

M|P|W

A level
Course
Outlines
Birmingham

2026/2027



Welcome

Our mission is to develop the confidence, maturity, knowledge and skills of our students, turning your academic aspirations into reality.

Studying at A level is an exciting opportunity which allows you to engage in topics that you are genuinely interested in. This opportunity for you to immerse yourself in subjects that you have chosen rather than had forced upon you has the potential to be really motivating. Studying A levels will help develop aspects of your character as you learn to take greater responsibility for your learning. At MPW we aim to provide you with more support than you might expect to receive at another school whilst ensuring that you grow in confidence and develop your skills.

To do well you will need to commit to your studies and take full advantage of our small class sizes and weekly Timed Assignments, the latter of which will help engender improved examination technique as well as in depth subject knowledge. As you might expect, we have really high expectations of our students and so issues such as attitude to learning, general behaviour, attendance and time keeping are things to which we attach a high importance. If you have the right attitude and are willing to work hard, then without question, studying A levels at MPW will help you to be the success that you want to be. It is vital that you research carefully which A levels you wish to study and choose those which are right for you because this way you are more likely to be happy in your studies. Our team here will help with any decisions you have to make regarding A level subjects and our expertise in supporting students with their university choices means that we will also help with your career planning.

An integral feature regarding our approach to education is the use of Timed Assignments. These regular assessments under timed conditions enable students to develop superior subject knowledge and apply their understanding under timed conditions, improving their examination technique in the process. The linear nature of A levels means that our Timed Assignments are essential to keeping students energised by examination practice. The majority of students joining us in the lower sixth study the 3/3 model which means that students study three subjects in their first year and continue these into their second year. Some students may prefer to study four subjects in the lower sixth and then carry on with three into the upper sixth. To help provide our students with further breadth we also provide them with an opportunity to study the Extended Project Qualification and this has proved popular.

The tradition at MPW has been to design programmes of study around the individual needs of each student. For a sixth form of our size we offer an enviable selection of A level subjects for students to choose from. Our aim is to help turn the academic aspirations of our students into reality. We hope that you enjoy using this guide and look forward to welcoming you into MPW's sixth form in September.

Adam Cross
Principal

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At MPW, we want to help you translate your academic dreams into reality.

For over forty years we have been the UK's leading independent sixth form college, enabling thousands of students to achieve their best in their GCSE and A level examinations. However, we believe a good education should go further than this; it should prepare you for life at university and beyond. In an increasingly competitive environment, a strategic approach to subject choices and university application is necessary to achieve the desired outcome. At MPW we offer maximum flexibility on subject combinations, effectively giving each student a tailor-made academic programme. Our commitment to small class sizes ensures that all our students receive the individual attention they deserve. Careful consideration is always given to career guidance and we offer expert advice and help with the entire UCAS application process.

Which course is right for me?

MPW offers A level courses in a wide range of subjects. This can seem to present a bewildering number of options and you may feel that it is hard to make the right choices. Below are a few helpful hints that you might find useful but the best advice of all is, "talk to us!".

Take proper career advice

If you have a career in mind and want to know what subjects to take, speak to one of us and make use of our careers expertise. This will mean that you do not find yourself in the upper sixth year realising that you have not studied the correct subjects for the career or university degree that you want to pursue. Please contact the person who interviewed you or another one of our senior tutors for advice. Students at MPW can talk to their Personal Tutor.

Choose subjects that you really enjoy

You are more likely to do well if you enjoy what you are studying. Make sure you really know what the course entails and read the whole syllabus carefully.

Beware when choosing new subjects!

If you have not studied a subject before, make sure you really understand what it is about. Again, the best thing to do is to let our tutors help you to understand the details of the course and ensure you know what you are letting yourself in for.

Consider subject combinations carefully

You need to find out exactly what the workload of each subject is like in terms of coursework, essay writing and reading before finalising your combination of subjects. You should also consider what you might want to study at university and whether there are any essential or recommended requirements. Some guidance is offered in the chart overleaf but you should research universities' individual websites for definitive answers.

Frequently asked questions

Where can I get help in choosing the right courses for me?

Our Senior Tutors can give you advice if you feel confused. Read through the course descriptions in this guide and ask for further clarification if needed.

Can I take any combination of subjects I like at MPW?

The answer is almost certainly yes, but again, we are here to give you the best guidance we can. It is worth discussing your choices with us before you decide.

I don't know what I want to do after sixth form and I would like to keep my options open. What A Levels should I choose?

You need to have a good think about the sort of person you are and the sort of course you are likely to want to study. Whilst many university courses have no specific A level requirements, many do and many say that certain subjects are advisable. For example, if you want to study a science, it is likely you will need to have studied it up to A level. On the next page you will find a table with more information. If you still find yourself with no clear idea of your future in mind, that is not a problem. The best general advice to give is that the broader the range of subjects you choose, the more room for manoeuvre you will have when you do make your university applications.

Before you decide:

A final checklist

- Do I really like this subject?
- Do I know what the course entails? Be honest.
- Have I read the syllabus thoroughly?
- Do I have a natural aptitude for this course?
- If it is a new subject, do I really know what I am letting myself in for?
- Have I considered my subject combinations?
- Have I taken proper career advice?

Which careers and courses need specific A Levels?

Some courses at some universities normally require you to have studied certain A levels. Over the page is a table indicating which courses typically ask for which subjects.



DEGREE COURSE	NORMALLY REQUIRED
ACCOUNTANCY	Some universities require Maths.
ANCIENT HISTORY	An essay based subject.
ARCHITECTURE	An arts/science mix is advisable. Art or an Art portfolio plus Maths and/or Physics for some universities.
ANTHROPOLOGY	None.
ARCHAEOLOGY	History, Geography and a science subject are relevant but not necessary.
BIOLOGY	Chemistry and Biology are desirable.
BUSINESS STUDIES	Some universities require Maths.
CHEMISTRY	Chemistry is essential. Another science is often desirable as well.
CLASSICS	Latin and Greek are required by many universities.
CLASSICAL CIVILISATION	None.
COMPUTER SCIENCE	Some universities require Maths.
DENTISTRY	Chemistry is essential and Biology increasingly so at the majority of universities.
DRAMA	English Literature. Some may require Theatre Studies.
ECONOMICS	Maths is usually required.
ENGINEERING (CHEMICAL)	Maths, Physics and Chemistry.
ENGINEERING (OTHER)	Maths and Physics.
ENGLISH	English Literature.
GEOGRAPHY	Geography.
GEOLOGY	Two from Maths, Physics, Chemistry and Biology.
HISTORY	History.
HISTORY OF ART	None. Art, English Literature and a modern foreign language are all useful, though.
LAND MANAGEMENT	Generally no preferred subjects. Maths and Geography are advisable.
LAW	None.
MATERIALS SCIENCE	Two from Maths, Physics, Chemistry and Biology.
MATHEMATICS	Maths and sometimes Further Maths.
MEDICINE	Most courses need both Biology and Chemistry.
MODERN LANGUAGES	Relevant modern language. (Two languages studied at A level gives more flexibility).
MUSIC	Music (and Grade VIII).
ORIENTAL LANGUAGES	A modern foreign language.
PHARMACY	Chemistry. Biology is highly desirable along with one from Maths and Physics.
PHILOSOPHY	None. Philosophy and Maths are both helpful though not essential.
PHYSICS	Maths and Physics.
POLITICS	None.
PSYCHOLOGY	Maths is desirable. A few courses will ask for one of Biology, Chemistry, Maths and Physics.
SOCIAL SCIENCE	None.
THEOLOGY	None.
VETERINARY SCIENCE	Chemistry and Biology.

ART, CRAFT AND DESIGN

What is Art, Craft and Design?

A level Art, Craft and Design at MPW offers students an opportunity to explore Fine Art, Graphic Design and Digital Art and Photography in a format that encourages and supports students to develop a strong visual language that they can use to express their own thoughts and ideas. Experiencing and understanding the work of exhibiting artists forms the core of each project students undertake.



ART, CRAFT AND DESIGN

What sort of student does it suit and what will you get out of the course?

Students interested in studying A level Art, Craft and Design are encouraged to gain a good grade at GCSE level. However, this is by no means essential. If you have the basic skills and a passion for the subject and are highly motivated, you should succeed.

The skills you will develop will be many and varied, not simply the ability to paint and draw. You will learn widely about different materials, practices and technologies in different fields of the Arts. You will develop the ability to communicate ideas and express yourself in a specialist vocabulary. You will develop an appreciation of the role of artists, photographers, craft makers and designers in the history of art and contemporary society. The course is suitable for both students who wish to undertake further studies in the field of art, craft and design and for those who simply have an interest and aptitude for the subject, but who do not intend to take the subject beyond A level study.

AS Level MPW approach to AS Level study

The AS year of the course is designed to encourage exploration and experimentation within Art. Students undertake a series of negotiated projects that will allow them to discover their strengths and identify weaknesses in their visual language. At the end of the year, students will evaluate their strengths and weaknesses and decide on which area of Art, Craft and Design they will focus on in their second year of the course.

AS Level Specification - OCR H600

Externally Set Task (02) 80 marks 100% of AS level

MPW approach to A Level study

With the first year of the course complete, students are aware of their strengths within Art, Craft and Design and are able to make a choice about which area within art they focus on in their Personal Investigation (60% of total A level). The Personal Investigation is a portfolio of work that shows a personal response to a starting point that is negotiated between the student and tutor. In addition to this, a 1000–3000 word written study that relates to the student's practical work and work of relevant artists is also completed. The final stage of the course is the Externally Set Task (40% of total A level). Unlike the Personal Investigation, the starting point for this project is set by OCR in the form of an exam paper. The paper offers a number of themes that students can work on. Students have 12-14 weeks to create a body of preparatory work which documents the development of a final idea. Students are given 15 hours to create a final piece of work in exam conditions.

A Level Specification - OCR H600

Personal Investigation (01)
120 marks
60% of total A level

Externally Set Task (02)
80 marks
40% of total A level

Reading



AS & A Level

The Story of Art
By E H Gombrich
Published by Phaidon

The Art Book
By Adam Butler
Published by Phaidon

The 20th Century Art Book
By Rachel Barnes
Published by Phaidon

The Photography Book
By Ian Jeffery
Published by Phaidon

Drawing and Painting

By Kate Wilson
Published by Thames and Hudson

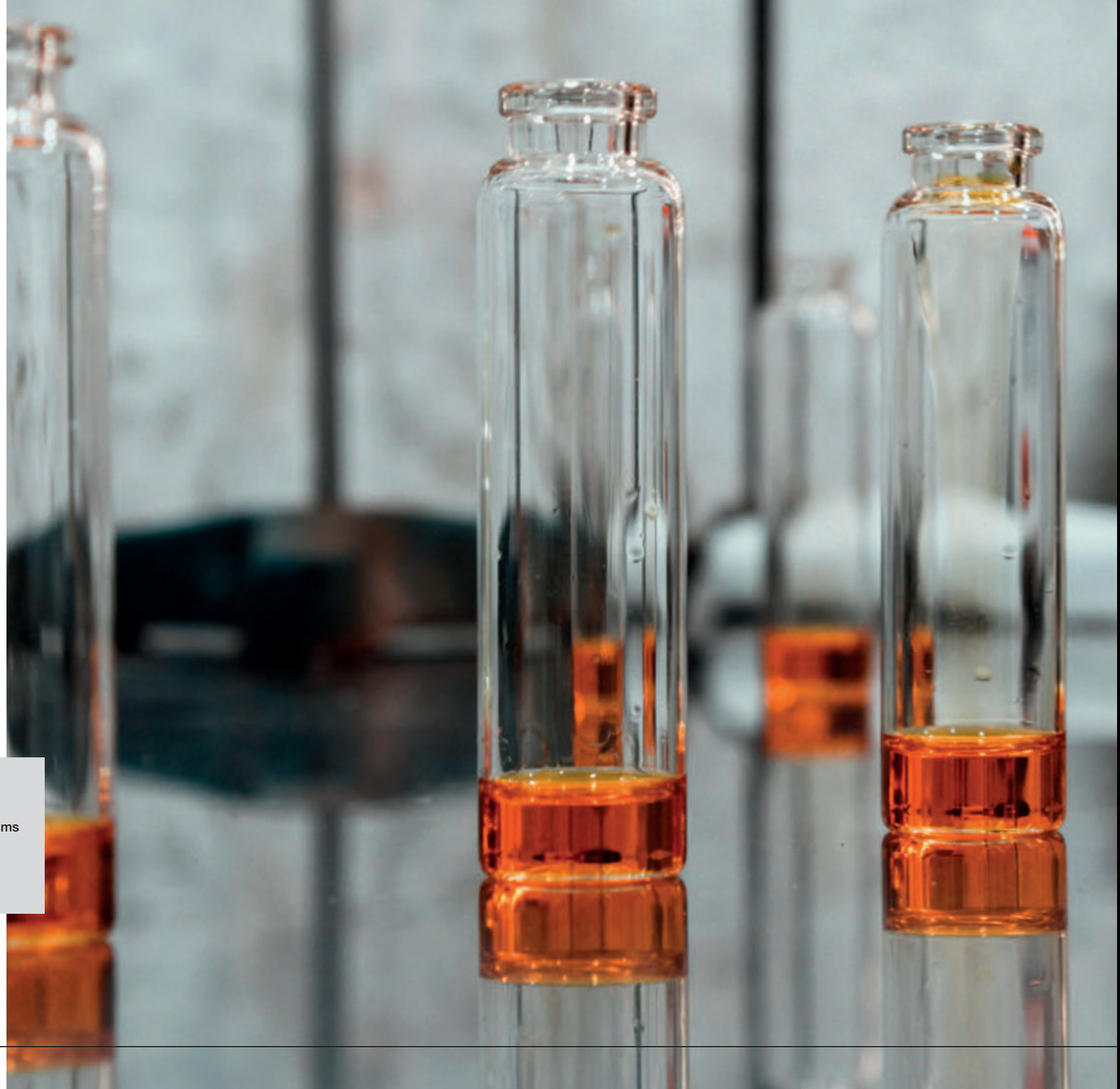
The Story of Art is a comprehensive survey of the entire history of western art from cave paintings to the present and is, in effect, the A level course text and reference for all A level examination boards.

The other four books are excellent sources for skill development and visual references, with short and concise explanations about the work of a vast number of historic and contemporary artists.

BIOLOGY

What is Biology?

Biology explores and investigates living creatures and the processes that occur in nature. It aims to understand how organisms work and interact with each other by exploring the disciplines of biochemistry, physiology, genetics and ecology.



BIOLOGY

What sort of student does it suit and what will you get out of the course?

Potential Biology students will need a solid grounding in basic scientific and mathematical theory and should have some experience in using basic laboratory equipment. The course is vital to students wishing to pursue careers in most scientific disciplines, such as Medicine, Pharmacy, Dentistry, Microbiology, Genetics, Sports Science and Environmental Science. The course aims to develop skills in observation, analysis and manipulation of data and in writing clearly and scientifically, but also seeks to improve knowledge and understanding of topical issues related to the subject.

AS Level

MPW approach to AS Level study

The MPW approach aims to give students a comprehensive grounding in the basic principles of each topic and then gives opportunities to develop a wider understanding of the subject by reading about relevant current affairs. This is backed up by setting regular homework and weekly Timed Assignments based on past exam questions. Many topics are directly reinforced by practical work carried out during class time.

AS Level Specification - AQA 7401

Topic 1 – Biological Molecules

- Monomers and polymers
- Carbohydrates
- Lipids
- Proteins
- Nucleic acids
- ATP
- Water
- Inorganic ions

Topic 2 – Cells

- Cell structure
- All cells arise from other cells
- Transport across membranes
- Cell recognition and the immune system

Topic 3 – Organisms exchange substances with their environment

- Surface area to volume ratio
- Gas exchange
- Digestion and absorption
- Mass transport

Topic 4 – Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms

- DNA, genes and chromosomes
- DNA and protein synthesis
- Genetic diversity can arise as a result of mutation or during meiosis
- Genetic diversity and adaptation
- Species and taxonomy
- Biodiversity within a community
- Investigating diversity

Paper 2

- 50% of the total AS marks
- 1 hour 30 minutes
- Covers any content from topics 1-4, including relevant practical skills.

Assessment

Paper 1

- 50% of the total AS marks
- 1 hour 30 minutes
- Covers any content from topics 1-4, including relevant practical skills.

A Level

MPW approach to A Level study

The A level course aims to build on the knowledge and understanding developed during the AS course. The importance of wider reading is further emphasised in order to make links between areas of theory covered. Once again, this is backed up by setting regular homework and weekly Timed Assignments based on past exam questions. Emphasis is particularly placed on developing skills to effectively answer synoptic questions.

A Level Specification - AQA 7402

A level Biology requires topics 1-4, plus:

Topic 5 – Energy transfers in and between organisms

- Photosynthesis
- Respiration
- Energy and Ecosystems
- Nutrient cycles

Topic 6 – Organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments

- Stimuli and response
- Nervous coordination
- Skeletal muscle
- Homeostasis

Topic 7 – Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems

- Inheritance
- Populations
- Evolutions may lead to speciation
- Populations in ecosystems

Topic 8 – The control of gene expression

- Alteration of the sequence of bases in DNA
- Gene expression
- Using genome projects
- Gene technologies

Assessment

Paper 1

- 35% of the total A level marks
- 2 hours
- Covers any content from topics 1-4, including relevant practical skills.

Paper 2

- 35% of the total A level marks
- 2 hours
- Covers any content from topics 5-8, including relevant practical skills.

Paper 3

- 30% of the total A level marks
- 2 hours
- Covers any content from topics 1-8, including relevant practical skills.
- Includes a 25 mark synoptic essay

Reading

AS

AQA Biology AS/Year 1 Student Book
By Toole and Toole
Published by Oxford University Press

A Level

AQA Biology AS/Year 2 Student Book
By Toole and Toole
Published by Oxford University Press

Further details can be found at
<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/biology/a-level/biology-7402/specification/specification-at-a-glance>



What is Business?

A level Business is designed to provide students with a critical understanding of how a business functions internally and within a dynamic external environment. Candidates are encouraged to acquire a range of important and transferable skills:

- Data skills - manipulating data and interpreting results
- Analysing evidence and making justified recommendations/judgements on the results
- Planning work, conducting research and solving problems using appropriate business tools and methods
- Challenging their own assumptions

All the above skills are, of course, a requirement of virtually any subject likely to be undertaken in Higher Education, which makes this a valuable adjunct to studying for any future career – to say nothing of the fact that almost everybody will spend their working lives in one form of organisation or another, and it makes sense to understand how organisations work.

What sort of student does it suit and what will you get out of the course?

A level Business is a versatile subject which combines particularly well with the other business subjects and with Law, Mathematics and Modern Languages – and, of course, it suits those who see themselves as future entrepreneurs. Students opting to embark on this course need not necessarily have any previous knowledge of the subject, but should have an interest in current affairs and be numerate. Students will develop real-world knowledge and practical skills to analyse data, think critically about issues and make informed decisions – all of which are essential for further study and employment.

Subject content

This qualification is linear. Linear means that learners will sit all their exams at the end of the course. The subject content is divided into three main units. It is expected that learners will build upon the knowledge, skills and understanding developed as they move through each unit, making connections between the content included in each.

3.1 Unit: What is business?

Managing marketing and finance

- 3.1.1 Business and objectives
- 3.1.2 Forms of business and stakeholders
- 3.1.3 Marketing management
- 3.1.4 Financial management

3.2 Unit: Managing people and operations

- 3.2.1 People management
- 3.2.2 Operations management
- 3.2.3 Managing business culture (A-level)

3.3 Unit: Business and society, business and the external environment, and business strategy (A-level only)

- 3.3.1 Business and society
- 3.3.2 Business and the external environment
- 3.3.3 Strategy
- 3.3.4 Change

Assessments

AS Level

Paper 1

Unit 3.1:

- 1 hour 45 minutes, 80 marks, 50% of AS
- Two case studies. Each case study will be followed by six compulsory questions worth 40 marks in total.

Paper 2

Unit 3.2:

- 1 hour 45 minutes, 80 marks, 50% of AS
- Two case studies. Each case study will be followed by six compulsory questions worth 40 marks in total.

A Level

Paper 1

Unit 3.1:

- 2 hours, 90 marks, 33.3% of A-level
- Two case studies. Each case study will be followed by five compulsory questions worth 45 marks in total.

Paper 2

Unit 3.2:

- 2 hours, 90 marks, 33.3% of A-level
- Two case studies. Each case study will be followed by five compulsory questions worth 45 marks in total.

Paper 3

Unit 3.3:

- 2 hours, 90 marks, 33.3% of A-level
- Two case studies. Each case study will be followed by five compulsory questions worth 45 marks in total.

Reading

AS & A Level

Hodder Education A level Business

NB: Students will find it very valuable to keep up with current business affairs. The best way is to listen to/watch the news.

Read the business sections of a broadsheet newspaper.

A level Business Studies Year 1

By John Wolinski and Gwen Coates, 3rd Edition

A level Business Studies Year 2

By John Wolinski and Gwen Coates, 3rd Edition

An Integrated Approach to Business Studies

By Jewell, B Longman



CHEMISTRY

What is Chemistry?

Chemistry has been aptly defined as the branch of science which is fundamental, molecular and interesting. Chemistry touches every aspect of our everyday lives, and its study encourages analytical, critical and logical thought: all important ingredients in any higher education course.



CHEMISTRY

What sort of student does it suit and what will you get out of the course?

The study of Chemistry continues to be mandatory for students aiming to read Medicine, Dentistry or Veterinary Science. That should not put off other students as the skills Chemistry develops are highly transferable across a wide range of careers. Students have gone on to study Law, Pharmacy and even Chemistry at university.

AS Level MPW approach to AS Level study

For candidates who decide to stop their study of Chemistry at AS, the approach will be as rigorous as that for students progressing to A level. Laboratory sessions run alongside theory sessions and both are seen as vital in illustrating the specification and to prepare candidates for the practical test.

AS Level Specification - AQA 7404

3.1 Physical chemistry

- 3.1.1 Atomic structure
- 3.1.2 Amount of substance
- 3.1.3 Bonding
- 3.1.4 Energetics
- 3.1.5 Kinetics
- 3.1.6 Chemical equilibria and Le Chatelier's principle and K_c
- 3.1.7 Oxidation, reduction and redox equations

3.2 Inorganic chemistry

- 3.2.1 Periodicity
- 3.2.2 Group 2, the alkaline earth metals
- 3.2.3 Group 7(17), the halogens

3.3 Organic chemistry

- 3.3.1 Introduction to organic chemistry
- 3.3.2 Alkanes
- 3.3.3 Halogenoalkanes
- 3.3.4 Alkenes
- 3.3.5 Alcohols
- 3.3.6 Organic analysis

Assessment

Paper 1

- Physical chemistry topics (sections 3.1.1 to 3.1.4, 3.1.6 and 3.1.7)
- Inorganic chemistry topics (section 3.2.1 to 3.2.3)
- Relevant practical skills
- Written exam: 50% of the AS
1 hour 30 minutes 80 marks
- 65 marks of short and long answer questions
- 15 marks of multiple choice questions

Paper 2

- Physical chemistry topics (sections 3.1.2 to 3.1.6)
- Organic chemistry (section 3.3.1 to 3.3.6)
Relevant practical skills
- Written exam: 50% of the AS
1 hour 30 minutes 80 marks
- 65 marks of short and long answer questions
- 15 marks of multiple choice questions

A Level MPW approach to A Level study

The same combination of theory and practical allows thorough coverage of the specification.

A Level Specification - AQA 7405

A level Chemistry requires the AS content listed above, plus:

3.1 Physical chemistry

- 3.1.8 Thermodynamics
- 3.1.9 Rate equations
- 3.1.10 Equilibrium constant K_p for homogeneous systems
- 3.1.11 Electrode potentials and electrochemical cells
- 3.1.12 Acids and bases

3.2 Inorganic chemistry

- 3.2.4 Properties of Period 3 elements and their oxides
- 3.2.5 Transition metals
- 3.2.6 Reactions of ions in aqueous solution

3.3 Organic chemistry

- 3.3.7 Optical isomerism
- 3.3.8 Aldehydes and ketones
- 3.3.9 Carboxylic acids and derivatives
- 3.3.10 Aromatic chemistry
- 3.3.11 Amines
- 3.3.12 Polymers
- 3.3.13 Amino acids, proteins and DNA
- 3.3.14 Organic synthesis
- 3.3.15 Nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy
- 3.3.16 Chromatography

Paper 1

- Physical chemistry topics (sections 3.1.1 to 3.1.4, 3.1.6 to 3.1.8 and 3.1.10 to 3.1.12)
- Inorganic chemistry (Section 3.2)
- Relevant practical skills
- Written exam: 35% of A level
2 hours 105 marks
- 105 marks of short and long answer questions

Paper 2

- Relevant Physical chemistry topics (sections 3.1.2 to 3.1.6 and 3.1.9)
Organic chemistry (Section 3.3)
- Relevant practical skills
- Written exam: 35% of A level
2 hours 105 marks
- 105 marks of short and long answer questions

Paper 3

- Any content. Any practical skills
- Written exam: 30% of A level 2 hours 90 marks
- 40 marks of questions on practical techniques and data analysis
- 20 marks of questions testing across the specification
- 30 marks of multiple choice questions

Reading

AS

AQA A Level Chemistry Year 1 Student Book
By Alyn McFarland, Teresa Quigg, Nora Henry
Published by Hodder Education

A Level

AQA A level Chemistry Year 2 Student Book
By Alyn McFarland
Published by Hodder Education



CHINESE

What is Chinese?

Through a multitude of topics, you will learn to communicate at a sophisticated level in the language. At A level, the emphasis shifts to a much higher level where you are expected to offer opinions, to evaluate and to comment on key aspects of the country in which the target-language is spoken. The vocabulary is accordingly at a more demanding level. Chinese is an enjoyable course which enables students to explore in depth various aspects of the recent history, society, culture and, of course, language of the country.



CHINESE

What sort of student does it suit and what will you get out of the course?

An A level in a Modern Foreign Language is an ideal subject whether you are taking mainly sciences, humanities or arts subjects. As China is developing faster than ever, Chinese becomes an increasingly popular subject in the world; many schools, colleges and universities would value the qualification. Any student who has an interest in Chinese culture and language, and who is looking to acquire a skill currently in demand all around the world, would be well advised to take the subject. Also, the huge requirement for native English speaking teachers in China benefits those who have the ambition to pursue a career in China. Through preparations for the oral examination, students find that their debating and interview skills are greatly enhanced. Linguists are highly regarded by employers for their confidence in communicating ideas and presenting themselves. Learning Chinese is therefore a sensible choice if you are targeting Education, Law, Medicine, and Business Administration amongst many other degree courses.

AS Level MPW approach to A Level Chinese study

We study a wide variety of topics including food, travel, tourism, education, youth interests, Chinese festivals, and society etc. You will receive guidance on using a wide range of resources including the Internet, newspapers, TV programmes, tapes and books. All four language skills will overlap and complement each other with continuous reinforcement of grammar to increase confidence in accurate communication. Our Chinese tutors are all native Chinese speakers, which provides an authentic Chinese learning environment. Moreover, Chinese cultural activities such as making dumplings, paper cutting and Chinese brush writing will be organised to raise cultural awareness and interest in the subject. Language students always grow in confidence, become more worldly, and develop a broad understanding of current affairs. The personal enjoyment of being able to speak another language is immeasurable, as well as being able to enjoy the fruits of that cultural heritage.

Students of MPW A level in Chinese will also develop their ability to communicate confidently and effectively in Chinese, and consider the study of the language in a broader context. They'll learn about the culture and society of one or more countries or communities where Chinese is spoken.

AS Level specification Edexcel 8CN01

The Pearson Edexcel Level 3 Advanced Subsidiary GCE in Chinese (spoken Mandarin/spoken Cantonese) consists of two externally examined papers assessing listening, reading and writing and a speaking assessment. The assessment will be available in traditional and simplified characters. All questions and texts are printed twice, once with texts using traditional/full characters and once with texts in simplified characters. Students must complete their speaking assessment in April/May and all other assessments in May/June in any single year.

Paper 1: Listening, reading and translation (8CN0/01)

Written examination: 1 hour and 45 minutes 40% of the qualification 64 marks

This paper draws on vocabulary and structures across both themes. Themes are based on the society and culture of Chinese speaking countries. The examination is made up of:

Section A: Listening (24 marks)

A listening assessment based on a recording that features male and female Chinese speakers. Students will respond to comprehension questions based on a variety of contexts and sources. Recordings of spoken Chinese will be available in Mandarin and Cantonese.

Section B: Reading (28 marks)

A reading assessment based on a variety of text-types and genres where students will respond to comprehension questions.

Section C: Translation into English (12 marks)

An unseen passage to be translated from Chinese to English.

Paper 2: Written response to works and translation (8CN0/02)

Written examination: 1 hour and 40 minutes 30% of the qualification 60 marks

This paper requires students to translate a previously unseen passage from English into Chinese. This paper also draws on the study of one discrete Chinese work: either one literary text or one film.

This paper includes a translation exercise and an extended response on either one literary text or one film. Students are not permitted access to a dictionary or any documentation relating to the works during the examination. Students complete Section A and one question from either Section B or Section C.

Section A: Translation (20 marks)

Students translate an unseen passage from English into Chinese.

Section B: Written response to works (literary texts) (40 marks)

Students select one question for their chosen literary text. If a student answers a question in this section then they do not complete Section C.

Section C: Written response to works (films) (40 marks)

Students select one question for their chosen film. If a student answers a question in this section then they do not complete Section B.

Paper 3: Speaking (8CN0/03M/03C) Internally conducted and externally assessed

Total assessment time: between 27 and 30 minutes, which includes a single period of 15 minutes' formal preparation time.

30% of the qualification 72 marks

Students complete two tasks – Task 1 is worth 42 marks and Task 2 is worth 30 marks.

Task 1 (responding to written language and discussion based on Theme 1)
Students are provided with two texts and respond to questions on them, followed by a wider discussion on the sub-theme.

Task 2 (discussion on Theme 2)
Students will discuss one sub-theme. The assessment will be available in Mandarin and Cantonese.

CHINESE

A Level

MPW approach to A Level study

This will be a continuation of the approach with AS. Grammar will continue to be practised as well as the linguistic structures. Most of the lesson will be conducted in the target language to develop reading and writing skills. Both oral and essay skills will be developed through regular presentations, debates and discussions. The choice of coursework topics/texts will be made by both tutor and student. Students will develop a wide range of academic writing skills in terms of learning how to construct ideas, structure their essays, and reference cited works correctly, all of which would equip the student for their further education.

A Level specification Edexcel 9CN01

Compulsory themes: social issues and trends, political and/or intellectual and/or artistic culture.

- Set literature at A level (choice of text or film at AS). All assessed through a target language essay.
- An independent research project at A level which will be assessed within the Speaking exam.

Unit 1: Listening, reading and translation (9CN0/01)

Written examination: 2 hours 40% of the qualification 80 marks

This paper draws on vocabulary and structures across all four themes. Themes are based on the society and culture of Chinese speaking countries. The examination is made up of:

Section A: Listening (30 marks) A listening assessment based on a recording, featuring male and female Chinese speakers. Students will respond to comprehension questions based on a variety of contexts and sources.

Section B: Reading (30 marks) A reading assessment based on a variety of text types and genres where students will respond to comprehension questions.

Section C: Translation into English (20 marks) Students translate an unseen passage from Chinese to English.

Paper 2: Written response to works and translation (9CN0/02)

Written examination: 2 hours and 40 minutes 30% of the qualification 120 marks

This paper requires students to translate a previously unseen passage from English into Chinese. This paper also draws on the study of two discrete Chinese works: either two literary texts, or one literary text and one film.

Section A: Translation (20 marks)

Students translate an unseen passage from English into Chinese.

Section B: Written response to works (literary texts) (50 marks)

Students must write an extended response on either one or two of the literary texts.

Section C: Written response to works (films) (50 marks) Students who answer only one question on a literary text in Section B must write an extended response on one of the films.

Paper 3: Speaking (9CN0/03M/03C)

Internally conducted and externally assessed
Total assessment time: between 21 and 23 minutes, which includes a single period of 5 minutes' formal preparation time.

30% of the qualification 72 marks

Task 1 draws on vocabulary and structures across all four themes.

Task 2 is based on independent research selected and carried out by the student. The research may be based on one of the themes or on the student's own subject of interest related to the society and culture of the Chinese-speaking world. Students will be assessed on their ability to use a range of language accurately, communicate and interact effectively, summarise and analyse findings from written sources relating to their research subject, and show knowledge and understanding about the society and culture of the Chinese-speaking world.

Task 1 is worth 30 marks

Students discuss one Theme from the specification based on a stimulus containing a short statement.

Task 2 is worth 42 marks

Task 2, Part 1 (independent research presentation) Students present a summary of at least two of the written sources they have used for their research and give a personal response to what they have read.

Task 2, Part 2 (discussion on independent research) Students answer questions on their presentation and then have a wider discussion on their research.

Reading

AS

Basic Chinese – A Grammar and Workbook

By Yip Po-Ching and Don Rimmington

Published by Routledge

Developing Writing Skills in Chinese

By Yuan, Boping and Kan, Qian

Published by Routledge

Colloquial Chinese

By Kan Qian

Published by Routledge

A Level

China Shakes the World:

The Rise of a Global Superpower

By James Kyng

Published by W&N

City of Heavenly Tranquillity:

Beijing in the History of China

By Jasper Becker

Published by Allen Lane

Mao's War Against Nature

By Shapiro

Published by Cambridge University Press

Students should own a large Collins or Oxford bilingual dictionary; a specification related textbook will also be required, details of which will be provided prior to the start of the course.



COMPUTER SCIENCE

Why Computer Science?

Computational thinking is a kind of reasoning used by both humans and machines. Thinking computationally is an important life skill. Thinking computationally means using abstraction and decomposition. The study of computation is about what can be computed and how to compute it. How can we communicate complex ideas simply and how can decompose problems logically? Computer Science involves questions that have the potential to change how we view the world. It also the study of the process of computation, that is:

- How we do things
- How we specify what we do
- How we specify what we are processing

Computer Science is not only a means of learning computer programming or the electronics behind computers but is also about developing skills in using computer systems, applying those skills appropriately and developing awareness and understanding of the use of computing within a business or commercial context.

COMPUTER SCIENCE

What sort of student does it suit and what will you get out of the course?

You do not need to have already followed any formal course in Computer Science and do not have to possess any specific practical computing skills as these can be developed within the course. However, if you do have such a background, this can be built upon. You do need to have a good command of English and Mathematics to cope with the comprehension of concepts and examination questions, some of which require essay-style answers.

Subject content

1 The characteristics of contemporary processors, input, output and storage devices	6 Elements of Computational Thinking
2 Software and Software Development	7 Problem Solving and Programming
3 Exchanging Data	8 Algorithms to Solve Problems and Standard Algorithms
4 Data Types, Data Structures, and Algorithms	9 Non-Exam Assessment – The Computing Practical Project
5 Legal, Moral, Cultural and Ethical Issues	

AS Level

MPW approach to AS Level study

Teaching time is organised so that time is allocated to theory work and the development of practical skills. In terms of practical work, the emphasis is initially on developing the skills required to write program in Python 3. Students are expected to read widely, watch appropriate TV programmes or news items and join in group discussions. Each week students will complete two pieces of written homework and a Timed Assignment on theory work covered in the previous week. A revision test will be given each half term. Practical homework will take the form of a set task, in order to practice new skills.

AS Level Specification (Award Code H046)

Paper 1 Assessed

- Written Exam: 1 hour 15 minutes
- 50% of AS Level

The Computing Principles component introduces learners to the internal workings of the Central Processing Unit (CPU), data exchange mechanisms, software development processes, web technologies, databases, networks, and legal and ethical considerations in computing. We will also consider the impact that computing has already had on society and individuals and the direction that new developments may take in the future. The paper consists of compulsory short and extended-answer questions.

Paper 2 Assessed

- Written Exam: 1 hour 15 minutes
- 50% of AS Level

The Algorithms and Problem-Solving component is designed to develop students' ability to approach problems logically and systematically. It builds upon the foundational knowledge gained in Computing Principles and requires students to apply their understanding of programming concepts, computational thinking, and algorithm design to a variety of scenarios. The paper consists of compulsory short and extended-answer questions.

A Level

MPW approach to A level study

The project task will be completed alongside the teaching of A level theory. These units are approached by building on work covered in year 12, but looking at the subject in much more depth. Students are again expected to read widely and draw upon a range of sources of information, particularly on new developments, computer games and an app for a mobile phone. Students will have developed background knowledge and understanding to enable them to take part fully in discussions, both oral and written. Students will be expected to apply their knowledge to a variety of different situations and problems. Each week students will complete a Timed Assignment on theory work covered in the previous week and a written homework. A revision test will be given each half term.

A Level Specification (Award Code H047)

Paper 1 Assessed

- Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes
- 40% of A level

This unit expands on the content introduced in first year but in significantly greater depth. This paper covers advanced computing principles, including computer architecture, memory management, machine-level operations, networking, and security. Students will also explore topics such as encryption, operating systems, and the role of databases in computing. Additionally, this unit emphasises the legal, ethical, and moral considerations of computing in further detail. The paper consists of compulsory short and extended-answer questions.

Paper 2 Assessed

- On screen exam: 2 hours 30 minutes
- 40% of A level

This unit builds upon the problem-solving skills introduced in first year but includes more advanced programming concepts and data structures. Students will work with object-oriented programming (OOP), recursion, algorithm

efficiency analysis (Big-O Notation), and functional programming. This paper also introduces graph theory, tree structures, and more sophisticated algorithmic approaches. The paper consists of compulsory short and extended-answer questions.

Non-Exam Assessment

Computing Practical Project

- Assessed
- Internal assessment
- 20% of A level

Students complete a project providing students with an opportunity to demonstrate their ability to apply computational thinking principles to a practical coding problem. This project is designed to develop students' skills in problem-solving, software development, and project management, simulating real-world programming scenarios. The project follows an agile development approach, where students continuously refine their work through iterative improvements, integrating feedback and testing at various stages. The Project is centre-assessed and externally moderated by OCR.

Reading

AS & A Level

OCR AS and A Level Computer Science

By Heathcote and Heathcote
Published by PG Online Limited,
ISBN 978-1910523056

Glossary of Computing Terms

By British Computer Society
Published by Longman

For full specification details, consult the exam board's website on: <https://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/170844-specification-accredited-a-level-gce-computer-science-h446.pdf>



DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY

What is Digital Photography?

A level Digital Photography at MPW offers students an opportunity to explore Photography, Fine Art Photography and Digital Manipulation in a format that encourages and supports students to develop a strong photographic language that they can use to express the world around them. Experiencing and understanding the work of contemporary and masters of Photography is an essential part of the course.



DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY

What sort of student does it suit and what will you get out of the course?

Students who are interested in studying Digital Photography do not need a GCSE qualification in Art or Photography, but should have a genuine interest in capturing objects and/or moments using a camera. In addition to learning how to handle and understand the tools a digital camera offers, students will be introduced to editing programs used by professional photographers such as Adobe Photoshop and Lightroom. Students will also be encouraged to experiment with modern and conceptual ideas used by exhibiting artists.

The course is suitable for both students who wish to undertake further studies in the field of photography and for those who simply have an interest and aptitude for the subject, but who do not intend to take the subject beyond A level study.

AS Level MPW approach to AS Level study

The AS year of the course is designed to encourage exploration and experimentation within Digital Photography. Students undertake a series of projects that will allow them to discover their strengths and identify weaknesses in their visual language. At the end of the year, students will evaluate their strengths and weaknesses and decide which area of Photography they will focus on in their second year of the course.

AS Level Specification - OCR H603

Externally Set Task (02)

- 80 marks
- 100% of AS level

A Level MPW approach to A Level study

With the AS part of the course complete, students are aware of their strengths within Digital Photography and are able to make a choice about which area within art they focus on in their Personal Investigation (60% of total A level). The Personal Investigation is a portfolio of work that shows a personal response to a starting point that is negotiated between the student and tutor. In addition to this, a 1000–3000 word written study that relates to the student's practical work and work of relevant photographers is also completed. The final stage of the course is the Externally Set Task (40% of total A level). Unlike the Personal Investigation, the starting point for this project is set by OCR in the form of an exam paper. The paper offers a number of themes that students can work on. Students have 12-14 weeks to create a body of preparatory work which documents the development of a final idea. Students are given 15 hours to create a final piece of work in exam conditions.

A Level Specification - OCR H603

Personal Investigation (01)

120 marks
60% of total A level

Externally Set Task (02)

80 marks
40% of total A level

Reading

AS & A Level

Vitamin Ph
By Rodrigo Alonso
Published by Phaidon

The Photography Book
By Ian Jeffery
Published by Phaidon



What is Economics?

Economics is the study of markets, in particular how they work, why they fail and how they can be effectively managed. The UK's economic performance can be assessed both in a national and global context. Economics policies designed to promote consumer welfare and business confidence can be evaluated alongside policies to create economic growth and development.

ECONOMICS

What sort of student does it suit and what will you get out of the course?

This course will appeal to students who enjoy studying a subject that affects their everyday lives.

No previous experience of economics is required but an interest in national and international affairs is desirable. Economics can easily be combined with other social science and humanities subjects, although it is becoming an increasingly popular choice for aspiring medics and dentists. You will learn how to develop an understanding of economic concepts and theories through a critical consideration of current economic issues, problems and institutions. By the end of the course you should be able to apply economic concepts and theories in a range of contexts and to appreciate their value and limitations in explaining real-world phenomena. You should also know how to analyse, explain and evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the market economy and the role of government within it.

AS Level

MPW approach to AS Level study

Economics is taught by a small cohort of enthusiastic teachers, who are passionate about the subject and sharing their subject knowledge with their students. Unlike many other colleges, MPW offers students the opportunity to apply economic theory learnt in the classroom to real past paper questions and case studies from an early stage. Familiarity with the demands of the assessment objectives throughout the course will build student's confidence and they will know exactly what is expected of them in the examination. Students are provided with booklets to help with note taking and benefit from synoptic assessment in the weekly Timed Assignments.

Economics is a subject which continues to dominate the headlines, and at MPW we embrace the changing nature of economics by encouraging classroom discussion and debate on the changing economic climate therefore differentiating the teaching style on a regular basis.

Due to the synoptic nature of the assessment it has become increasingly important that students are willing and able to participate in independent research around a wide range of markets and economies in order to build a strong collection of examples which will reinforce economic judgements made in the examination.

AS Level Specification - Edexcel 8EC01

Theme 1

- 1 hour 30 minutes exam
- 50% of AS

Markets: Introduction to markets and market failure

This unit provides an introduction to the nature of economics and examines how the price mechanism allocates resources in markets. It analyses the nature of market failure, its causes and possible policy remedies. At the end of this unit, students should be able to apply supply and demand analysis to real-world situations; to understand why markets might not allocate resources efficiently and the methods of dealing with market failure, together with an evaluation of their effectiveness.

Theme 2

- 1 hour 30 minutes exam
- 50% of AS

Managing the Economy

This unit introduces the key measures of economic performance and the main objectives and instruments of economic policy. Students should be able to use a basic AD/AS model to understand why demand and/or supply side policies may be seen as appropriate ways of managing an economy; predict the possible impact of such policies and to recognize the assumptions involved; argue for different approaches and identify criteria for success.

A Level

MPW approach to A Level study

The teaching methodology applied to A level study is essentially the same as for the AS, however there is greater focus on independent reading and research when covering the fourth topic area. Due to the extent of necessary research students are encouraged to participate in class discussions and prepare presentations which would be conveyed to the whole class, although some students feel uneasy when it comes to presentations it is an essential task which will help prepare them for the necessary demands of university coursework.

Providing students with a well-structured and logical scheme of work is important as it should help them to work in a disciplined and consistent manner, with clear targets and deadlines. Regular revision is likely to lead to a good understanding of the principles as they are introduced which is essential if they are to be successfully applied later on.

A Level Specification - Edexcel 9EC01

The A level qualification will study the following two themes in addition to themes 1 and 2 stated for AS study.

Theme 3 - Business Economics and The Labour Market

This unit develops the content of theme 1 and for students hoping to attain the A level qualification they will have to sit paper 1 which tests theme 1 and theme 3 concepts side by side. Theme 3 examines how the pricing and nature of competition between firms is affected by the number and size of market participants. At the end of this unit, students should be able to analyse the pricing and output decisions of firms in different contexts. They should also be capable of making an appraisal of government intervention aimed at promoting competitive markets.

Theme 4 - The Global Economy

This unit develops the knowledge and skills gained in theme 2 so that they can be applied in a global context, however, theme 2 concepts will be tested alongside theme 4 concepts in the examination. An awareness of trends and developments in the global economy over the last 10 years is required.

At the end of the course students will be assessed across three papers. Paper 1 covers content covered in themes 1 and 3. Paper 2 assesses content covered in themes 2 and 4. Paper 3 assesses students holistically and tests content from all four themes detailed within the specification.

Paper 1: Markets and Business Behaviour (35%)

Paper 2: National and Global Economy (35%)

Paper 3: Micro and Macroeconomics (30%)

Reading

AS

Economics

By Peter Smith

Published by Hodder Education,
ISBN 9781471830006

Economics

By Alain Anderton

Published by Pearson, ISBN 9781447990550

A Level

Economics 6th Edition

By Alain Anderton

Published by Pearson, ISBN 9781447990550

Economics 2

By Peter Smith

Published by Hodder Education,
ISBN 9781471830051

Full A level specification details: <https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/economics-a-2015.html>



ENGLISH LITERATURE



What is English Literature?

The study of English Literature at A level is, in broad terms, an introduction to one of the major Arts and an opportunity to read constructively from a wide range of important writing between the fourteenth century and the present time. It is a discipline which fosters the development of perceptive analytical skills and independent thought. A minimum of four texts will be studied and the specification will cover the three literary genres: drama, poetry and prose.

ENGLISH LITERATURE

What sort of student does it suit and what will you get out of the course?

This course combines well at A level with any other subject, offering close contextual and conceptual links with Humanities and the Arts, a concern with the development of the human mind and spirit parallel to those which Medicine and Psychology pursue, and a close study of definitive text from at least seven centuries which can underpin studies preparatory for the legal profession. It may also offer a balancing discipline for study with pure sciences and Mathematics. All universities perceive English Literature at A level to be a rigorous academic subject, and students who wish to continue their studies in English Literature at university will find entry very competitive for this subject. They will, however, also find a broad range of courses in which it may be studied in combination with other subjects.

AS Level

MPW approach to AS Level study

The OCR specification is structured appropriately to ease the transition from GCSE to A level.

The tutorials are, by the nature of the subject, interactive as well as analytical. Students who study English Literature are expected to draw and reflect on their own life experiences to understand the themes of the texts studied. In addition, tutors will help develop the language skills of the students by analysing the techniques and devices of inspiring novelists, playwrights and poets. With a view to preparing students for the A level course, tutors will encourage students to look for thematic links and to explore the social, cultural and historical contexts of the characters and the authors they study. There will be one weekly Timed Assignment as well as two homework assignments per week. It goes without saying that students will be required to read widely in order to broaden their vocabulary and to enhance their writing style.

The MPW English Department prides itself on the programme of theatre trips and conferences it arranges to support and encourage the enjoyment of literature. We benefit hugely from being located in close proximity to the Crescent Theatre, Birmingham Rep and the Midlands Arts Centre and within easy travelling distance of The Royal Shakespeare Company in Stratford-Upon Avon. The department benefits greatly from the involvement of tutors who are very experienced, possess specialist knowledge of a broad range of literary genres and writers.

AS Level Specification - OCR H072

Component 01 (50%) Examination Shakespeare and poetry pre-1900

Assessment is by means of a written one hour and thirty minutes paper which is closed book. Two texts are selected for study: one Shakespeare and one pre-1900 poetry texts. Candidates are required to answer two questions, one from each section of the paper.

Works of drama (Shakespeare) and poetry ranging from Geoffrey Chaucer to Christina Rossetti are examined with a view to developing critical literary skills and greater understanding of the contexts in which texts are produced together with the variety of possible interpretations. They will need to relate their study of a given poem or extract from a longer work to the text as a whole.

Component 02 (50%) Examination Drama and Prose post-1900

Assessment is by means of a written one hour and forty five minutes paper which is closed book. Two texts are selected for study: one drama and one prose texts, both of which are written post-1900. Candidates are required to answer two questions, one from each section of the paper.

Through this study of modern literature, including drama ranging from Harold Pinter to Tennessee Williams and prose from F Scott Fitzgerald to Angela Carter, candidates learn to compare texts and gain confidence in their use of literary critical concepts and terminology. They will develop their appreciation of the cultural and contextual influences on writers and readers, responding in the prose section critically and creatively to their set text and an unseen prose passage which is linked thematically to their set text.

A Level

MPW approach to A Level study

The OCR specification is structured appropriately to ease the transition from GCSE to A level. The tutorials are, by the nature of the subject, interactive as well as analytical. Students who study English Literature are expected to draw and reflect on their own life experiences to understand the themes of the texts studied. In addition, tutors will help develop the language skills of the students by analysing the techniques and devices of inspiring novelists, playwrights and poets. With a view to preparing students for the A level course, tutors will encourage students to look for thematic links and to explore the social, cultural and historical contexts of the characters and the authors they study. There will be one weekly Timed Assignment as well as two homework assignments per week. It goes without saying that students will be required to read widely in order to broaden their vocabulary and to enhance their writing style. The MPW English Department prides itself on the programme of theatre trips and conferences it arranges to support and encourage the enjoyment of literature. We benefit hugely from being located in close proximity to the Crescent Theatre, Birmingham Rep and the Midlands Arts Centre and within easy travelling distance of The Royal Shakespeare Company in Stratford-Upon Avon. The department benefits greatly from the involvement of tutors who are very experienced, possess specialist knowledge of a broad range of literary genres and writers.

A Level Specification - OCR H472

Component 01 (40%) Examination Shakespeare, drama and poetry pre-1900

Assessment is by means of a written two hour and 30 minute paper which is closed book. Three texts are selected for study, two drama- one Shakespeare and one other dramatist and one poetry texts. All the texts must be written pre 1900. Candidates are required to answer two questions, one from each section of the paper. The study of Shakespeare is the focus for the first question whilst in the second they will explore connections between their chosen texts from the genres of drama and poetry. Through the course, candidates will develop not only a detailed knowledge and understanding of the set texts, but their appreciation of cultural and contextual influences on writers, readers and/or audiences and explore relationships between texts.

Component 02 (40%) Examination Comparative and contextual study

Assessment is by means of a written two hour and 30 minute paper which is closed book. A topic area taken from: American Literature 1880-1940, The Gothic, Dystopia, Women in Literature and the Immigrant Experience will be chosen. At least two texts must be studied from the chosen area, one

of which must be from the core list provided by the board; the second text may be chosen from this core list or from the list of suggested texts. Learners are required to explore contrasts, connections and comparisons between different literary texts within the context of a specific topic area. The first question involves close reading and the second a comparative and contextual study, both from the chosen topic area.

Component 03 (20%) Coursework Close reading or re-creative writing piece with commentary and a comparative essay

Assessment is by two pieces of coursework. One piece is a close, critical analysis of a section of a text in relation to the text as a whole or one poem in relation to others by the same writer. The other piece is a comparative study of two texts, informed by interpretations of other readers. The word limit for the coursework is 3000 across both essays.

Through this study of modern literature with one text in each of prose, poetry and drama published after 1900, including a work published or performed after 2000, candidates learn to compare texts and gain confidence in their use of literary critical concepts and terminology. Candidates have the opportunity to follow areas of individual interest and enjoyment, exploring connections such as stylistic, thematic or contextual.

Reading

Tutors will advise on the versions of set texts required at the start of the course.

Specification details: further details of the specification and texts for each unit can be obtained from <https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-and-a-level/english-literature-h072-h472-from-2015/>



What is Film Studies?

Film is one of the main cultural innovations of the 20th century and a major art form of the last hundred years. Film Studies consequently makes an important contribution to the curriculum, offering the opportunity to investigate how film works both as a medium of representation and as an aesthetic medium. Production work is a crucial part of this specification and is integral to learners' study of film. Studying a diverse range of films from several different contexts is designed to give learners the opportunity to apply their knowledge and understanding of how films are constructed to their own filmmaking and screenwriting. This is intended to enable learners to create high quality film and screenplay work as well as provide an informed filmmaker's perspective on their own study of film.

FILM STUDIES

What sort of student does it suit and what will you get out of the course?

Those who study it characteristically bring with them a high degree of enthusiasm and excitement for what is a powerful and culturally significant medium, inspiring a range of responses from the emotional to the reflective. Film studies is a course for the inquisitive mind and those who enjoy the medium in all its forms who wish to understand how film has evolved in the last 100 years.

AS Level

MPW approach to AS Level study

Unlike many schools, the Film Studies tutors at MPW are subject specialists that have Film related first degrees, plus experience of working in the industry and writing and creating fiction and non-fiction films. The specification is designed to introduce A level learners to a wide variety of films in order to broaden their knowledge and understanding of film and the range of responses films can generate. This specification therefore offers opportunities to study mainstream American films from the past and the present as well as a range of recent and contemporary British films, American independent films and global films, both non-English language and English language. Students will also commence writing a weekly blog about their own media use, and posts that analyse texts studied in and out of class.

Film Studies WJEC/Eduqas

AS level WJEC 603/0972/6

Component 1: American film

Written examination: 1 hour

35% of qualification

This component assesses knowledge and understanding of three American films.

Section A: Hollywood 1930-1990 (comparative study)

One two-part question, requiring reference to two Hollywood films, one produced between 1930 and 1960 and the other between 1961 and 1990. There are a choice of questions in the second part.

Section B: Contemporary American independent film

One two-part question, requiring reference to one contemporary American independent film (produced after 2010). There are a choice of questions in the second part.

Component 2: European film

Written examination: 1 hour

35% of qualification

This component assesses knowledge and understanding of two British films and one non-English language European film.

Section A: British film (two-film study)

One two-part question, requiring reference to two recent British films. There are a choice of questions in the second part.

Section B: Non-English language European film

One two-part question, requiring reference to one non-English language European film. There are a choice of questions in the second part.

Component 3: Production

Non-exam assessment

30% of qualification

This component assesses one production and its accompanying evaluative analysis.

Production (20%)

Either an extract from a film highlighting narrative construction (2 to 3 minutes) or a screenplay for an extract from a film highlighting narrative construction of between 1200 and 1400 words plus a digitally photographed storyboard of a key section from the screenplay (approximately 1 minutes' screen time, corresponding to approximately 15 storyboard shots).

Evaluative analysis (10%)

An evaluative analysis (1000-1250 words) of the production in comparison with other professionally produced films or screenplays.

A Level

A/GCE Level WJEC 603/1147/2

Component 1: Varieties of film

Written examination: 2 hours

35% of qualification

This component assesses knowledge and understanding of six feature-length films.

Section A: Hollywood 1930-1990 (comparative study)

One question from a choice of two, requiring reference to two Hollywood films, one from the Classical Hollywood period (1930-1960) and the other from the New Hollywood period (1961-1990).

Section B: American film since 2005 (two-film study)

One question from a choice of two, requiring reference to two American films, one mainstream film and one contemporary independent film.

Section C: British film since 1995 (two-film study)

One question from a choice of two, requiring reference to two British films.

Component 2: Global filmmaking perspectives

Written examination: 2 hours

35% of qualification

This component assesses knowledge and understanding of five feature-length films (or their equivalent).

Reading

Film Studies for Dummies (Paperback)

By James Cateridge

Published by John Wiley & Sons



Section A: Global film (two-film study)

One question from a choice of two, requiring reference to two global films: one European and one produced outside Europe.

Section B: Documentary film

One question from a choice of two, requiring reference to one documentary film.

Section C: Film movements – Silent cinema

One question from a choice of two, requiring reference to one silent film or group of films.

Section D: Film movements – Experimental film (1960-2000)

One question from a choice of two, requiring reference to one film option.

Component 3: Production

Non-exam assessment

30% of qualification

This component assesses one production and its evaluative analysis.

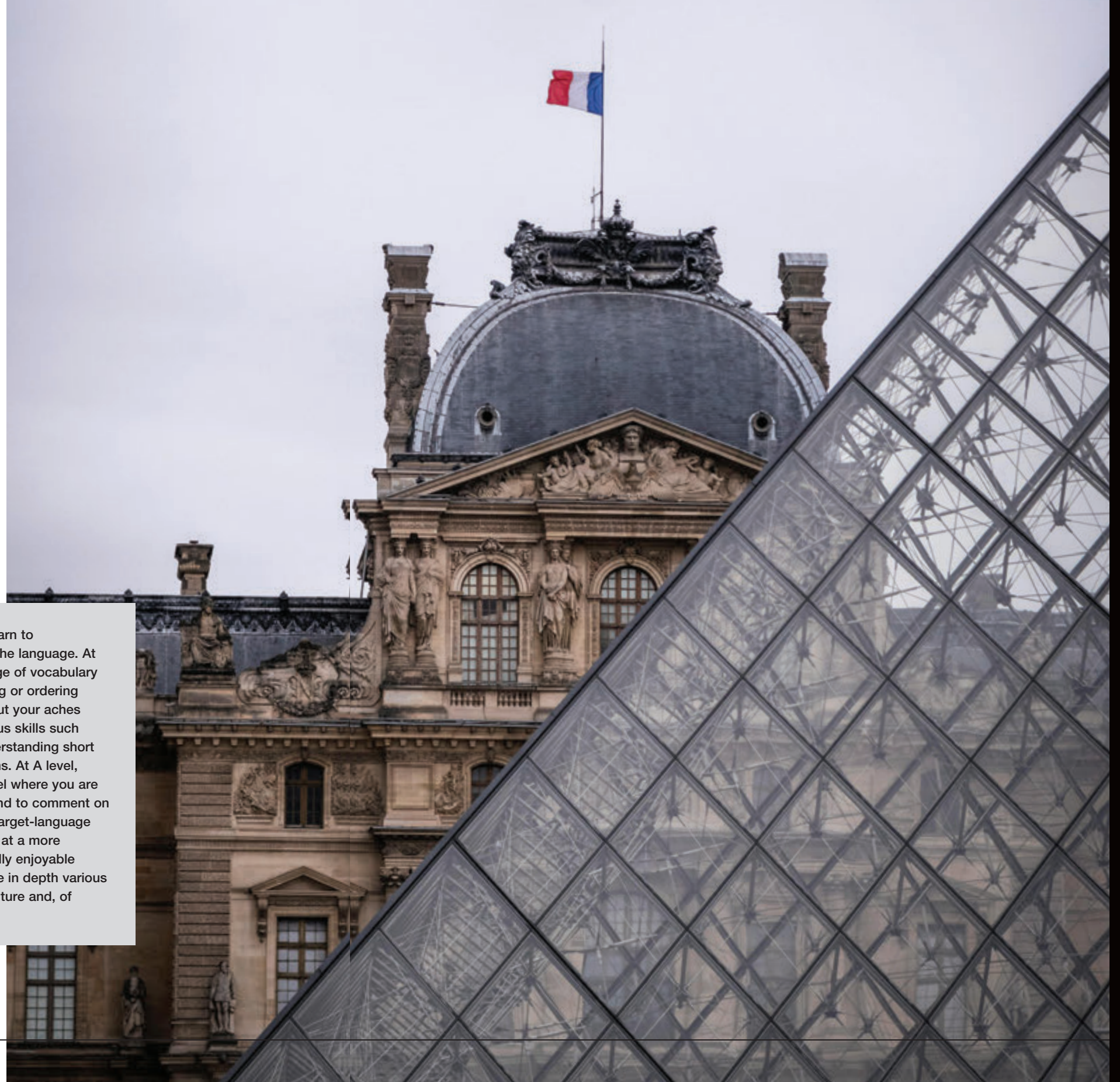
Learners produce:

Either a short film (4-5 minutes) or a screenplay for a short film (1600-1800 words) plus a digitally photographed storyboard of a key section from the screenplay and an evaluative analysis (1600-1800 words).

FRENCH

What is French?

Through a multitude of topics, you will learn to communicate at a sophisticated level in the language. At GCSE level, the emphasis is on knowledge of vocabulary and everyday transactions such as buying or ordering food and drink or telling your doctor about your aches and pains. In addition there are the various skills such as writing letters to pen-friends and understanding short texts and listening to brief, recorded items. At A level, the emphasis shifts to a much higher level where you are expected to offer opinions, to evaluate and to comment on key aspects of the country in which the target-language is spoken. The vocabulary is accordingly at a more demanding level. French is an undoubtedly enjoyable course which enables students to explore in depth various aspects of the recent history, society, culture and, of course, language of the country.



FRENCH

A Level

MPW approach to A Level study

This will be a continuation of the approaches in the first year of study. Grammar will continue to be practised as well as the linguistic structures. Many lessons will be conducted in the target language to develop listening skills. Both oral and essay skills will be developed through regular presentations, debates and discussions. The choice of topics and texts will be made by the tutor from the broad range offered by the board. Students will be encouraged to listen to radio broadcasts, watch films and TV programmes and read magazines and newspapers in the target language. It is essential that students take an interest in the culture and society of France and French-speaking countries and communities as this underpins their study of the language as well as prepares them for the examination papers.

A Level Specification - Edexcel 9FR0

Paper 1: Listening, reading and translation. 40% of final qualification. 2 hours.

Section A: Listening – A listening assessment based on a recording, featuring French speakers.

Students will respond to comprehension questions based on a variety of contexts and sources.

Section B: Reading – A reading assessment based on a variety of text-types and genres where students will have to respond to comprehension questions.

Section C: Translation into English – An unseen passage to be translated from French to English.

Paper 2: Written response to works and translation. 30% of final qualification. 2 hours 40 mins.

Section A: Translation – Students translate an unseen passage from English into French.

Section B: Written response to works (literary texts*) – Students must write an extended response on either one or two of the literary texts chosen by the tutor. Students select one question from a choice of two for each of their chosen literary text(s). If a student answers questions on two literary texts then they do not complete section C.

Section C: Written response to works (films**) – Students who answer only one question from a literary text in Section B must now write an extended response on one film. Students select one question from a choice of two for the chosen film.

Paper 3: Speaking. 30% of final qualification. 21-23 minutes, including 5 minutes' formal preparation time.

Students complete two tasks.

Task 1 (discussion on a Theme) – Students discuss one Theme from the specification based on a stimulus containing two different statements.

Task 2 Part 1 (independent research presentation) – Students present a summary of at least two of the written sources they have used for their research and give a personal response to what they have read.

Task 2 Part 2 (discussion on independent research) – Students answer questions on their presentation and then have a wider discussion on their research.

*The literary text to be studied for A level will be *L'Étranger*, Albert Camus, 1942 (novel).

**The film to be studied for A level will be *La Haine*, dir. Mathieu Kassovitz, 1995.

Reading

Edexcel A level French

By Various

Published by Hodder Education

La Haine Study Guide

By K. Harrington

Published by Hodder Education

Edexcel A level French Grammar Practice

By S. Jacob, J. Schofield

Published by Heinemann

L'Étranger Study guide

By H. Beaugy

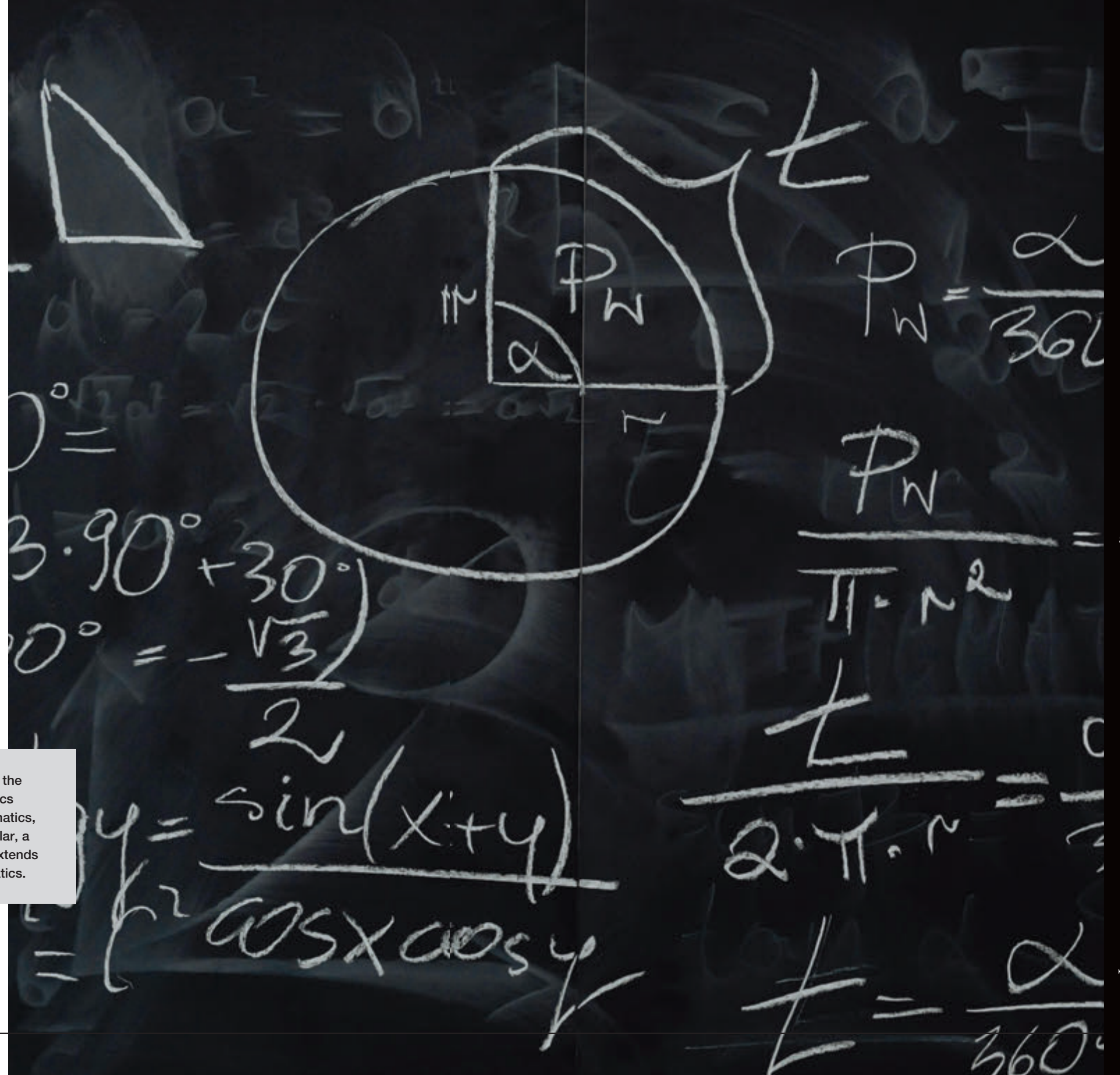
Published by Hodder Education



FURTHER MATHEMATICS

What is Further Mathematics?

A level Further Mathematics builds upon the skills acquired while studying Mathematics and students study Further Pure Mathematics, Mechanics and Statistics. It is, in particular, a qualification which both broadens and extends those topics covered in A level Mathematics.



FURTHER MATHEMATICS

What sort of student does it suit and what will you get out of the course?

This is a challenging course for those with a real interest in and an aptitude for the subject. The training in logic that the course provides is appropriate to most subjects and the course supports careers in the fields of Mathematics, Engineering, Science, Computing, Accountancy and Economics. Moreover, the course equips you with skills such as logistical analysis and deduction, data handling, mathematical modelling and problem solving, all of which can be applied in almost any field of work.

AS Level

MPW approach to AS Level study

The course is taught systematically with much interactive discussion in our small tutorial groups. Regular homework, Timed Assignments and practice examination questions are all analysed in detail in tutorials so that students become familiar with application of all the further mathematical concepts involved and hence gain a thorough understanding of the course material.

AS Level Specification - Edexcel 8FM0

Paper 1: Core Pure Mathematics 1 (Paper Code 8FM0/01)

Proof, complex numbers, matrices, further algebra and functions, further calculus, further vectors.

Paper 2: Further Mechanics 1 and Decision mathematics 1 (Paper code 8FM0/2H)

Momentum and impulse, work, energy and power, elastic collisions in one dimension, algorithms and graph theory, algorithms on graphs, critical path analysis, linear programming.

Paper 2: Further Mechanics 1 and Further Pure 1 (Paper code 8FM0/2C)

Momentum and impulse, work, energy and power, elastic collisions in one dimension, vectors, conic sections, t-formulae, methods in calculus, numerical methods.

Each paper forms 50% of the final qualification and will consist of a 1 hour 40 minute paper with a total mark of 80. Students must answer all questions and calculators can be used in this assessment.

A Level

MPW approach to A Level study

The course is taught systematically with much interactive discussion in our small tutorial groups. Regular homework, Timed Assignments and practice examination questions are all analysed in detail in tutorials so that students become familiar with application of all the further mathematical concepts involved and hence gain a thorough understanding of the course material.

A Level Specification - Edexcel 9FM0

Paper 1: Core Pure Mathematics 1 (Paper Code 9FM0/01)

Paper 2: Core Pure Mathematics 2 (Paper Code 9FM0/02)

Proof, complex numbers, matrices, further algebra and functions, further calculus, further vectors, polar coordinates, hyperbolic functions, differential equations.

Paper 3: Decision Mathematics 1 (Paper Code 9FM0/3D)

Algorithms and graph theory, algorithms on graphs, critical path analysis, linear programming.

Paper 4: Further Pure 1 (Paper Code 9FM0/3A)

Vectors, conic sections, Taylor series, calculus differential equations, numerical methods.

or

Paper 4: Further Mechanics 1 (Paper Code 9FM0/3C)

Momentum and impulse, work, energy and power, elastic strings and springs and elastic energy, elastic collisions in one dimension, elastic collisions in two dimensions. Each paper forms 25% of the final qualification and will consist of a 1 hour paper with a total mark of 75. Students must answer all questions and calculators can be used in this assessment. Paper 1 and Paper 2 may contain questions on any topics from the Pure Mathematics content.

Reading

AS

Edexcel AS and A level Further Mathematics Core Pure Mathematics Book 1

By Greg Atwood et al
Published by Pearson

A Level

Edexcel AS and A level Further Mathematics Core Pure Mathematics Book 2

By Greg Atwood et al
Published by Pearson



What is Geography?

Geography matters. It matters because it's relevant. Geography's relevance stems from the fact that it can lie at the heart of government policy making, as well as affecting the way we live our everyday lives. It considers some of the most critical issues affecting the planet today, such as population growth, globalisation and environmental degradation. To understand geography is to understand your world.



GEOGRAPHY

What sort of student does it suit and what will you get out of the course?

Geography appeals to people who:

- Have an interest in the world around them and how it 'works'
- Want to investigate the ways in which humans use (and abuse) their environment
- Are interested in how humans interact with each other around the world
- Want to look at vital issues affecting us all, such as sustainability and the environment
- Enjoy investigating and analysing information
- Want to develop a wide range of skills, including fieldwork

AS Level

MPW approach to AS Level study

Contemporary case studies, debate, fieldwork and geographical skills work will form a crucial part of geography teaching. Skills and knowledge developed in the first year of study will form the foundation for year two.

AS Level Specification - OCR H081

Contemporary case studies, debate, fieldwork and geographical skills work will form a crucial part of geography teaching. The OCR Geography AS level covers both human and physical geography topics and concludes at the end of the first year with two exams. Geographical skills are taught throughout the course as part of all topics and fieldwork must also be completed.

Topic One: Coastal Landscapes

This topic enables students to learn about the environmental systems and relationships that shape our world. Students will learn about coastal systems, landscapes and the problems human activity brings to these areas.

Topic Two: Earth's Life Systems

Water and carbon support life on earth. This topic examines the importance of the carbon and water cycles and then goes a step further to consider issues such as the changing nature of the cycles and the relationship between the two. Students will also study two contrasting areas, tropical rainforest and arctic tundra.

Topic Three: Changing Spaces; Making Places

This human geography topic examines the ways in which human spaces and places change and evolve over time. Students will consider the role of migration and globalisation. Students will also investigate the role of media, thinking about how films, television shows, music and even graffiti affects the way we think about locations and places.

Topic Four: Independent Investigation

Investigative geography gives learners the opportunity to undertake an independent investigation which is of particular interest to them, which can be related to any area of the specification. The independent investigation will consist of a written report which will assess the process of enquiry and investigation. The report must be an independent investigation but data collection can be conducted within a group. This will be a nonexamination assessment. The issue evaluation comprises structured short and extended questions based on an advance information booklet.

A Level

A Level Specification - OCR H481

The OCR Geography A level is the study of 7 topics and issues covering both human and physical geography. For the full A level qualification students will take 3 exams and complete coursework.

Topic Five: Global Migration and Human Rights

This topic allows students to explore the processes and flows that occur at the global levels and the ways in which these influence people, places and institutions. The study of two themes – global systems and global governance – enables students to investigate how these shape relationships between citizens, states and organisations around the world.

Topic Six: Hazardous Earth

Debate is a key element of geography. This topic involves in-depth research and study into the issues that affect the world most. Every year natural disasters affect one in thirty people on Earth. Whether developing or industrialised, all nations are at risk. This topic enables students to explore tectonic hazards. Students will study plate tectonic theory and its associated evidence and discuss the main hazards created by volcanic and seismic activity.

Paper 1 – Physical systems

- 66 marks
- 1 hour 30 minute written paper
- 22% of the A level

Paper 2 – Human Interactions

- 66 marks
- 1 hour 30 minute written paper
- 22% of the A level

Topic Seven: Exploring Oceans

This diverse and captivating topic allows students to understand the complexities of our oceans. It combines physical geographical elements as well as human elements, allowing students with affinities for each field to thrive and enjoy their learning. Oceans are home to important resources such as tidal energy, food and non-renewable fuel sources. But they are under threat from the effects of climate change and an increasing human population, such as through acidification and pollution. Students will study these effects and how best we can manage them, in order to protect our oceans from harmful change. They will also uncover the history of oceans and their importance in trade and migration.

Paper 3 – Geographical debates

- 108 marks
- 2 hour 30 minute written paper
- 36% of the A level

Independent Investigation

- 60 marks
- Non examination assessment
- 20% of the A level

Reading

OCR A level Geography Second Edition

By Raw, Palmer, Stiff, Barker and Harris

Published by Hodder Education



What is German?

Through a multitude of topics, you will learn to communicate at a sophisticated level in the language. At GCSE level, the emphasis is on knowledge of vocabulary and everyday transactions such as buying or ordering food and drink or telling your doctor about your aches and pains. In addition there are the various skills such as writing letters to pen-friends and understanding short, texts and listening to brief, recorded items. At A level, the emphasis shifts to a much higher level where you are expected to offer opinions, to evaluate and to comment on key aspects of the country in which the target-language is spoken. The vocabulary is accordingly at a more demanding level. Nevertheless, it will prove an enjoyable course which enables students to explore in depth various aspects of the recent history, society, culture and, of course, language of the country.



A Level

MPW approach to A Level study

This will be a continuation of the approaches in the first year of study. Grammar will continue to be practised as well as the linguistic structures. Much of the lesson will be conducted in the target language to develop listening skills. Both oral and essay skills will be developed through regular presentations, debates and discussions. The choice of topics and texts will be made by the tutor from the broad range offered by the board. Students will be encouraged to listen to radio broadcasts, watch films and TV programmes and read magazines and newspapers in the target language. It is essential that students take an interest in the culture and society of Germany and German-speaking countries and communities as this underpins their study of the language as well as prepares them for the examination papers.

A Level Specification -Edexcel 9GN0

Paper 1: Listening, reading and translation. 40% of final qualification. 2 hours

Section A: Listening – A listening assessment based on a recording, featuring German speakers. Students will respond to comprehension questions based on a variety of contexts and sources.

Section B: Reading – A reading assessment based on a variety of text-types and genres where students will have to respond to comprehension questions.

Section C: Translation into English – An unseen passage to be translated from German to English.

Paper 2: Written response to works and translation. 30% of final qualification. 2 hours 40 mins.

Section A: Translation – Students translate an unseen passage from English into German.

Section B: Written response to works (literary texts*) – Students must write an extended response on either one or two of the literary texts chosen by the tutor. Students select one question from a choice of two for each of their chosen literary text(s). If a student answers questions on two literary texts then they do not complete section C.

Section C: Written response to works (films)** – Students who answer only one question from a literary text in Section B must now write an extended response on one film. Students select one question from a choice of two for the chosen film.

Paper 3: Speaking. 30% of final qualification. 21–23 minutes, including 5 minutes' formal preparation time.

Students complete two tasks.

Task 1 (discussion on a Theme) – Students discuss one Theme from the specification based on a stimulus containing two different statements.

Task 2 Part 1 (independent research presentation) – Students present a summary of at least two of the written sources they have used for their research and give a personal response to what they have read.

Task 2 Part 2 (discussion on independent research) – Students answer questions on their presentation and then have a wider discussion on their research.

*The literary text to be studied for A level will be: Andorra, Max Frisch, 1961 (play).

**The film to be studied for A level will be: Good Bye, Lenin!, dir. Wolfgang Becker (2003).

Reading

AS & A Level

Edexcel A level German

By Various

Published by Hodder Education

Edexcel German Grammar for A level

By J. Klapper

Published by Hodder Education

Good Bye, Lenin! Study Guide

By G. Brammall

Published by Hodder Education

A Level

Andorra Study guide

By G. Brammall

Published by Hodder Education



HISTORY

What is History?

Students can choose a course based around the study of Late Modern History. Late Modern courses centre on the development of nation states, totalitarianism and liberal democracy. As such, they combine well with Politics and Economics as well as the more common Humanities, such as English and Languages.



HISTORY

What sort of student does it suit and what will you get out of the course?

Because of its emphasis on analysis and essay-writing skills, A level History is regarded very favourably by many universities as preparation for academic courses, such as Law. During the course, students develop their knowledge of a range of historical periods and work on analytical and evaluative skills. The course is particularly suited to those who take an interest in current affairs and want to understand how historical events shape the world today.

AS Level

MPW approach to AS Level study

There is an emphasis on source evaluation and the acquisition of knowledge in breadth and depth. Wide reading and independent research is required. Regular homework and Timed Assignments to practise essay-writing skills, source analysis and factual knowledge are provided.

AS Level Specification - AQA 7041

The first part of the corresponding full A level option. This involves the study of significant historical developments and associated historical interpretations.

Paper 1 - 50% of AS qualification

Breadth Study

- 2 questions, one compulsory linked to interpretations.
- The Making of a Superpower: USA 1865-1920
- Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes

Paper 2 - 50% of AS qualification

Depth Study

- 2 questions, one compulsory linked to interpretations.
- We will be studying: The Making of Modern Britain 1951-1979
- Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes

A Level

MPW approach to A Level study

There is an emphasis on source evaluation and the acquisition of knowledge in breadth and depth. Wide reading and independent research is required. Regular homework and Timed Assignments to practise essay-writing skills, source analysis and factual knowledge are provided.

A Level Specification - AQA 7042

The full two-year A level course, comprising the study of topics in breadth and depth over periods of at least 200 years.

Paper 1 - 40% of A level qualification

Breadth Study

- Study of historical issues and interpretations over 100 years
- 1 compulsory source question
2 essay questions from 3
- The Making of a Superpower: USA 1865-1975
- Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes

Paper 2 - 40% of A level qualification

Depth Study

- We will be studying The Making of Modern Britain 1951-2007
- 1 compulsory source question
2 essay questions from 3
- Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes
- A personal study of 3500-4500 words comprising an analysis of an historical issue over a period of 100 years.

Non Exam Assessment

Coursework:

The European Witch-Hunt 1560-1660 – 20% of A level qualification

- A personal study of 3500-4500 words comprising an analysis of an historical issue over a period of 100 years.

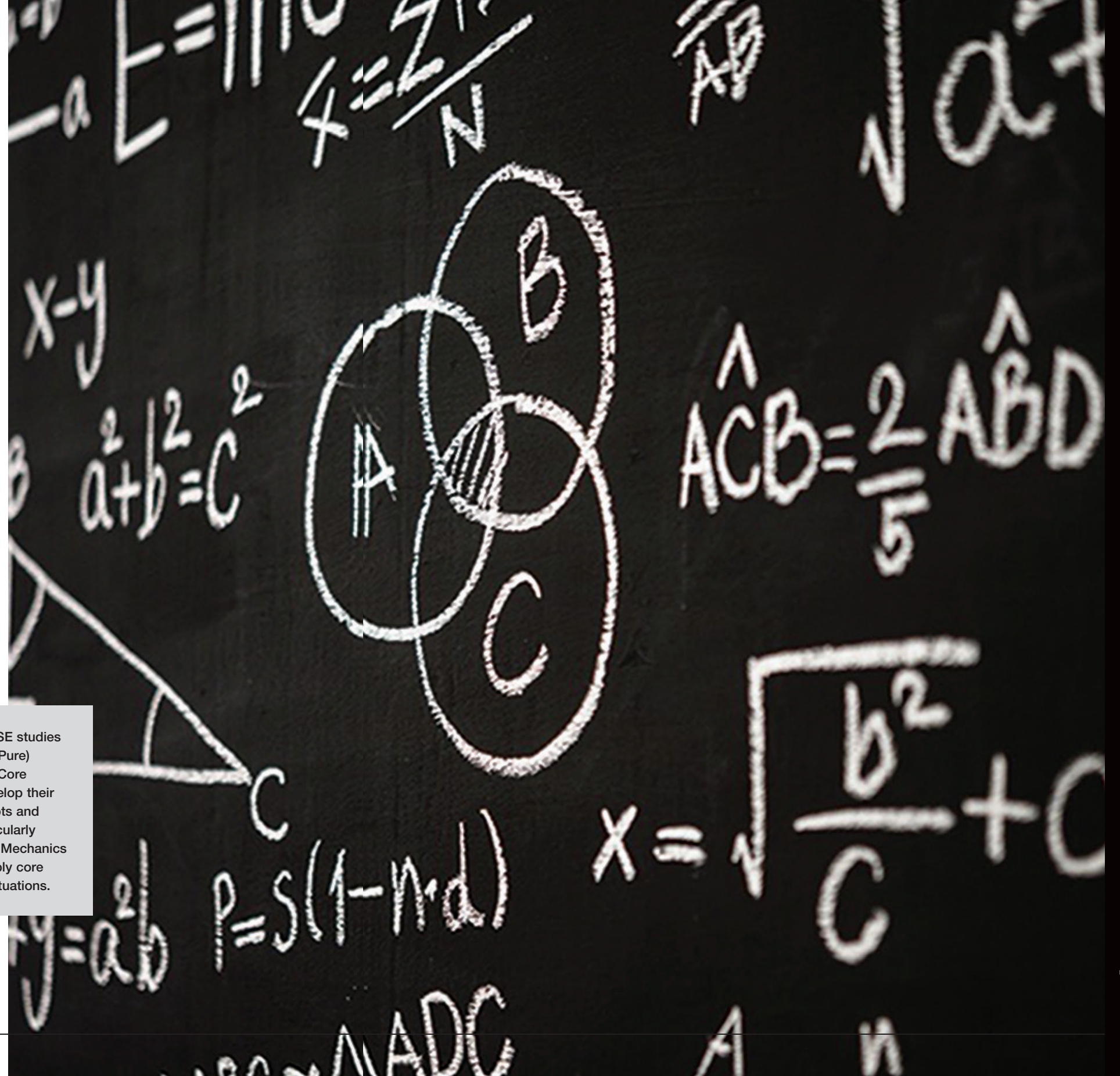
Reading

A specific reading list will be supplied on request.
Full specification details: www.aqa.org.uk



What is Mathematics?

A level Mathematics builds upon the GCSE studies in this subject and students study Core (Pure) Mathematics, Mechanics and Statistics. Core Mathematics will enable students to develop their ability to use mathematical facts, concepts and techniques in a variety of contexts, particularly through the use of calculus and algebra. Mechanics and Statistics will enable students to apply core mathematical techniques to real world situations.



MATHEMATICS

What sort of student does it suit and what will you get out of the course?

Mathematics suits those who enjoy working with numbers, working to a defined set of rules, using precise statements and making logical deductions. Mathematics combines well with a variety of other A level subjects through reinforcing work in scientific subjects and providing a useful background and discipline for many arts based subjects.

AS Level

MPW approach to AS Level study

The course is taught systematically with much interactive discussion in our small tutorial groups. Regular homework, Timed Assignments and practice examination questions are all analysed in detail in tutorials so that students become familiar with application of all the mathematical concepts involved and hence gain a thorough understanding of the course material.

AS Level Specification - Edexcel SMA0

Paper 1: Pure Mathematics (Paper Code 8MA0/01)

Proof, algebra and functions, coordinate geometry in the (x,y) plane, sequences and series, trigonometry, exponentials and logarithms, differentiation, integration, vectors.

Paper 2: Statistics and Mechanics (Paper Code 8MA0/02)

Statistical sampling, data presentation and interpretation, probability, statistical distributions, statistical hypothesis testing, quantities and units in mechanics, kinematics, forces and Newton's laws.

Paper 1: forms 62.5% of the final qualification and will consist of a 2 hour paper with a total mark of 100. Students must answer all questions and calculators can be used in the assessment.

Paper 2: forms 37.5% of the final qualification and will consist of a 1 hour 30 minute paper with a total mark of 60. Students must answer all questions and calculators can be used in this assessment.

A Level

MPW approach to A Level study

The course is taught systematically with much interactive discussion in our small tutorial groups. Regular homework, Timed Assignments and practice examination questions are all analysed in detail in tutorials so that students become familiar with application of all the mathematical concepts involved and hence gain a thorough understanding of the course material.

A Level Specification - Edexcel 9MA0

Paper 1: Pure Mathematics 1 (Paper Code 9MA0/01) and Paper 2: Pure Mathematics 2 (Paper Code 9MA0/02)

Proof, algebra and functions, coordinate geometry in the (x,y) plane, sequences and series, trigonometry, exponentials and logarithms, differentiation, integration, numerical methods, vectors.

Paper 3: Statistics and Mechanics (Paper Code 9MA0/03)

Statistical sampling, data presentation and interpretation, probability, statistical distributions, statistical hypothesis testing, quantities and units in mechanics, kinematics, forces and Newton's laws, moments.

Each paper forms 33.33% of the final qualification and will consist of a 2 hour paper with a total mark of 100. Students must answer all questions and calculators can be used in this assessment. Paper 1 and Paper 2 may contain questions on any topics from the Pure Mathematics content.

Reading

AS

Edexcel AS and A level Mathematics Pure Mathematics Year 1

By Greg Atwood et al
Published by Pearson

Edexcel AS and A level Mathematics Statistics and Mechanics Year 1

By Greg Atwood et al
Published by Pearson

A level

Edexcel AS and A level Mathematics Pure Mathematics Year 2

By Greg Atwood et al
Published by Pearson

Edexcel AS and A level Mathematics Statistics and Mechanics Year 2

By Greg Atwood et al
Published by Pearson



What is Media Studies?

The new A level Media Studies is reformed to a degree that banishes forever any remaining idea that this is a soft or easy subject. Based still on key concepts such as Media Language and Representation, the course focuses on nine media forms that include TV drama, print newspapers, online news, music videos, advertising and magazines. In each case, set texts have been chosen for study in the same way that texts are chosen for subjects like English Literature. As well as your own ideas, you will be expected to learn and apply those of a wide variety of 20th and 21st Century theorists to texts that you analyse. The course is the process of turning you into a media practitioner and analyst-researcher. The subject is about change, with a new focus on how and why we get to where we are with the media today. This means that a new, historical dimension has been added to the A level, with some focus on texts made before 1970, that may be compared with those of today. There remains of course the need to keep on top of current developments in media, and to consider the implications. In real world terms, this study focuses on what media change means to business, institutions, societies, our psychologies and almost every aspect of the world as we know it, knew it, or would like it to be.



MEDIA STUDIES

What sort of student does it suit and what will you get out of the course?

Enquiring, creative people with a strong interest in learning and applying new ideas are most suited to the study of the media. There is a good deal of reading to do, and that includes chapters in books that outline the ideas of key theorists. You will also need to ‘read’ a lot of media, which is to say that newspapers and radio need to become a part of your life, as ‘traditional’ media texts are mandatory to study in the new A level and you will write about them in exams. At the same time, there is still plenty of scope to analyse texts such as music videos and console games. Although Media Studies has become more academic, the value of practical work remains broadly the same, weighted at 30% of both the AS and A level.

AS Level

MPW approach to AS level study

Unlike many schools, the media tutors at MPW are specialists that have either media or media related first degrees, plus experience of working in the industry and in creating media texts. There is now much more theory to learn, so classes will benefit from tutor academic backgrounds that create added value and security in delivery of this, as well as in developing your ability to apply it.

Eduqas/WJEC Specification: AS Level (Qualification Accreditation Number: 603/1150/2)

Component 1: Investigating the Media

Written examination: 1 hour 45 minutes
35% of qualification

The examination assesses media language, representation, media industries, audiences and media contexts. It consists of two sections.

Section A: Investigating Media Language and Representation

This section assesses media language and representation in relation to **two** of the following media forms: advertising, marketing, music video or newspapers. There are **two** questions in this section:

- **one** question assessing media language in relation to an unseen audio-visual or print resource.
- **one** extended response comparison question assessing representation in one set product and an unseen audio-visual or print resource in relation to media contexts.

Section B: Investigating Media Industries and Audiences

This section assesses two of the following media forms – advertising, marketing, film, newspapers, radio, video games – and media contexts.

It includes:

- **one** stepped question on media industries
- **one** stepped question on audiences.

Component 2: Investigating Media Forms and Products

Written examination: 2 hours
35% of qualification

This examination assesses knowledge and understanding of media language, representation, media industries, audiences and media contexts. The exam consists of three sections.

Section A – Television

There will be **one** two-part question **or one** extended response question.

Section B – Magazines

There will be **one** two-part question **or one** extended response question.

Section C – Online Media

There will be **one** two-part question **or one** extended response question.

Component 3: Media Production

Non-exam assessment
30% of qualification

An **individual** media production comprising a single media product created in response to a **choice of briefs set by Eduqas/WJEC**, applying knowledge and understanding of the theoretical framework.

A Level

MPW approach to A Level study

For the AS qualification the emphasis is on how media texts and industries work. The A level course focuses on how and why texts are the way they are, glued to the historical, social, political and economic forces that have shaped them. Students will be expected to read texts developing their understanding of key media terms and concepts. They will also access and understand some of the ‘higher’ theory that is drawn from the wider academic field in which Media Studies exists. The contemporary and often topical nature of the subject means students will need also to read professional weeklies such as Media Guardian, Marketing, and Media Week. Students will prepare material and ideas for seminar presentation and group discussion on an almost weekly basis. This will be a useful taster of the University approach to study through independent reading and research.

Eduqas/WJEC Specification: A Level (Qualification Accreditation Number: 603/1149/6)

Component 1: Media Products, Industries and Audiences

Written examination: 2 hours 15 minutes
35% of qualification

The examination assesses media language, representation, media industries, audiences and media contexts. It consists of two sections:

Section A: Analysing Media Language and Representation

This section assesses media language and representation in relation to two of the following media forms: advertising, marketing, music video or newspapers. There are two questions in this section:

- **one** question assessing media language in relation to an unseen audio-visual or print resource.
- **one** extended response comparison question assessing representation in one set product and an unseen audio-visual or print resource in relation to media contexts.

Section B: Understanding Media Industries and Audiences

This section assesses two of the following media forms – advertising, marketing, film, newspapers, radio, video games - and media contexts.

It includes:

- **one** stepped question on media industries
- **one** stepped question on audiences.

Component 2: Media Forms and Products in Depth

Written examination: 2 hours 30 minutes
35% of qualification

The examination assesses media language, representation, media industries, audiences and media contexts. It consists of three sections:

Section A – Television in the Global Age

There will be **one** two-part question **or one** extended response question.

Section B – Magazines: Mainstream and Alternative Media

There will be **one** two-part question **or one** extended response question.

Section C – Media in the Online Age

There will be **one** two-part question **or one** extended response question.

Component 3: Cross-Media Production

Non exam assessment
30% of qualification

An **individual** cross-media production based on two forms in response to a **choice of briefs set by Eduqas/WJEC**, applying knowledge and understanding of the theoretical framework and digital convergence.

Reading

WJEC Eduqas Media Studies for AS and A level

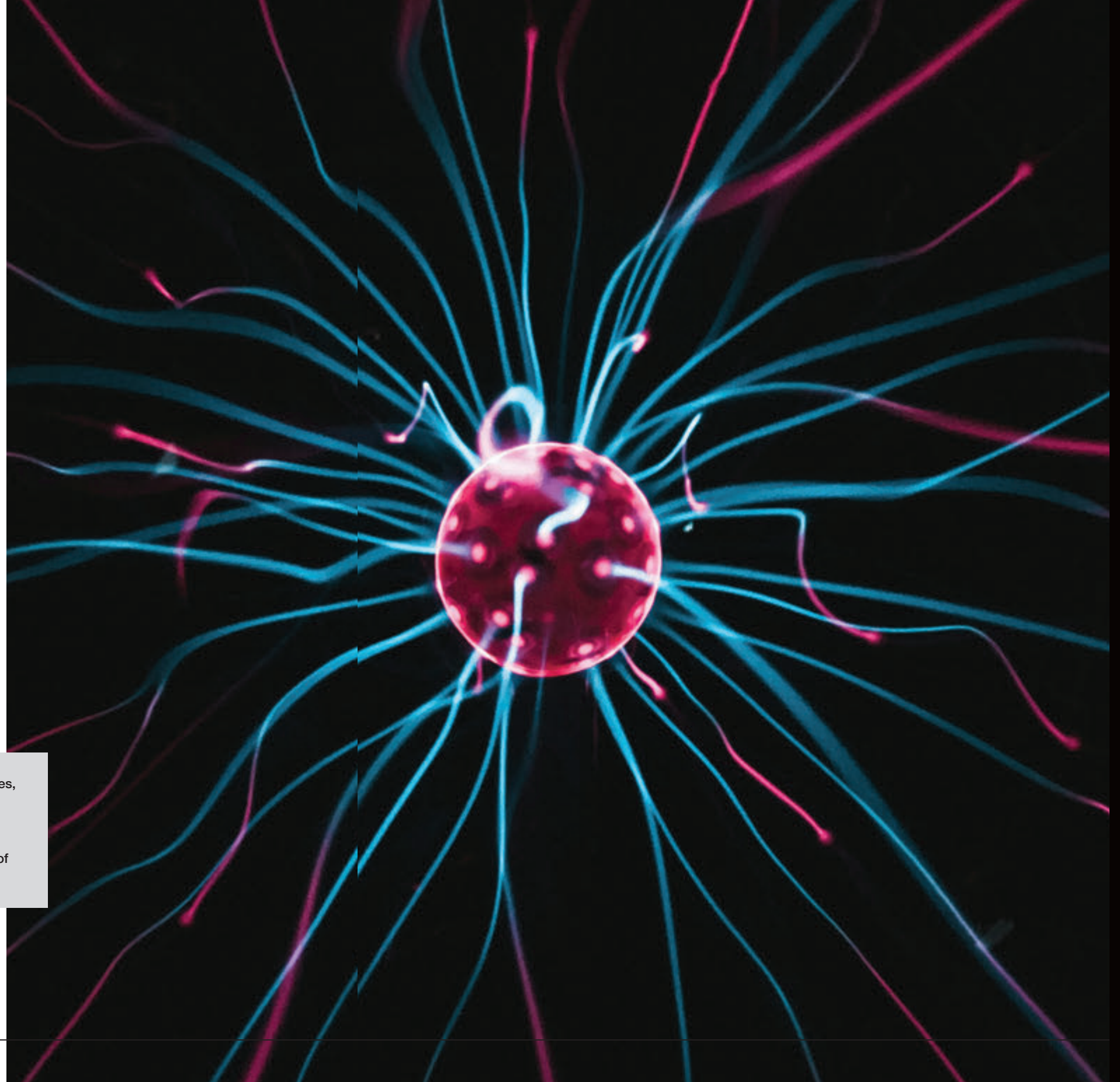
By Christine Bell and Lucas Johnson

Published by Illuminate Publishing



What is Physics?

Physics is the study of the forces, particles, interactions and types of energy in the Universe. At A level it involves studying phenomena from the very smallest fundamental particles to the vast nature of the cosmos.



PHYSICS

What sort of student does it suit and what will you get out of the course?

A level Physics is suitable for students who:

- Have an interest in and enjoy Physics.
- Wish to pursue a career in the Sciences, Engineering, Medicine, Architecture etc.
- Enjoy solving logical problems and carrying out investigations.

AS Level

MPW approach to AS Level study

As well as covering Sections 1–5, a series of set practicals will be included in the course to ensure students have the necessary skills for progressing to further study in whatever field.

AS Level Specification - AQA 7407

The core content for the AS Level course is:

1. Measurements and their errors
2. Particles and radiation
3. Waves
4. Mechanics and materials
5. Electricity

Assessment

Paper 1: Sections 1-5 from the above.

Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes, 70 marks, 50% of AS.

Questions: Short and long answer questions split by topic.

Paper 2: Sections 1-5 from the above.

Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes, 70 marks, 50% of AS.

Questions:

Section A: 20 marks of short and long answer questions on practical skills and data analysis.

Section B: 20 marks of short and long answer questions from across all areas of AS content.

Section C: 30 multiple choice questions.

A Level

MPW approach to A Level study

The second year course of study builds on the foundations laid during the first year of the course and students are expected to carry out a great deal of independent work to develop a broad understanding of the key concepts.

A Level Specification - AQA 7408

A level Physics requires topics 1–5, plus:

6. Further mechanics and thermal physics.
 7. Fields and their consequences.
 8. Nuclear physics.
- plus an Option Topic.

Assessment

Paper 1: Sections 1 to 5 and 6.1 (Periodic motion).

Written exam: 2 hours, 85 marks, 34% of A level.

Questions: 60 marks of short and long answer questions and 25 multiple choice questions on content.

Paper 2: Sections 6.2 (Thermal Physics), 7 and 8 (and assumed knowledge from sections 1 to 6.1).

Written exam: 2 hours, 85 marks, 34% of A level.

Questions: 60 marks of short and long answer questions and 25 multiple choice questions on content.

Paper 3: Section A: Practical skills and data analysis.

Section B: Students enter for one of the available options.

Written exam: 2 hours, 80 marks, 32% of A level.

Questions: 45 marks of short and long answer questions on practical experiments and data analysis, 35 marks of short and long answer questions on the option topic.

Reading

AS & A Level

AQA A level Physics (2nd Edition)

By Jim Breithaupt

Published by Oxford University Press

AQA A level Physics Student Book Collins

By Lynn Pharaoh, Chris Bishop and

Chris Gidzewicz

Published by Oxford University Press





What is Politics?

Politics is about how we are governed. It concerns the ways in which decisions are made with regard to government, state and public affairs; where power lies; how governments and states work; and different theories and practices such as democracy, equality, tyranny and violence. In the course, we look at the activities of political parties and politicians and all sorts of other groups and individuals who take part in political activity and help to shape the society in which we live.

POLITICS

What sort of student does it suit and what will you get out of the course?

Few students have a background in GCSE Politics. This is unnecessary, and many students choose the subject because – as with Economics, Law and Sociology – it is a “new”, unfamiliar subject. It is especially suitable for those studying related disciplines such as the ones above and History, but it can work well as a third subject which contrasts with the main A level courses selected. What is needed is an interest in current affairs (or a willingness to develop one), an open-minded appreciation of both sides of an argument and an ability to communicate views clearly on paper. One of the obvious advantages of Politics is that, by reading a newspaper, watching television or consulting the Internet, all sorts of useful examples can be incorporated into one’s knowledge and understanding.

AS Level

MPW approach to AS Level study

MPW adopts an integrated approach to the teaching of these two interrelated units. Wide reading, not only of textbook and the MPW handouts, but also of newspapers and relevant websites is required, and students complete a minimum of two pieces of written work per week, in addition to the Timed Assignment.

AS Level Specification - 8PLO

Component 1: UK Politics 8PLO/01

Written examination: 1 hour and 45 minutes
50% of the qualification

Content overview - Students will study:

- Democracy and participation
- Political parties
- Electoral systems
- Voting behaviour and the media

Component 2: UK Government 8PLO/02

Written examination: 1 hour and 45 minutes
50% of the qualification

Content overview - Students will study:

- The constitution
- Parliament
- Prime Minister and executive
- Relationships between the branches

A Level

MPW approach to A Level study

MPW adopts a linear approach to A level study, working through each of the components in order across the two year period. Wide reading, not only of textbook and the MPW handouts, but also of newspapers and relevant websites is required, and students complete a minimum of two pieces of written work per week, in addition to the Timed Assignment. It is also paramount that students follow global political affairs to thrive in A level Politics and it is recommended they read US news sources as well as UK ones.

A Level Specification - 9PLO

Component 1: UK Politics 9PLO/01

Written examination: 2 hours. 33% of the qualification
84 marks

Content overview -

1. Political Participation, students will study:
 - Democracy and participation, political parties, electoral systems, voting behaviour and the media.
2. Core Political Ideas, students will study:
 - Conservatism, liberalism, socialism

Assessment overview -

Section A: Political Participation

- One 30-mark question from a choice of two (each question uses a source) – students must complete one of these. Plus one 30- mark question from a choice of two – students must complete one of these.
- All questions assess AO1, AO2 and AO3

Section B: Core Political Ideas

- One 24-mark question from a choice of two, which assesses AO1, AO2 and AO3.

Component 2: UK Government 9PLO/02

Written examination: 2 hours. 33% of the qualification
84 marks

Content overview -

1. UK Government, students will study:
 - The constitution, parliament, Prime Minister and executive, relationships between the branches.
2. Non-core political ideas, students will study:
 - One idea from the following: anarchism, ecologism, feminism, multiculturalism, nationalism.

Assessment overview -

Section A: UK Government

- One 30-mark question from a choice of two (each question uses a source) – students must complete one of these. Plus one 30- mark question from a choice of two – students must complete one of these.
- All questions assess AO1, AO2 and AO3

Section B: Non-core Political Ideas

- One 24-mark question from a choice of two, which assesses AO1, AO2 and AO3.

Component 3: Comparative Politics 9PLO/3A or 3B

Written examination: 2 hours
33% of the qualification
84 marks

Students study either USA (9PLO/3A) or Global (9PLO/3B) – MPW will be studying 3A

Content overview -

For USA (3A), students will study:

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

Assessment overview for 3A and 3B -

Section A:

- One 12-mark question from a choice of two, which assesses AO1 and AO2.

Section B:

- One compulsory 12-mark question focused on comparative theories, which assesses AO1 and AO2.

Section B:

- Two 30-mark questions from a choice of three, which assess AO1, AO2 and AO3.

Reading

Compulsory:

Edexcel UK Government and Politics for AS/A level Seventh Edition

By McNaughton

UK Government and Politics for AS/A level (Fifth Edition)

By Lynch

Political ideas for A level: Liberalism, Conservatism, Socialism, Feminism, Anarchism

By McNaughton

Optional:

US Government & Politics Annual Update 2017

By Bennett

American Government 101

By Sears

Essentials of UK Politics

By Heywood



PSYCHOLOGY



What is Psychology?

Psychology can be defined as the scientific study of human behaviour and how humans experience the world around them from a rational, scientific point of view rather than from a mythical or spiritual view. The new Edexcel specification covers a wide variety of topics and you will enrol on either an AS or an A level course. AS students will sit one written examination and the A level students will sit three written examinations.

PSYCHOLOGY

What sort of student does it suit and what will you get out of the course?

A Level Psychology is an exciting and demanding course that combines elements of science and the humanities. It is particularly well suited to students who are curious about people, enjoy discussion and debate, and are keen to develop strong analytical and evaluative skills. No prior knowledge of psychology is required, but students should be prepared to read widely and engage with complex ideas.

Psychology is the scientific study of the mind and behaviour. Throughout the course, students examine how psychologists explain thoughts, emotions, and actions using a range of scientific methods and theoretical perspectives. As a result, students develop highly transferable skills, including the ability to analyse and evaluate evidence, construct well-reasoned arguments, interpret data and statistics, and design, conduct, and evaluate research.

Because psychology bridges science and the humanities, it provides excellent preparation for a wide range of future pathways. Students often progress to careers in psychology, medicine, education, law, social work, criminology, business, and research, as well as many other fields that value critical thinking and an understanding of human behaviour.

Subject Content and Assessment

These qualifications are linear. Linear means that students will sit all the AS exams at the end of their AS course and all the A-level exams at the end of their A-level course.

AS Level

At AS level, students study six core areas of psychology: social influence, memory, attachment, approaches in psychology, clinical psychology and mental health, and research methods.

Assessment is split equally across two written examination papers.

Paper 1: Introductory Topics in Psychology

Examines social influence, memory, and attachment.

Paper 2: Psychology in Context

Assesses approaches in psychology, clinical psychology and mental health, and research methods.

Each paper is a 1 hour 30 minute written examination worth 72 marks and accounts for 50% of the AS qualification. Both papers are structured into three sections, each containing a mixture of multiple-choice questions, short-answer questions, and extended writing tasks.

A Level

At A-level, students study a broad and balanced range of compulsory topics that develop both theoretical understanding and scientific skills. These include social influence, memory, attachment, clinical psychology and mental health, approaches in psychology, biopsychology, research methods, and key issues and debates in psychology. In addition to this core content, students study three optional topics, selecting one from each option group. These options allow students to explore applied areas of psychology in greater depth, such as relationships, gender, and cognition and development; schizophrenia, eating behaviour, and stress; or aggression, forensic psychology, and addiction.

Assessment for the full A-level qualification is split equally across three written examination papers, each worth 33.3% of the overall grade.

Paper 1: Introductory Topics in Psychology

Examines compulsory topics including social influence, memory, attachment, and clinical psychology and mental health. This paper is a two-hour written examination worth 96 marks and is divided into four sections, each containing a combination of multiple-choice questions, short-answer questions, and extended writing tasks.

Paper 2: Psychology in Context

Assesses approaches in psychology, biopsychology, and research methods. It is also a two-hour written examination worth 96 marks. The paper is structured into three sections, with a mixture of multiple-choice, short-answer, and extended writing questions, including a larger extended section that assesses students' ability to apply and evaluate psychological knowledge and research methods.

Paper 3: Issues and Options in Psychology

Focuses on key issues and debates in psychology alongside the optional topics chosen by the centre. This two-hour examination is worth 96 marks and includes four sections. Section A assesses issues and debates, while Sections B, C, and D assess one optional topic from each option group. Each section contains a range of multiple-choice, short-answer, and extended writing questions designed to test knowledge, application, and evaluation skills across the course. Due to the Specification being updated the conformation of which optional modules will be decided over summer.

Reading



AS & A Level

AQA Psychology for A Level Year 1 & AS Student Book – 2nd Edition

By Cara Flanagan, Matt Jarvis and Rob Liddle
ISBN 9781912820429

AQA Psychology for A Level Year 2 Revision Guide – 2nd Edition

By Cara Flanagan, Michael Griffin, Jo Haycock, Matt Jarvis, Rob Liddle, Arwa Mohamedbhai
ISBN 9781912820474

AQA Psychology for A Level Year 2 Student Book – 2nd Edition

By Cara Flanagan, Matt Jarvis and Rob Liddle
ISBN 9781912820467

AQA Psychology for A Level Year 1 & AS Flashbook – 2nd Edition

By Cara Flanagan, Matt Jarvis, Rob Liddle, Arwa Mohamedbhai
ISBN 9781912820443

AQA Psychology for A Level Year 1 & AS Revision Guide – 2nd Edition

By Cara Flanagan, Michael Griffin, Matt Jarvis, Rob Liddle
ISBN 9781912820436

AQA Psychology for A Level Year 2 Flashbook – 2nd Edition

By Cara Flanagan, Matt Jarvis, Rob Liddle, Arwa Mohamedbhai
ISBN 9781912820481

For full specification details, consult the exam board's website on www.aqa.org.uk

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

What is Religious Studies?

A level in Religious Studies ensures students have a thorough understanding of diverse philosophical and ethical viewpoints. With a variety of relevant and contemporary themes studied, students will find themselves engaged with interesting discussions. Religious Studies will help you develop both academically and personally, by helping you to analyse complex questions and create informed opinions on them.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

What sort of student does it suit and what will you get out of the course?

If you have an interest in religion in general, or a specific faith, or if you wish to follow a philosophical or ethical approach to religion, then this course will provide you with the opportunity to study those areas of interest. Religious Studies complements all subjects at A level. The course is suitable for students who want to go on to study Law, Philosophy and Theology at university. Its ethical content also makes it an ideal accompaniment to the sciences for those interested in a career in Medicine. It provides an interesting contrast with subjects such as Chemistry and Physics, and shows you to be a student of many skills, making you more desirable to employers and universities.

AS Level

There is an emphasis on analysis and acquisition of knowledge in breadth. Students will be expected to read widely and produce regular homework. Weekly Timed Assignments are set. Trips to places of worship, and philosophy conferences are planned.

AS Level Specification - Edexcel 8RS0

There are three components, Philosophy of Religion, Religion and Ethics and the Study of Christianity. There are three 1 hour exams.

Topics studied include:

- Arguments for the existence of God
- Religious Experiences
- Problem of Evil
- War & Peace
- Nature of the Church
- Role of Jesus

Paper 1 – Philosophy of Religion

- 1 hour written exam out of 54 marks worth 33.3%

Paper 2 – Religion and Ethics

- 1 hour written exam out of 54 marks worth 33.3%

Paper 3 – Study of a Religion

- 1 hour written exam out of 54 marks worth 33.3%

A Level

MPW approach to A Level study

There is an emphasis on critical evaluation and acquisition of knowledge in depth. Students will be expected to read widely and produce regular homework. Weekly Timed Assignments are set. Trips to places of worship and the British Museum are planned.

A Level Specification - Edexcel 9RS0

There are three components, Philosophy and Religion, Religion and Ethics and the Study of Christianity. This is studied in the context of one religion. There are three 2 hour exams.

Topics studied include:

- Religious Language
- Life after Death
- Virtue Ethics
- Medical Ethics
- Atonement
- Liberation Theology

Paper 1 – Philosophy of Religion

- 2 hour written exam out of 80 marks worth 33.3%

Paper 2 – Religion and Ethics

- 2 hour written exam out of 80 marks worth 33.3%

Paper 3 – Study of a Religion

- 2 hour written exam out of 80 marks worth 33.3%

Reading

AS

Ethics in a Permissive Society

By William Barclay

Published by Collins, 1971

Philosophy of Religion

By P. Cole

Published by Hodder Stoughton, 2002

The Puzzle of Ethics

By Peter Vardy

Published by Harper Collins, 1995

A Level

The God Delusion

By Richard Dawkins

Published by Bantam Books, 2006

The Dawkins Delusion?

By McGrath

Published by SPCK Publishing, 2007

Full Specification details:

http://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/A%20Level/Religious%20Studies/2016/Specification%20and%20sample%20assessments/Specification_GCE_A_Level_in_Religious_Studies.pdf



SOCIOLOGY



What is Sociology?

Sociology is the study of people in society. We look at the way people are shaped by institutions in Britain and the world. The focuses of the A level specification are the ideas which explain society and the methods we use to investigate society.

SOCIOLOGY

What sort of student does it suit and what will you get out of the course?

Sociology is a complex subject that requires students to take a critical look at society and to be able to evaluate debates about the nature of society and its policy. Students need to have very good literacy skills. Sociology has an extensive vocabulary, and the examinations involve extended writing. Additionally, students need to be aware of the world around them, and to have a questioning approach. There are many debates in sociology, and students who are interested in ideas will enjoy this subject. Sociology also gives an insight into social research.

Sociology combines particularly well with English, Economics, Psychology, Media, Government and Politics, Law and Religious Studies, but can combine equally well with science subjects. In terms of careers, Sociology leads to many possibilities including academic research, market research, social policy planning, teaching, social work, media, and journalism.

AS Level MPW approach to AS Level study

The approach taken in AS Sociology will be to help students develop their skills of analysis and evaluation whilst building up the necessary theoretical knowledge. In keeping with all other subjects at MPW, students will sit weekly Timed Assignments and this will enable to revise what they have learnt and test their understanding. It is essential that students read ahead and this will make their lessons even more productive.

AS Level Specification - AQA 7191

Paper 1:
50% of AS level. 1 hour 30 mins, 60 marks
Education with methods in context

Education: short answer and extended writing – 40 marks
Methods in context: extended writing – 20 marks

Paper 2:
50% of AS level. 1 hour 30 mins, 60 marks

Research methods and topics in sociology
Section A: short answer and extended writing – 20 marks
Section B: short answer and extended writing – 40 marks
Section A topics: Research methods

Section B topics:

- Families and Households

A Level MPW approach to A Level study

Sessions will be centred on the needs of the students. However, although notes and other written materials will be given to students, students are expected to make notes to reinforce the learning in the lesson. Students will also be expected to read ahead as this course has a heavy workload. Tutoring will emphasise the skills necessary to be successful in the exam, focusing on essay writing skills and strategies for approaching data response questions. Students will be required to produce regular homework and one Timed Assignment each week. These form an integral part of the teaching strategy in order to assess the extent to which teaching objectives have been achieved. Students will be expected to read any written feedback given, and most importantly, to act upon it.

A Level Specification - AQA 7192

Paper 1:
33.3% of final qualification. 2 hours 80 marks
Education with theory and methods
Education: short answer and extended writing – 50 marks
Methods in context: extended writing – 20 marks
Theory and Methods: extended writing – 10 marks

Paper 2:
33.3% of final qualification. 2 hours 80 marks
Topics in Sociology
Section A: extended writing – 40 marks
Section B: extended writing – 40 marks

Section A topic:

- Families and Household

Section B topic:

- The Media

Paper 3:
33.3% of final qualification. 2 hours 80 marks
Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods
Crime and Deviance: short answer and extended writing – 50 marks
Theory and Methods: extended writing – 30 marks

Reading

AS & A Level
**Sociology for AQA, Vol 1:
AS and 1st Year A level**
By Ken Browne

**AQA A level Sociology, Book One
including AS**
By Rob Webb et al

A Level
Sociology for AQA, Vol 2: 2nd Year A level
By Ken Browne

AQA A Level Sociology, Book Two
By Rob Webb et al

For full specification details, consult the exam board's website on www.aqa.org.uk



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