS FOLLOWS:

Component 01 - Computer Systems

You will study components of a computer and their uses, types of software and different development methodologies, data types, structures and algorithms and legal, moral and ethical issues.

Component 02 - Algorithms and Problem Solving

You will study elements of computational thinking, problem solving, programming and algorithms.

Component 03 - Programming project

You will analyse, design, develop, test, evaluate and document a program written in a suitable programming language.

Further Guidance on Examinations:

Component 01 - Written Paper - 2hrs 30mins - 40% of A-Level

Component 02 - Written Paper - 2hrs 30mins - 40% of A-Level

Component 03 - Programming Project - Non-Exam Assessment- 20% of A-Level

THE NEXT STEP WITHIN THE SUBJECT:

The course could lead to degree course in computer science or any other related discipline including IT, Games Design, Interactive Media, Information Systems, Electrical engineering or Software Engineering.

This could also lead to a range of competitive apprenticeships in software development and programming for companies such as Google, BBC or Sky.

WHAT PREVIOUS STUDENTS THOUGHT ABOUT THE COURSE:

“Computer science has not only taught me about Computing but has also given me the skills to tackle and solve other problems I have faced in a range of subjects.”

DRAMA & THEATRE

'Art is not a mirror held up to reality but a hammer with which to shape it.'

Bertolt Brecht

THE COURSE SPECIFICATION CAN BE FOUND AT: EDUQAS

https://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/drama-and-theatre-as-a-level/#tab_overview

THE COURSE CONTENT OF THE SUBJECT IS AS FOLLOWS:

Component 1: Theatre workshop 20% - performance and creative log.

Component 2 - Text in Action 40% - Two performances - 1 devised, 1 extract from a play and a process and evaluation report.

Component 3 - Text in Performance - 40% (written exam)
3 set texts, titles currently being approved for 2022/2023. .

Further Guidance on Examinations:

Component 3: Written Examination sat at the end of the course and worth 40% of the A-Level.

THE NEXT STEP WITHIN THE SUBJECT;

Students continue their studies at university in Drama. Some of our students go on to study Law. Drama is seen in a very positive light by universities as students can communicate effectively.

Past students have gone to drama school to study musical theatre, technical theatre, acting and dance.

WHAT PREVIOUS STUDENTS THOUGHT ABOUT THE COURSE:

"Regardless of whether or not you took drama at GCSE, I would really recommend that you choose to study it at A Level. The plays you read and the ideas you explore are fascinating and the friendships you build by working with your classmates are invaluable. I've personally found that drama has really helped my ability to communicate and speak confidently before large groups of people - a skill which is, needless to say, incredibly helpful for whatever you might want to do in the future."

ECONOMICS

“It is better to be roughly right than precisely wrong.”
— John Maynard Keynes

THE COURSE SPECIFICATION CAN BE FOUND AT: Edexcel

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/demo/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/economics-b-2015.html>

THE COURSE CONTENT OF THE SUBJECT IS AS FOLLOWS:

Year 1:

- Theme 1 - Introduction to markets and market failure
- Theme 2 - The UK economy - performance and policies

Year 2:

- Theme 3 - Business behaviour and the labour market
- Theme 4 - A global perspective

Further Guidance on Examinations:

This course is 100% externally assessed. You will sit 3 exams worth 33.3% each. Each paper is worth 100 marks.

THE NEXT STEP WITHIN THE SUBJECT:

Students typically go on to study the following subjects at university:

- Economics
- Finance
- Data analysis
- Politics

WHAT PREVIOUS STUDENTS THOUGHT ABOUT THE COURSE:

“This course has given me a real understanding of how the economy works and how this affects my day to day life.”

“This course has made me more socially aware.”

ENGLISH LANGUAGE & LITERATURE

“The best moments in reading are when you come across something – a thought, a feeling, a way of looking at things – which you had thought special and particular to you. Now here it is, set down by someone else, a person you have never met, someone even who is long dead. And it is as if a hand has come out and taken yours.” **Alan Bennett, The History Boys**

THE COURSE SPECIFICATION CAN BE FOUND AT: EDUQAS

<https://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/english-language-and-literature/>

THE COURSE CONTENT OF THE SUBJECT IS AS FOLLOWS:

In Year 12, students are introduced to the study of spoken language, including topics such as: accent, slang, how conversation works, how men and women speak; they also study a range of non-fiction pieces such as speeches, articles and travel writing. Alongside this, they study a Shakespeare play and a play by a twentieth century dramatist, and a poetry anthology.

In Year 13, students complete their Genre Study coursework, including a piece of Creative Writing, as well as studying a further novel and developing their understanding of literary non-fiction and spoken language.

This means that throughout the course, students study an appealing balance between the literary, the linguistic and the creative.

Further Guidance on Examinations:

Examination for this course is by three two hour exams:

Poetry and Prose, Drama and Non-Literary Texts (80% of A-Level)

There is also a coursework element, Genre Study (20% of A-Level).

THE NEXT STEP WITHIN THE SUBJECT;

English Language and Literature is superb preparation for a wide range of disciplines. Students in the past have gone on to study journalism, law, psychology and a plethora of other subjects.

WHAT PREVIOUS STUDENTS THOUGHT ABOUT THE COURSE:

“It’s a rounded English course which balances analysis and creativity, the literary and the linguistic, to give a real sense of the subject’s possibilities.”

ENGLISH LITERATURE

'There are perhaps no days of our childhood lived so fully as those we spent with a favourite book.'

Marcel Proust

THE COURSE SPECIFICATION CAN BE FOUND AT: AQA

<https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/english/specifications/AQA-7716-7717-SP-2015.PDF>

THE COURSE CONTENT OF THE SUBJECT IS AS FOLLOWS:

Module 1: Aspects of Tragedy: Study of three texts: one Shakespeare text; a second drama text and one further text, one of which was written pre-1900

Module 2: Elements of Social and Political Protest Writing: Study of three texts: one post-2000 prose text; one poetry and one further text, one of which was written pre-1900, and the analysis of one unseen passage.

Module 3: Study of two texts: one poetry and one prose text, informed by study of a critical theory.

Further Guidance on Examinations:

Module 1: Tragedy. 2 hour 30 min written exam; closed book: 40%

Module 2: Social and Political Protest. 3 hour written exam; open book: 40%

Module 3: Coursework. Two essays of 1,250–1,500 words, each responding to a different text and linking to a different critical theory: 20%

THE NEXT STEP WITHIN THE SUBJECT;

English Literature is an excellent springboard for all sorts of destinations and is a useful subject for medicine, law, education, creative writing, journalism, TV/Film Studies/Work, Expressive Arts, Psychology, Social Science and Business Studies degrees as well as, most importantly, a worthy destination in its own right. Whatever you want to study, A-level Lit will help.

WHAT PREVIOUS STUDENTS THOUGHT ABOUT THE COURSE:

"English Lit is the only subject where I learnt not only about the past, but also about myself."

"What I learnt about Literature, is that there is no answer. It is how you interpret not just the text, but the world around you and there is no other subject that allows you to do that."

FRENCH

‘With languages, you are at home everywhere.’ **Edward de Waal**

THE COURSE SPECIFICATION CAN BE FOUND AT: AQA

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages/as-and-a-level/french-7652>

THE COURSE CONTENT OF THE SUBJECT IS AS FOLLOWS:

Social Issues and Trends Aspects of society in French-speaking countries

The Changing nature of family

Equal rights

The cyber society

Immigration

RACISM

Integration

Political and Artistic Culture

Modern Day Idols ; Regional identity ; Cultural Heritage ; Today’s youth, Tomorrow’s citizens;

History and the French Republic ; Popular Movements ; Politics and immigration ; Artistic

culture in the French-speaking world ; Political life in the French-speaking world

Grammar

Literary texts and films

Further Guidance on Examinations:

Paper 1: Listening, reading and writing. 2 ½ hours. 50% of A Level

Paper 2: Writing. 2 hours. 20% of A-Level

Paper 3: Speaking. 21-23 minutes. 30% of - Level

THE NEXT STEP WITHIN THE SUBJECT

Many universities offer courses combined with a language, such as law, linguistics and business management. Jobs where a language is useful include: sales executive, tour manager, marketing executive, broadcast journalist to name but a few.

WHAT STUDENTS THINK ABOUT THE COURSE:

“Learning languages has given me an opportunity to find out more about other cultures and a way of life which I find very fascinating. It gives me that “something extra.””

FURTHER MATHEMATICS

“Pure Mathematics is, in its way, the poetry of logical thinking.”

Albert Einstein

THE COURSE SPECIFICATION CAN BE FOUND AT: EDEXCEL

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

THE COURSE CONTENT OF THE SUBJECT IS AS FOLLOWS:

Further Pure 1: Proof, Complex numbers, Matrices, Further algebra and functions, Further calculus, Further vectors.

Further Pure 2: Complex numbers, Further algebra and functions, Further calculus, Polar coordinates, Hyperbolic functions, Differential equations.

Further Statistics 1: Linear regression, Statistical distributions (discrete), Statistical distributions (continuous), Correlation, Hypothesis testing

Further Mechanics 1: Momentum and impulse, Collisions, Centres of mass, Work and energy, Elastic strings and springs.

Further Guidance on Examinations:

Each unit is assessed with a 1.5 hour examination which is worth 75 marks and 25% of the A-Level.

Further Maths students will study the full A-Level Maths course in Year 12 and are expected to take the examination in the Summer of Year 12. They will then complete the whole Further Maths course in Year 13.

THE NEXT STEP WITHIN THE SUBJECT;

Employers and universities are always impressed by a student who has shown they can take their study of mathematics to such a high level by studying Further Maths; the ability to handle such complicated concepts and logical processes is challenging but also satisfying. Our students find they are at an advantage if they go on to study Maths-related courses at university, with five of our recent leavers taking places to study Maths and others following courses in Computer Science, Engineering and Physics at some very prestigious institutions.

WHAT PREVIOUS STUDENTS THOUGHT ABOUT THE COURSE:

“Maths is the only subject that offers the chance to study in more depth. Further Maths is the most in-depth you’ll ever study anything whilst still at school.”

GEOGRAPHY

“Geography is a subject which holds the key to our future.”
“Without Geography you are nowhere!”

Michael Palin
Jimmy Buffet

THE COURSE SPECIFICATION CAN BE FOUND AT: EDEXCEL

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

THE COURSE CONTENT OF THE SUBJECT IS AS FOLLOWS:

Topic 1: Tectonic Processes and Hazards.

Topic 2: Landscape Systems, Processes and Change – 2b: Coastal Landscapes and Change.

Topic 3: Globalisation.

Topic 4: Shaping Places – 4a: Regenerating 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 – 8a: Health, Human Rights and Intervention.

Coursework: Independent Investigation.

Further Guidance on Examinations:

Paper 1 - Assessment of Dynamic Landscapes and Physical Systems and Sustainability (30%) **Paper 2** - Assessment of Dynamic Places and Human Systems and Geopolitics (30%) **Paper 3** - Synoptic investigation of a contemporary geographical issue (20%) **Coursework** (20%)

THE NEXT STEP WITHIN THE SUBJECT;

Students have access to a wide range of possible career and higher education opportunities. A level Geography is an accepted entry qualification for higher education routes. Some students choose to use their qualification to go straight into employment because it develops the transferable and Key Skills that employers are looking for and can lead to a wide range of employment opportunities. The dynamic and skills based nature of this subject gives Geography one of the highest graduate employment rates of any non-specialist degree.

WHAT PREVIOUS STUDENTS THOUGHT ABOUT THE COURSE:

“Geography at Queens’ is a subject that offers diversity and the chance to study interactively through fieldwork. Having read Geography at Dundee University it became clear my time studying the subject at Queens’ drastically helped me integrate with ease into further education. The geographically based statistics and skills studied and overseas trips played a key role in the development of my employability.”

GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

“Sapere Aude!” (Dare to know!) - Immanuel Kant

THE COURSE SPECIFICATION CAN BE FOUND AT: EDEXCEL

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

THE COURSE CONTENT OF THE SUBJECT IS AS FOLLOWS:

Component 1: UK Politics

Democracy, political parties, electoral systems, voting behaviour and the media, conservatism, liberalism, socialism.

Component 2: UK Government

The constitution, Parliament, Prime Minister and executive, relationships between the branches, and Anarchism.

Component 3: Comparative Politics USA

The US Constitution and federalism, US Congress, US presidency, US Supreme Court and civil rights, democracy and participation, comparative theories.

Further Guidance on Examinations:

Exam 1: Written examination: 2 hours 33⅓ % of the qualification 84 marks

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

Exam 3: Written examination: 2 hours 33⅓ % of the qualification 84 marks

THE NEXT STEP WITHIN THE SUBJECT;

Politics is about producing educated rounded human beings. Politics students go on to enter the top spheres of media, law, journalism and many other walks of life. But note: studying politics is worth it for the sheer love of the subject itself.

WHAT PREVIOUS STUDENTS THOUGHT ABOUT THE COURSE:

*“Politics is a **huge** amount of work and I wouldn’t advise it to anyone who isn’t happy **reading and writing a lot**. However the results are spectacular and it is very exciting, invigorating even. It is so much more than just learning about parliament! We are expected to go hunting for information and the subject is so interesting that it is very easy to get taken over by the topics. It might sound like a cliché but this subject really does get you thinking about how the political world could be and (sometimes depressingly!) how it actually is.”*

MATHEMATICS

“If I were again beginning my studies, I would follow the advice of Plato and start with Mathematics”
Galileo Galilei

THE COURSE SPECIFICATION CAN BE FOUND AT: EDEXCEL

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

THE COURSE CONTENT OF THE SUBJECT IS AS FOLLOWS:

Pure Mathematics 1: Proof, Algebra and functions, Coordinate geometry in the (x,y) plane, Sequences and series, Trigonometry, Exponentials and logarithms, Differentiation, Integration, Vectors

Pure Mathematics 2: Proof, Algebra and functions, Coordinate geometry in the (x,y) plane, Sequences and series, Trigonometry, Differentiation, Integration, Numerical methods

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

Mechanics: Quantities and units in mechanics, Kinematics, Forces and Newton’s laws, Moments

Further Guidance on Examinations:

Pure Mathematics 1: 2 Hours, 100 marks

Pure Mathematics 2: 2 Hours, 100 marks

Statistics and Mechanics: 2 hours, 50 marks each

THE NEXT STEP WITHIN THE SUBJECT:

Maths is a highly respected A Level that fits with any combination of subjects. It is welcomed by universities and employers in all fields as it shows a student’s ability to think logically, analyse data and understand complex processes. Many of our students go on to study Maths or related subjects at university (Physics, Engineering, Psychology, Economics, Medicine, Computing.....) but many others follow courses and careers in the Arts and Humanities.

WHAT PREVIOUS STUDENTS THOUGHT ABOUT THE COURSE:

“Unlike other subjects, Maths applies to all aspects of life - a Maths A-Level or a Maths degree is respected in all other fields and can lead to careers in almost any area.”

“It’s so much harder than GCSE, and you have to do loads of practice, but the teachers are available to help loads, and when you get it it’s a brilliant feeling.”

MUSIC

'I would teach children music, physics, and philosophy; but more importantly music, for the patterns in music and all the arts are the keys to learning.' **Plato**

THE COURSE SPECIFICATION CAN BE FOUND AT: OCR

<https://ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-and-a-level/music-h143-h543-from-2016/>

THE COURSE CONTENT OF THE SUBJECT IS AS FOLLOWS:

Appraising Music (The Exam):

Section A: AOS 1 & 2 Aural

Section B: AOS 1 & 2 Prescribed Works

Section C: AOS 3 & 5

Topics: AOS 1: Instrumental Music of Haydn, Mozart and Beethoven; AOS2: Popular Song: Blues, Jazz, Swing and Big Band; AOS3: Developments in Instrumental Jazz 1910 to the present day; AOS5: Programme Music 1820-1910

Performance: A = Minimum 6 mins B = Minimum 10 mins

Composition: A = 3 Compositions Minimum 8 mins B = 2 Compositions
Minimum 4 minutes

Further Guidance on Examinations:

Appraising: assessed via an exam paper with listening and written questions using excerpts of music. 2 Hours 30 Minutes (40%).

Performance: A recital of approximately Grade 6 - 8 in standard of 6 to 10 minutes duration is performed and recorded at the end of the course (25% OR 35%).

Composition: submitted at the end of the course (35% OR 25%).

THE NEXT STEP WITHIN THE SUBJECT:

Music is a highly respected A Level which is accepted by all universities including the Russell Group. It works well in combinations with both academic and arts subjects. Apart from providing the first step for a career in Music and the Performing Arts it is a much valued A Level if you are considering a career in teaching or the media. The study of Music at A Level develops one's appreciation of culture and the world we live in and enables students to develop a wider perspective on life.

WHAT PREVIOUS STUDENTS THOUGHT ABOUT THE COURSE:

"I've always been passionate and totally consumed by Music but this course has challenged my understanding of what Music actually is and my appreciation of its nuances. I am now an intelligent musician!"

"Music A-Level enabled me to develop as a singer and performer and supported me in my career path to Drama School. The teachers are really supportive but also very demanding."

PHOTOGRAPHY

‘The camera is an instrument that teaches people how to see without a camera.’
Dorothea Lange

‘The relationship between what we see and what we know is never settled. Each evening we see the sun set. We know the earth is turning away from it. Yet the knowledge, the explanation, never quite fits the sight.’ **John Berger**

THE COURSE SPECIFICATION CAN BE FOUND AT: EDEXCEL

<http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/art-and-design-2015.html>

THE COURSE CONTENT OF THE SUBJECT IS AS FOLLOWS:

Component 1 - Coursework (60%)

A visual project with an internally set theme.

A 1000-3000 word personal study (**worth 12% of Component 1**)

Component 2 - Externally set examination (40%)

A visual project with an externally set theme. 15 hour practical exam (over 3 days).

Further Guidance on Examinations:

Component 2 (40%) is a 10 week personal project based on a theme that is externally set by Edexcel. The 10 week preparatory period ends with a 15 hour timed test in which the final outcome is made. All work from the 10 week period and the timed test is assessed.

THE NEXT STEP WITHIN THE SUBJECT:

A level Photography is an excellent precursor to a career in the creative sector. The UK's creative industries are now worth over £111bn to the UK economy. Higher education destinations for past students include prestigious institutions such as Central Saint Martin's College and the Slade School of Fine Art. Courses studied at universities include Photography, Journalism, Fashion, Architecture, Education, Digital Media and many more.

WHAT PREVIOUS STUDENTS THOUGHT ABOUT THE COURSE:

“Photography allows you the freedom to explore areas of the visual arts that you find fascinating. You have to be independent, intellectually curious and prepared for conceptual challenge. The course provides an excellent foundation for life beyond school as you have the responsibility for devising and driving your own projects. I really enjoyed improving my technical camera skills and learning how to enhance the photographic image in a variety of formats.”

PHYSICS

“Physicists are made of atoms. A physicist is an attempt by an atom to understand itself.”

Michio Kaku

“If anybody says he can think about quantum physics without getting giddy, that only shows he has not understood the first thing about them.”

Niels Bohr

THE COURSE SPECIFICATION CAN BE FOUND AT: OCR

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/171726-specification-accredited-a-level-gce-physics-a-h556.pdf>

THE COURSE CONTENT OF THE SUBJECT IS AS FOLLOWS:

The topics studied in the **first year** of the course are: Particles and Radiation, Waves, Mechanics and Electricity.

In the **second year** of the course students will study: Thermal physics, Fields and their consequences, Nuclear physics, Astrophysics, and Medical Physics.

Students will also complete a practical endorsement, although the result of this will be reported, it will not affect the A-level result. This will be assessed by teachers and will be based on direct observation of students' competency in a range of skills that are not assessable in written exams.

Further Guidance on Examinations:

Content is in six modules:

Module 1: Development of practical skills in physics

Module 2: Foundations in physics

Module 3: Forces and motion

Module 4: Electrons, waves and photons

Module 5: Newtonian world and astrophysics

Module 6: Particles and medical physics

Paper 1 – Assesses content from modules 1, 2, 3 and 5

Paper 2 – Assesses content from modules 1, 2, 4 and 6

Paper 3 – Assesses content from all modules (1 to 6)

THE NEXT STEP WITHIN THE SUBJECT;

A Physics A-Level opens the door to all sorts of careers and courses. All the technology that surrounds us is based on the principles of physics, so if you are considering working in any area related to technology, studying A level physics is an essential first step. Studying physics can lead to a vast array of degree courses including Physics, Astrophysics, Engineering, Medicine, Optometry and Biomedical Science.

WHAT PREVIOUS STUDENTS

THOUGHT ABOUT THE COURSE:

“Physics and the ability to understand the world around us is what separates us from animals.”

“Studying physics interests me because it is so current. The most exciting recent discoveries such as the Higgs boson at CERN and gravity waves at LIGO have happened in the last few years.”

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

“You learn more about somebody in an hour of play that you do in a year of conversation.”
Plato

“The only place where success comes before work is in the dictionary.”

THE COURSE SPECIFICATION CAN BE FOUND AT: OCR

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

THE COURSE CONTENT OF THE SUBJECT IS AS FOLLOWS:

Unit 1 - Applied Anatomy, Exercise Physiology and Biomechanics

A study into how the body works and responds to exercise

Unit 2 - Skill Acquisition and Sports Psychology

A study of how we learn and how the mind influences performance

Unit 3 - Sport and Society & Contemporary Issues in Sport

A study in the organisation of sport and modern issues within the sporting World.

Unit 4 - Performance or Coaching/ Evaluation and Analysis of performance

Individual performance within your chosen sport

Further Guidance on Examinations:

Unit 1 - 2 Hour exam - 90 Marks - 30% of overall Grade

Unit 2 - 1 Hour exam - 60 Marks - 20% of overall Grade

Unit 3 - 1 Hour exam - 60 Marks - 20% of overall Grade

Unit 4 - Non examined - 60 Marks - 30% of overall Grade

THE NEXT STEP WITHIN THE SUBJECT;

This subject can lead into degree courses such as Physiotherapy, Sports Coaching, Sports Rehabilitation, Sport Science, Teaching (Primary and/or Secondary).

The department has also had two students recently attain scholarships to America to study (Tennis, Swimming and Women's Football).

WHAT PREVIOUS STUDENTS THOUGHT ABOUT THE COURSE:

“The course is completely different from GCSE PE. There is a lot more academic work to be completed and also more emphasis on yourself doing some extra reading. The subjects taught are found in most first year degree courses so this A Level is a good step towards university.”

PRODUCT DESIGN

“Design and technology should be the subject where mathematical brainboxes and science whizzkids turn their bright ideas into useful products”. **JAMES DYSON**

THE COURSE SPECIFICATION CAN BE FOUND AT: EDEXCEL

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/demo/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/design-technology-product-design-2017.coursematerials.html#filterQuery=Pearson-UK:Category%2FTeaching-and-learning-materials>

THE COURSE CONTENT OF THE SUBJECT IS AS FOLLOWS:

Component 1: Principles of Design and Technology

Topic 1: Materials **Topic 2:** Performance characteristics of materials **Topic 3:** Processes and techniques **Topic 4:** Digital technologies **Topic 5:** Factors influencing the development of products **Topic 6:** Effects of technological developments **Topic 7:** Potential hazards and risk assessment **Topic 8: Features** of manufacturing industries **Topic 9:** Designing for maintenance and the cleaner environment **Topic 10:** Current legislation **Topic 11:** Information handling, Modelling and forward planning **Topic 12:** Further processes and techniques

Component 2: Independent Design and Make Project

Part 1: Identifying Opportunities for Design Identification of a design problem, investigation of needs and research and specification **Part 2:** Designing a Prototype Design ideas, development of design idea, final design solution, review of development and final design and communication of design ideas **Part 3:** Making a Prototype Design, manufacture and realisation of a final prototype, including tools and equipment and quality and accuracy **Part 4:** Evaluating own Design and Prototype Testing and evaluation

Further Guidance on Examinations:

Component 1: Written examination: 2 hours 30 minutes 50% of the qualification

Component 2: Non-examined assessment 50% of the qualification

THE NEXT STEP WITHIN THE SUBJECT;

This subject can lead into a vast range of Design based degree courses such as Architecture, Graphic Design, Jewelry Design, Furniture Design, Automotive & Transport Design, Interior Design, Product Design, Art & Design and Lighting Design to name a few.

WHAT PREVIOUS STUDENTS THOUGHT ABOUT THE COURSE:

“The A Level course in PD gave me the opportunity to explore my interest in design. Its practical nature allowed me to make, test & try new ideas and in the process gain confidence. A perfect stepping stone enabling me to move on to study Interior Architecture and ultimately lead to a career in the Design industry. All was not possible without the support of the wonderful teaching staff....thank you.”

"The disappearance of a sense of responsibility is the most far-reaching consequence of submission to authority."
Stanley Milgram

THE COURSE SPECIFICATION CAN BE FOUND AT: AQA

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

THE COURSE CONTENT OF THE SUBJECT IS AS FOLLOWS:

Year 1 Topics Include:

Social influence; Memory; Attachment; Approaches in psychology; Biopsychology; Psychopathology; Research methods.

Year 2 Topics Include:

Issues and Debates; Relationships; Schizophrenia; Aggression.

Further Guidance on Examinations:

Component 1: Written examination: 2 hours (33%)

Component 2: Written examination: 2 hours (33%)

Component 3: Written examination: 2 hours (33%)

THE NEXT STEP WITHIN THE SUBJECT;

The top degree courses taken by students who have an A-level in psychology are: Psychology, English studies, Sociology, Biomedical sciences, Cognitive neuroscience, Sport and exercise science, Law.

POSSIBLE CAREER OPTIONS

Forensic psychology;
Psychotherapy; Occupational therapy; Educational psychologist;
Clinical psychology; Counselling;
Nursing; Social work; Teaching.

WHAT PREVIOUS STUDENTS THOUGHT ABOUT THE COURSE:

"It is interesting to try and understand people's motives for what they do and why some people do terrible things".

"Psychology is good because there are no right or wrong answers and you get to think about all sorts of human issues from 'abnormality' to hypnosis".

"Psychology is very interesting and is also very scientific"

PHILOSOPHY, RELIGION & ETHICS

“There will be no end to the troubles of states or humanity itself until philosophers become kings in this world and rulers become philosophers and political power and philosophy thus come into the same hands.” **Plato**

THE COURSE SPECIFICATION CAN BE FOUND AT: EDEXCEL

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

THE COURSE CONTENT OF THE SUBJECT IS AS FOLLOWS:

Component 1: Philosophy of Religion

Philosophical Issues and Questions: Design, Cosmological and Ontological Arguments for Belief and Disbelief in the Existence of God
Nature and Influence of Religious Experience, Language and Eschatology
Problem of Evil and Suffering and the Works of Key Philosophical Scholars

Component 2: Religion and Ethics

Issues and Debates about Equality and the Environment in the Modern World
Theoretical Ethical Stances of Utilitarianism, Situation Ethics, Natural Moral Law, Deontology and Virtue Ethics as applied to Politics and the Legal Framework
Applied Ethics of War and Peace, Sexual Ethics, Meta-Ethics and Medical Issues

Component 3: Study of Religion

Religious Beliefs, Values and Teachings, Sources of Wisdom and Authority, Practices that Shape and Express Religious Meaning and Identity within Society

Further Guidance on Examinations:

Each of the 3 papers is a 2 hour written examination worth 33.3% of the total marks. Each of the 3 course strands has 4 anthology, academic texts attached to it which is also a part of the analytical examination of each paper

THE NEXT STEP WITHIN THE SUBJECT;

People who study Philosophy, Religion, Ethics often go on to university to study PPE: Philosophy, Politics and Economics, Philosophy, Theology, Classics, Anthropology, Psychology, Government and Politics. It helps to produce people who are critical and ready for careers in Law, Government, Criminology, Business,

WHAT PREVIOUS STUDENTS THOUGHT ABOUT THE COURSE:

“I had no idea how much I would enjoy studying Philosophy, Religion, Ethics at A-level! It is academic, rigorous, full of debate and discussion and has so many links to my other A-levels in Psychology, Economics and Politics. You learn to be analytical and evaluate everything you come across.”

“Workers of the world unite; you have nothing to lose but your chains” **Karl Marx**

THE COURSE SPECIFICATION CAN BE FOUND AT: AQA

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

THE COURSE CONTENT OF THE SUBJECT IS AS FOLLOWS:

Component 1: Education and Theory and Methods

Component 2: Family and Beliefs in Society

Component 3: Crime and Deviance and Theory and Methods

Further Guidance on Examinations:

Exam 1: 2 hours 33% of the course

Exam 2: 2 hours 33% of the course

Exam 3: 2 hours 33% of the course

THE NEXT STEP WITHIN THE SUBJECT;

People who study sociology often go on to university to study criminology, anthropology and the social sciences. Sociology students are prepared for a wide range of careers including police, probation, law, social work, education and social policy. Sociology also gives you many transferable skills such as essay writing and opportunities to improve analysis skills, which complement most academic courses.

WHAT PREVIOUS STUDENTS THOUGHT ABOUT THE COURSE:

‘Sociology allows you to gain a greater understanding of the complex and simple nature of humans and their societies’

‘Sociology looks at real and current issues in society such as the Black Lives Matter and the Me-Too movements’

‘Sociology gives us the opportunity to share our opinions on what’s going on in the world and discuss important inequalities and injustice in society’

“With languages, you are at home everywhere.”

Edward de Waal

THE COURSE SPECIFICATION CAN BE FOUND AT: AQA

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages/as-and-a-level/spanish-7692>

THE COURSE CONTENT OF THE SUBJECT IS AS FOLLOWS:

Social Issues and Trends Aspects of Hispanic society

The Changing nature of family

Equal rights

The cyber society

Immigration

RACISM

Integration

Political and Artistic Culture

Modern Day Idols; Regional identity; Cultural Heritage; Today’s youth, Tomorrow’s citizens; Monarchies and Dictatorships; Popular Movements; Politics and immigration; Artistic culture in the Hispanic world; Political life in the Hispanic world

Grammar

Literary texts and films

Further Guidance on Examinations:

Paper 1: Listening, reading and writing. 2 ½ hours. 50% of A Level

Paper 2: Writing. 2 hours. 20% of A Level

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

THE NEXT STEP WITHIN THE SUBJECT

Many universities offer courses combined with a language, such as law, linguistics and business management. Jobs where a language is useful include: sales executive, tour manager, marketing executive, broadcast journalist to name but a few

WHAT STUDENTS THINK ABOUT THE COURSE:

“Learning languages has given me an opportunity to find out more about other cultures and a way of life which I find very fascinating. It gives me that “something extra.””

EXTENDED PROJECT QUALIFICATION (EPQ)

*Enrichment Option

“Je suis donc je pense.” (‘I think therefore I am.’)

Rene Descartes

THE COURSE SPECIFICATION CAN BE FOUND AT: AQA

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/projects/aqa-certificate/EPQ-7993>

THE COURSE CONTENT OF THE SUBJECT IS AS FOLLOWS:

Component 1: Research Log (detailing development of your ideas and project)

Component 2: Actual Project (E.g. Essay/investigation/ etc.)

Component 3: Presentation of Project

Further Guidance on Examinations:

All 3 components are internally assessed against the assessment criteria and are then externally verified by the examiner. The EPQ is equivalent to an AS level and carries a maximum of 28 UCAS points (or half an A-Level).

THE NEXT STEP WITHIN THE SUBJECT;

The great benefit of the EPQ is how it allows a student to move beyond the school curriculum and explore a specific area of personal interest, transforming it into a research study. EPQs do carry UCAS points of over half an A-Level and universities can make lower entry offers on the basis of a student doing one. Top Russell Group Universities endorse the EPQs; whether or not they form part of any university offer is down to each institution however. Ultimately, the true bonus is the recognition that a student gains for doing something truly self-directed and motivated.

WHAT PREVIOUS STUDENTS THOUGHT ABOUT THE COURSE:

“ My EPQ gave me so much more to write about in my personal statement- my discussions with my supervisor pointed me in academic directions I had never previously explored... keeping focused on the topic/ title was the hardest part but overall a great experience.... I would strongly recommend it.”

LEVEL 3 CORE MATHS

*Enrichment Option

“The book of nature is written in the language of Maths.”

Galileo Galilei

THE COURSE SPECIFICATION CAN BE FOUND AT: OCR

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/core-maths/quantitative-problem-solving-mei-level-3-certificate-h867/specification-at-a-glance/>

THE COURSE CONTENT OF THE SUBJECT IS AS FOLLOWS:

Modelling, Statistics, Finance, Working with exponentials, Working with graphs and gradients, Geometry and measures, Risk, Statistical problem solving (including hypothesis testing), Use of technology

Further Guidance on Examinations:

Paper 1 (2 hours) 50%

Paper 2 (2 hours) 50%

We strongly encourage any students taking a social science or humanity subject (specifically geography), but not Maths A-Level, to take Core Maths. Equivalent to half an A-Level, Core Maths is taught by specialist maths teachers and is designed to strengthen the maths skills students will need to succeed in these courses.

THE NEXT STEP WITHIN THE SUBJECT;

Core Maths is the equivalent of an AS qualification (20 UCAS points). It will be studied in conjunction with three other A Levels. Core Maths has been found to improve grades in other A-Levels and make university study easier.

Core Maths is likely to be particularly valuable for students progressing to higher education courses with a distinct mathematical or statistical element such as psychology, geography, business and management or any social sciences.

WHAT STUDENTS HAVE THOUGHT ABOUT THE COURSE:

“I did not want to take Maths A Level but am studying Core Maths alongside A-Level Psychology, Economics and Biology. Core Maths has benefited my other A Level studies greatly. Handling ideas such as standard deviation, the Normal distribution and correlation in Core Maths has made their application in my other subjects much easier.”