



FRANCIS HOLLAND SCHOOL
SLOANE SQUARE

SIXTH FORM A LEVEL SUBJECTS
2017 - 2019

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INTRODUCTION

This guide is designed to accompany Francis Holland's Sixth Form Prospectus. It provides information about the A level subjects taught at the school.

ENTRY INTO THE SIXTH FORM

Girls at Francis Holland are usually able to move automatically into the Sixth Form after taking their GCSEs. We also welcome candidates from other schools, who are assessed on reports from their schools, written tests and interview and GCSE predictions. The minimum entry requirement for all is 6 GCSE passes at A*- B, with at least A grades in the chosen A level subjects, as those with lower grades are likely to find the Sixth Form course challenging. Both internal and external candidates may compete for Academic Sixth Form Scholarships. These examinations take place in November each year. Scholarships are also awarded for Art, Drama and Music.

SUBJECT CHOICE

Francis Holland offers a wide choice of A level subjects. We always create our timetable after our prospective Sixth Formers have told us their subject choices. This allows us to construct the timetable around the preferences of the girls, rather than asking the girls to fit into a pre-arranged blocking system. This ability to respond to individual requirements is a very important part of our commitment to each girl as an individual. The timetable is drawn up in early summer each year for the following September, so it is important to let us know your requirements by the deadline. The average size of an A level class is around 6 to 8 students; sometimes the numbers are lower and the usual maximum is twelve. We are committed to providing a broad range of subjects to cater for the talents, interests and needs of our students.

NUMBER OF SUBJECTS TO STUDY

At Francis Holland Sloane Square, girls take four subjects in the Lower Sixth alongside the EPQ (Extended Project Qualification). A number of girls elect to continue all four of these subjects into the Upper Sixth, although most drop down to three subjects, often with the EPQ.

ASSESSMENT

From September 2017 all A level subjects will be linear and our Sixth Formers will sit public examinations at the end of the Upper Sixth only. There will be regular assessments throughout the two years in the Sixth Form and internal summer examinations at the end of the Lower Sixth.

EXTENDED PROJECT QUALIFICATION AND ENRICHMENT

All Lower Sixth girls follow our Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) programme which teaches the study and research skills required at undergraduate level. This is also a very useful extra qualification and it can boost a girl's university application. Please see details of the course and examination on Page 4.

THE EXTENDED PROJECT QUALIFICATION (EPQ)

AQA 7993

The AQA Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) is part of the Lower Sixth curriculum for all girls. The EPQ is a stand-alone qualification which constitutes half an A level (graded up to A*) and provides an opportunity for you to go beyond the A level syllabus and prepare for university or your future career. It is greatly prized by universities which value its high degree of planning, preparation, research and autonomous working. You will all follow a course throughout the Lower Sixth to develop the key skills to prepare you not only for the project but for future research at A level and university.

You may start your project earlier in the year, but the main time to work on it will be in the summer term of the Lower Sixth, in the summer holiday and in the autumn term of the Upper Sixth. You will be free to choose your own topic which may or may not be related to one of the subjects you are studying for A level. You may, for example, want to research an aspect of the subject you intend to study at university.

By taking responsibility for the choice and design of your individual project you will:

- become a more critical, reflective and independent learner
- develop and apply decision-making and problem-solving skills
- enhance your planning, research, analysis, synthesis, evaluation and presentation skills
- work confidently with new technologies
- demonstrate creativity, enterprise and initiative.

The project may involve an independently-researched essay of 5,000 words, or it may be a film, an artefact, a design project or a musical composition and performance. It may relate to the conducting of a scientific experiment or the solution of a mathematical problem. The options are endless.

The project is self-directed and, although you will be guided by supervisors, you are encouraged to work as independently as possible. You will gain invaluable practice in research, organisational and time-management skills. The knowledge and skills gained through the process will also be very helpful in university interviews.

The EPQ course of key skills (approximately 30 hours of study) and the initial preparation of the individual project in the Lower Sixth will be compulsory for every girl. After that, although entering for the full EPQ qualification will not be compulsory, we will strongly encourage you to complete your project in the Upper Sixth.

ART, CRAFT AND DESIGN

AQA 7201/X

INTRODUCTION

A level Art, Craft and Design is a broad-based course exploring practical, critical and contextual work through a range of 2D and/or 3D processes and media. You can choose from a variety of exciting processes and media to focus on a specialist area of study that will suit your individual interests and abilities.

You will be required to work in one or more areas of study:

- Painting and drawing
- Mixed-media, sculpture, ceramics, installation, printmaking, moving image (video or film) and photography

COURSE CONTENT

This is a practical unit with a written element in which you will develop a personal investigation based on an idea, issue, concept or theme.

Past examples include:

- An investigation into gender roles in contemporary art
- Fashion and art: how do they influence each other?
- What makes an artwork abstract?

You will choose from at least two of the following areas of study:

- **Fine Art:** drawing, painting, mixed media, installation, printmaking and photography
- **Graphic Communication:** advertising, packaging design, illustration, multimedia and branding
- **Textile Design:** fashion design, fashion textiles, wallpaper, interior design, dyed fabrics
- **Photography:** portraiture, landscape, still life, documentary and experimental photography
- **Three-dimensional Design:** ceramics, sculpture, design for theatre, jewellery/body ornament

Externally Set Assignment – 40%

The externally set assignment is a 15 hour examination which is held over three days. The examination papers are released every year on 1st February and the examination is held in late April or early May.

For those who choose to apply to art colleges, the Art Department will help you to prepare your portfolio ready for interviews to art colleges. You will be encouraged to attend the various open days at art schools and select the course that best suits your needs.

COULD THIS SUBJECT BE FOR ME?

If you have an adventurous, creative and enquiring mind, Art, Craft and Design is the A level for you. Many of our students apply to prestigious London and American art schools to continue onto Foundation or Liberal Arts courses. One student was recently awarded the Dean's Scholarship on a four-year undergraduate course at Parson's New School of Design in New York. Related degree options are numerous and include Architecture, Fashion, Graphic, Theatre and Textile Design. We have run inspirational residential trips to New York, Nice and Paris, and visiting galleries, museums and events will be an important part of your study.

WHAT GIRLS SAY:

'Art is the perfect subject to take with my two A level essay subjects'.

'Art is so important if you want to go on to do Fine Art, Design or, in combination with A level Mathematics, Architecture'.

BIOLOGY

AQA 7402

INTRODUCTION

Do you want to know much more about how the human body works, or understand the surprising ways in which humans affect and are affected by the natural world? Do you enjoy reading about research on health and the environment in the media? If so, A level Biology is the subject for you. Biology is a rapidly developing science and we regularly discuss the connections between the topics we study and scientific research in the headlines. By studying A level Biology, you will also develop a set of skills that will be useful in a very broad range of careers.

COURSE CONTENT

The Lower Sixth:

- **Biological molecules:** structure and function of carbohydrates, lipids, proteins, enzymes and nucleic acids.
- **Cells:** structure and function of eukaryotic and prokaryotic cells; DNA replication and mitosis; transport across membranes; immune system.
- **The environment:** gas exchange; digestion and absorption; mass transport in animals and plants.
- **Genetics:** DNA and protein synthesis; protein synthesis; mutation and meiosis; genetic variation and diversity.

The Upper Sixth:

- **Energy transfers in and between organisms:** photosynthesis; respiration; energy and ecosystems; nutrient cycles.
- **Organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments:** stimuli; nervous coordination; homeostasis.
- **Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems:** inheritance; populations; evolution; populations in ecosystems.
- **The control of gene expression:** DNA; gene expression; gene technologies; organism function; the design of new industrial and medical processes.

Practicals

Biology, like all sciences, is a practical subject. Throughout the course you will carry out practical activities including:

- Using microscopes to see cell division
- Dissection of animal or plant systems
- Aseptic technique to study microbial growth
- Investigating activity within cells
- Investigating animal behaviour
- Investigating distributions of species in the environment

Examinations

There is no coursework. However, your performance during practicals will be assessed.

There are three examinations at the end of the two years, all of which are two hours long.

At least 15% of the marks for A level Biology are based on practicals.

COULD THIS SUBJECT BE FOR ME?

A level Biology builds on the work covered in GCSE Biology/ Double Award Science and so you will need excellent GCSE results in these subjects. Written communication is also important. Common degree courses chosen by students who have taken A level Biology include Biology, Psychology, Sports Science, Medicine, Anatomy, Pharmacology and Pharmacy. Studying these subjects at university offers many exciting career options, including molecular geneticist, nature conservation officer, research scientist, doctor or physiotherapist.

WHAT GIRLS SAY:

'It's so important to learn about the world around us. I'm planning to take Biochemistry at university. It is fascinating to see how the two subjects are connected.'

CHEMISTRY

AQA 7405

INTRODUCTION

A level Chemistry goes into much more detail than GCSE. It attempts to answer the big question 'what is the world made of?' It is the search for this answer that makes this subject so fascinating. From investigating how one substance can be changed drastically into another, to researching a new wonder drug to save millions of lives, the opportunities that Chemistry provides are endless.

COURSE CONTENT

The Lower Sixth:

- **Physical chemistry:** atomic structure, amount of substance, bonding, energetics, kinetics, chemical equilibrium and Le Chatelier's principle.
- **Inorganic chemistry:** periodicity, Group 2 (the alkaline earth metals) and Group 7 (the halogens).
- **Organic chemistry:** introduction to organic chemistry, alkanes, halogen alkanes, alkenes, alcohols and organic analysis.

The Upper Sixth:

- **Physical chemistry:** thermodynamics, rate equations, the equilibrium constant, electrode potentials and electrochemical cells.
- **Inorganic chemistry:** properties of Period 3 elements and their oxides, transition metals and reactions of ions in aqueous solution.
- **Organic chemistry:** optical isomerism, aldehydes and ketones, carboxylic acids and derivatives, aromatic chemistry, amines, polymers, amino acids, proteins and DNA, organic synthesis, NMR spectroscopy and chromatography.

Practicals:

Chemistry, like all sciences, is a practical subject. Throughout the course you will carry out practical activities including:

- Measuring energy changes in chemical reactions
- Tests for identifying different types of compound
- Different methods for measuring rates of reaction
- Studying electrochemical cells preparation of organic solids and liquids
- An advanced form of chromatography for more accurate results.

Examinations:

There is no coursework but your performance during practicals will be assessed. There are three examinations at the end of the two years for A level, all of which are two hours long. At least 15% of the marks for A level Chemistry are based on what you learned in your practicals.

COULD THIS SUBJECT BE FOR ME?

A level Chemistry builds on the work completed for GCSE Chemistry/ Double Award Science and Mathematics, so you'll need excellent GCSE results from both subjects.

A Level Chemistry is respected as a highly academic qualification by all universities. It is essential for a university degree in many healthcare courses such as medicine, pharmacy and dentistry as well as the biological sciences, physics, mathematics, pharmacology, biochemistry and analytical chemistry. Chemistry is also taken by many law applicants as it shows you can analyze difficult concepts. Chemistry complements a number of arts subjects and is necessary for many art restoration courses.

WHAT GIRLS SAY:

'Chemistry is essential for Medicine but it's such a fun subject that I would definitely do it anyway!'

CLASSICAL CIVILISATION

OCR H408

INTRODUCTION

Classical Civilisation focuses on the civilisations of Greece and Rome, and is a wide ranging subject involving the study of literature, material culture, philosophy and ethics, and their historical contexts. From relationships in the ancient world, to the study of art and heroism, Classical Civilisation involves interesting discussions that are directly relevant to today's world. It prepares students to develop their ideas confidently, creatively and analytically both on paper and in class. Personal responses are highly encouraged. You do not need any knowledge of Latin or Greek, or to have taken GCSE Classical Civilisation. There is no coursework element to the qualification.

COURSE CONTENT

Unit 1: The world of the hero - 40% of the total A Level; 2 hours 20 minutes examination

In this compulsory component you will study Homer's *Odyssey*, as well as Virgil's *Aeneid*. You will develop an increasingly sophisticated level of knowledge and understanding of the epics themselves, the way in which they were composed, the characterisation of the heroes and the religious, cultural and social values and beliefs of their societies. The poems of Homer and Virgil are considered to be the cornerstones of Western literature and remain enduringly popular.

Unit 2: [Culture and the Arts] Greek Art - 30% of the total A Level; 1 hour 45 minutes examination

The 6th–4th centuries BC was a period of great change in the Greek world, and this is reflected in the art which was produced. In this component you will gain a thorough knowledge of the selected aspects of Greek art, including free-standing sculpture, architectural sculpture and vase-painting, and you will also gain some understanding of, and insight into, the context in which it was created, particularly the areas of religion, society, values and history/politics. This component will hone your visual and analytical skills, develop your ability to offer critical analyses, and enable you to articulate an informed personal response to the works under consideration.

Unit 3: [Beliefs and Ideas] Love and Relationships - 30% of the total A Level; 1 hour 45 minutes examination

Ideas about love and relationships are key aspects of the literature, thoughts, and ethics of any society, especially those in the ancient world. The ethical questions raised by these ideas continue to be wrestled over by successive generations and this unit will generate interesting and important discussions about love, desire, sex, sexuality and the institution of marriage. Ancient ideas about men, women and marriage enable you to discuss the reality of love and relationships in everyday life, whilst study of Seneca and Plato provides a more conceptual approach allowing you to draw comparisons and make judgements about ideal and reality, and the nature of 'right' and 'wrong' ways to love or be loved. The poems of Sappho, one of very few ancient female voices, provides a link between the Homeric poems and the literature of 5th and 4th century Athens, while Ovid offers a lighter presentation of relationships and concentrates on the fun and flirtation of budding romances.

COULD THIS SUBJECT BE FOR ME?

If you are interested in examining other cultures, are curious about the origins of many aspects of modern society, you appreciate reading literature and looking at ancient objects, and enjoy writing in depth, then this is the subject for you! The location of the school is a tremendous bonus with a huge number of museums, exhibitions and lectures on our doorstep. Students also often have the opportunity to attend performances of classical plays throughout the year.

WHAT GIRLS SAY:

'Reading the Odyssey and the Oedipus story leads to so many connections with History, Geography, Art, Psychology and Philosophy.'

'Classics really relates to everyday life. Everything today seems to have its origin in the Classical World.'

DRAMA AND THEATRE

AQA 7262

INTRODUCTION

Drama and Theatre is an extremely varied course which enables you to explore theatre from a range of angles. It provides the opportunity to develop your performance skills and appreciation of a wide range of theatre practitioners and styles. You will work both collaboratively with your group to create a range of performances and individually to develop your written responses to theatre. You will perform and produce highly polished performance pieces and develop skills in devising and developing creative ideas. You will attend several contrasting theatre productions and learn to appreciate a variety of performance styles.

COURSE CONTENT

The A Level course is split into three components:

Component 1: Drama and Theatre

This written component assesses knowledge and understanding of Drama and Theatre. You will study two set plays. This component includes analysis and evaluation of live theatre makers.

How is it assessed?

- Written Exam: 3 Hours
- Open Book (80 marks)
- 40% of A Level
- This component is marked by AQA

Component 2: Creating Original Drama

This component gives you the opportunity to create devised Drama. You will be assessed on the performance of a devised piece of Drama. The piece must be influenced by the work and methodologies of one prescribed practitioner.

How is it assessed?

- Working notebook (40 marks)
- Devised Performance (20 marks)
- 30% of A Level
- This component is marked by the teacher and moderated by AQA

Component 3: Making Theatre (practical)

This component involves practical exploration and interpretation of three extracts, each taken from a different play. The methodology of a prescribed practitioner must be applied to Extract 3. Extract 3 is then performed as a final assessed piece. You will write a reflective report analysing and evaluating the theatrical interpretation of all three extracts.

How is it assessed?

- Performance of Extract 3 (40 marks)
- Reflective Report (20 marks)
- 30% of A Level
- This component is marked by AQA

COULD THIS SUBJECT BE FOR ME?

It is not a requirement for A level Drama and Theatre to have studied GCSE

Drama, although it is an advantage. You should be able to think for yourself and be prepared to develop your own ideas. Much work in Drama and Theatre is collaborative so you should enjoy working with others and be aware of the responsibilities this entails. There is a substantial written component in this subject which requires you to research material, interpret dramatic theory and review performance works. You are encouraged to take an active interest in theatre by attending productions in your own time, in addition to the opportunities provided at school. A level Drama and Theatre can be a personally challenging course and a highly rewarding experience. It is excellent preparation for further study of Arts subjects at University including Drama itself, Literature and Languages. You will be strong, resilient and ready for any challenge!

WHAT GIRLS SAY:

'It's much more interesting than GCSE because you get to direct, write, act and explore more things.'

'We've been to such a wide range of different productions.'

ECONOMICS

AQA 7136

INTRODUCTION

Economics is a popular subject at A level. It combines very well with Mathematics, the sciences, other humanities and languages. It is well regarded by university admissions tutors and provides a most useful introduction to a wide range of social science courses and careers. Although it is possible to read Economics at university without having studied the subject, there is no doubt that having studied the A level course gives first year undergraduates an enormous advantage. Economics shapes public decision-making and studying it enables you to understand the basis on which many political decisions are made.

COURSE CONTENT

The Lower Sixth:

- The economic problem
- Price determination
- Production, costs and revenue
- Competitive and concentrated markets
- Market and government failure
- The measurement of macroeconomic performance
- How the macroeconomy works
- Economic performance
- Macroeconomic policy

The Upper Sixth:

- Economic methodology
- Individual economic decision making
- The labour market
- The distribution of income and wealth: poverty and inequality
- The measurement of macroeconomic performance
- Financial markets and monetary policy
- Fiscal policy and supply-side policies
- The international economy

Assessment:

Paper 1: Microeconomics

Paper 2: Macroeconomics

Paper 3: Micro and macroeconomics

All examinations are of a two hour duration. Paper 3 will have a section of twenty multiple choice questions, otherwise the questions will consist of a variety of short answer questions, data interpretation, analysis and evaluation.

COULD THIS SUBJECT BE FOR ME?

In Economics, you will use a wide range of skills. For example, there will be analysis and evaluation based on written and numerical data. Therefore, you need some mathematical ability to be successful in this subject. The mathematics is not difficult, but you need to be comfortable with data, percentage changes and graphs. You should also be genuinely interested in current affairs, including regularly reading a national newspaper, watching news and current affairs programmes, and researching current economic events on the Internet. You should enjoy discussion and debate.

ENGLISH LITERATURE

OCR H472

INTRODUCTION

English Literature is designed to prepare students for further study by encouraging a comparative approach to texts, informed by literary criticism. You will have the opportunity to develop as a confident, independent and reflective reader of texts and to express your responses effectively on paper and in class.

COURSE CONTENT

Paper 1: Pre-1900 Drama and Poetry – 40% of the A Level; 2 hours 30 minutes examination

- **Section 1 Shakespeare** - study of one play from the following: *Coriolanus*; *Hamlet*; *Measure for Measure*; *Richard III*; *The Tempest* or *Twelfth Night*
- **Section 2 Pre-1900 Drama and Poetry** - comparative study of one play and one poetry text. The poetry text will be one of the following: Chaucer, 'The Merchant's Prologue and Tale'; Milton, *Paradise Lost*, Books IX and X; Coleridge, *Selected Poems*; Tennyson, *Maud* or Rossetti, *Selected Poems*. The play will be one of the following: Marlowe, *Edward II*; Webster, *The Duchess of Malfi*; Goldsmith, *She Stoops to Conquer*; Wilde, *An Ideal Husband* and Ibsen, *A Doll's House*.

Paper 2: Comparative and Contextual Study – 40% of the A Level; 2 hours 30 minutes examination

Teachers will select from the following five topic areas: American Literature 1880-1940; The Gothic; Dystopia; Women in Literature or The Immigrant Experience. Students will study at least two novels within the selected topic.

Coursework: Post-1900 Literature – 20% of the A Level; two essay tasks; three texts (one poetry, one drama, one prose – one of these will be a post-2000 text)

Task 1 – a 1,000 word critique of a passage from one of the three texts

Task 2 – a 2,000 word comparative essay on two texts, informed by critical and contextual reading and research

COULD THIS BE FOR ME?

A Level English Literature is intended to build on the skills that you have successfully demonstrated at IGCSE or GCSE English Language and Literature: in particular, the ability to read closely for meaning and form coherent, structured arguments on paper and in discussions. If you have enjoyed the study of Literature at IGCSE or GCSE and are passionate about reading and research, you will be well suited to this course. Developing the ability to critique texts, consider relationships across texts and explore social, cultural and historical contexts that underpin texts prepares you well for the study of English at university and also supports other subjects and careers in the Arts and Humanities.

WHAT GIRLS SAY:

*'As a student of English Literature,
I love History, and as a historian
I love English: they go so well
together.'*

*'We read such a wide range of
works. There's something for
everyone.'*

FRENCH

EDEXCEL 9FRO

INTRODUCTION

The French A level course will help you to develop highly effective oral and written communication, skills of crucial importance in the world of business and beyond.

This course constitutes a considerable and exciting step up from IGCSE in terms of both fluency and depth. Emphasis is placed on understanding and analysing the political, intellectual and artistic culture of the French speaking countries, including social issues and trends. Independent research into an issue of personal choice allows for a deeper, more satisfying development of your personal interests.

COURSE CONTENT

Themes you will study:

- The developing French society: changing family structures, education and the world of work
- Politics and Arts in French speaking cultures: music, media, festivals and traditions
- Immigration and the multicultural society
- The Occupation and Resistance

Areas you will be assessed on:

- Study of a film and a work of literature or two works of literature
- The four skills of listening, reading, speaking and writing
- Translation skills to and from the target language

Sources you will use:

Sources you will use to explore the topics and develop your linguistic skills include: recorded or live news items, podcasts, films and documentaries, popular and classical music, excerpts from novels, poetry and magazine articles, and novels.

Skills you will develop:

You will learn to research and prepare for an oral presentation and debate, how to analyse and write essays on a film or a literary text, and how to translate material from a variety of sources effectively.

COULD THIS BE FOR ME?

If you have enjoyed languages at IGCSE and are good at them you should seriously consider taking at least one language to A level. It is a good idea to combine a language with either the Sciences or the Humanities and it is also very common, and very useful, to take two languages at A level. Studying A level in French considerably enhances employment prospects, facilitates foreign travel, provides an insight into another culture and society, and builds a sound basis for further study of languages at university. Through your study you will acquire and practise many transferable skills, such as the ability to analyse and evaluate, to think independently and creatively, and, above all, to present your views clearly and confidently to others. Every year girls go on to read languages at top universities, often combining them with another subject, such as International Relations or Management.

GEOGRAPHY

OCR H481

INTRODUCTION

Geography is a versatile subject. It is part Natural Science, part Social Science and is also often considered one of the arts (it is one of the few subjects which can be studied at university as a Bachelor of Arts or Science). What this means is that geographers have a range of interests and the work of geographers both borrows from and gives to many other disciplines. If you have many interests and find the prospect of narrowing your subjects at Sixth Form a difficult decision, Geography is a good choice for you.

COURSE CONTENT

Component 1: Physical Systems

22% of the total A level, 1 hour, 30 minute written paper

This component is built around two main topics: Landscape Systems and Earth's Life Support Systems. You explore glaciated landscapes as well as the carbon and water cycles to allow you to understand issues such as global warming and flooding. You will investigate a range of examples and case studies. You will take part in quantitative and qualitative fieldwork.

Component 2: Human Interactions

22% of the total A level, 1 hour, 30 minute written paper

This component is built around two main topics: Global Connections and Changing Spaces and Making Places. The course helps you to understand how the world around you is shaped by humans, starting from the local and moving out to regional, national and international scales. The concepts of inequality, interdependence, representation, identity and globalisation are particularly relevant and you will take part in qualitative research and fieldwork.

Component 3: Geographical debates

36% of the total A level, 2 hour and 30 minute written paper

Geographical Debates takes some of the most dynamic issues the planet faces and encourages you to engage with, reflect on and think critically about them. You will gain a deep understanding of two chosen topics from the following: Climate Change; Disease Dilemmas or Future of Food. Each topic adopts an enquiry approach which enables you to articulate opinions and provide evidenced arguments.

Component 4: Investigative Geography

20% of the total A level, non-examined (coursework)

You will complete an individual investigation which must include data collected in the field. The investigation must be based on a question or issue defined and developed by you relating to any part of the specification. The recommended word limit is 4,000 words. It is firstly marked by teachers before being moderated. Don't worry – you are fully supported through the process!

COULD THIS SUBJECT BE FOR ME?

- Students who opt for A level Geography will have studied GCSE Geography. We would only consider a student without GCSE Geography under exceptional circumstances.
- The breadth of Geography means that it combines well with almost all subjects. You may combine Geography with English, a language and/or a humanities subject. If you are highly numerate you could combine Mathematics or Economics with Geography; if you are a student who enjoys Science you could combine it with Chemistry (perhaps leading to Geology), Biology (to study Natural Sciences or Environmental Science) or Physics (considering seismology, natural disasters or perhaps climate change).
- Geography is counted as a Science by university admissions tutors, thus widening the number of university courses available to you.
- A recent study found geographers to be among the most employable graduates, beginning graduate-level schemes in a huge variety of professional fields.

WHAT GIRLS SAY:

'Geography has allowed me to delve into recent controversial debates and issues such as migration and climate change. It has really widened my view of the world we live in.'

GERMAN

EDEXCEL 9GNO

INTRODUCTION

The German A level course will help you to develop highly effective oral and written communication skills through the correct use of grammar and a varied vocabulary. This course constitutes a considerable and exciting step up from IGCSE in terms of both fluency and depth. Emphasis is placed on understanding and analysing the political, intellectual and artistic culture of German speaking countries, including social issues and trends. Independent research into an issue of personal choice allows for a deeper, more satisfying development of your personal interests.

COURSE CONTENT

Themes you will study:

- The developing German society: nature and environment, education, the world of work
- Politics and Arts in German speaking cultures: music, media, festivals, traditions
- Immigration and the multicultural German society: integration, multiculturalism
- The unification of Germany: the GDR before 1989, unified Germany since 1990

Areas you will be assessed on:

- Study of a film and a work of literature or of two works of literature
- The four skills of listening, reading, speaking and writing
- Translation skills to and from the target language

Sources you will use:

Sources you will use to explore the topics and develop your linguistic skills include recorded or live news items, podcasts, films and documentaries, popular and classical music, excerpts from novels, poetry and magazine articles, and novels.

Skills you will develop:

You will learn to research and prepare for an oral presentation and debate, how to analyse and write essays on a film or a literary text, and how to translate material from a variety of sources effectively.

COULD THIS SUBJECT BE FOR ME?

If you enjoy speaking German and wish to expand and deepen your knowledge of the rich and incredibly diverse German speaking culture at the heart of Europe, then this course is for you. This programme embraces many topics and gives you scope to pursue your own interests. It also enriches and informs the study of other subjects from the Humanities via the Arts to the Sciences. You will develop crucial transferable academic, linguistic and communicative skills which enhance your CV and your chances of employment in many different fields from commerce via law to research and education. At top universities, German is often studied combined with Management or Marketing, as Germany continues to be one of the strongest economies globally and German continues to be the lingua franca for business and leisure in many European countries.

GOVERNMENT & POLITICS

EDEXCEL 9PL0/01

INTRODUCTION

Politics is a cutting edge subject which is constantly changing and developing. Studying Government and Politics will allow you to take a fresh look at the issues of power and conflict. Political decisions shape all our lives in the present and in the future and for that reason alone everyone should be aware of how their system of government operates. The study of Politics is an exciting intellectual challenge that invites debate and discussion.

COURSE CONTENT

Overview

Government and Politics A level will develop your knowledge and understanding of contemporary political structures and issues in their historical context, both within the UK and globally.

Course Breakdown

Unit 1: UK Politics and Core Political Ideas (33 1/3 %)

- UK Politics: democracy and participation, political parties, electoral systems, voting behaviour and the media
- Core political ideas: conservatism, liberalism and socialism

Unit 2: UK Government (33 1/3%)

- UK Government: the constitution, parliament, Prime Minister and executive, relationships between the branches
- One idea from the following: anarchism, ecologism, feminism, multiculturalism, nationalism

Unit 3 Global Politics (33 1/3%)

- Theories of global politics, sovereignty and globalisation, political and economic global governance
- Human rights and the environment

Assessment

- Short and long essays
- There is no coursework

COULD THIS SUBJECT BE FOR ME?

If you are curious about current affairs and enjoy reading, researching and writing essays then Government and Politics could be the ideal subject for you. You do not require any prior knowledge of politics, but a willingness to stay up to date with this dynamic and ever-changing subject is essential. Politics works well with almost any combination of subjects, be it sciences, mathematics, languages or other humanities. It complements the study of subjects where there is an emphasis on evaluation and analysis, such as Economics, History and English. It is valuable for those wanting to go on to work in public affairs, the media and for those wishing to study Politics, International Relations or PPE (Philosophy, Politics and Economics) at university.

WHAT GIRLS SAY:

'I love the debates we have in class about topical issues like Brexit.'

'Politics has really helped me to understand how decisions are made and how the world works.'

HISTORY

EDEXCEL 9HI0

INTRODUCTION

This course covers British, European and World History. The A level is made up of four papers, three of which will be assessed in written examinations at the end of the course, and one coursework unit. These papers offer considerable variety in terms of perspective and depth of study. You will have opportunities to develop analytical and critical skills, learn how to construct structured arguments, address historical claims and debates, and reach judgements by analysis and evaluation. Lessons are mostly in the style of seminars, giving you the opportunity to offer your own views and discuss your own research.

COURSE CONTENT

Paper 1: Breadth Study with Interpretations

Option 1B: England, 1509 – 1603: Authority, Nation & Religion

Paper 1 has two focuses: themes and historical interpretations. The four themes focus on developments and changes over a broad timescale and provide context for the historical interpretations without duplicating content. You will answer questions that target knowledge and understanding of the period, and analyse and evaluate historical interpretations.

Assessment: 2 hours 15 minutes; 30% of the total A level

Paper 2: Depth Study

Option 2B.2: The Dutch Revolt, c. 1563 – 1609

Paper 2 focuses on depth, requiring more detailed knowledge and understanding of the topic, and over a shorter time period, than Paper 1. Based on four key topics, you will answer questions that target knowledge and understanding of the period, and analyse and evaluate sources.

Assessment: 1 hour 30 minutes; 20 % of the total A level

Paper 3: Themes in Breadth with Aspects in Depth

Option 36.2: Ireland and the Union, c. 1774 – 1923

The 'themes in breadth' focus on developments and changes over an extended timescale of at least 100 years. You will answer questions that target understanding of long-term changes. The 'aspects in depth' require a more in-depth understanding and you will answer questions that target knowledge and understanding of the period, and analyse and evaluate sources.

Assessment: 2 hours 15 minutes; 30% of the total A level

Paper 4: Coursework

Option: 20th Century China

You will carry out an independently-researched enquiry to analyse and evaluate interpretations. The assignment focuses on a question, problem or issue that has generated disagreement among historians.

Assessment: 20% of the total A level

COULD THIS SUBJECT BE FOR ME?

A level historians should have IGCSE or GCSE History (it is very unusual to do A level without this) and an analytical turn of mind. You should be enthusiastic about the subject, ready to engage in debate, good at constructing arguments and drawing conclusions, willing to read around the subject and prepared to carry out independent research.

WHAT GIRLS SAY:

'History is always interesting and challenging. You learn to analyse material for yourself and think and work independently.'

HISTORY OF ART

AQA 7257

INTRODUCTION

The study of Art History is never-ending and a delight because it involves looking at, and thinking about, the splendid products of the human imagination. Although the course concentrates on painting, sculpture and architecture, History of Art is a study of all forms of visual communication. We take full advantage of Francis Holland's central London location and make numerous visits to the permanent collections as well as to the great number and variety of exhibitions which take place each year. You will also have the opportunity to make trips abroad to study at first hand masterpieces which students otherwise know only through reproductions. This course is an invaluable opportunity to study some of the greatest works of art and architecture from Classical times to the present day from which a life-long love of the subject is often gained.

COURSE CONTENT

Paper 1 – 3 hour examination – 50%

Visual Analysis

You will develop a knowledge and understanding of the formal characteristics and terminology, and a general knowledge and understanding of historical, social and cultural contexts for painting, sculpture and architecture. Appropriate questions are asked about photographs of a painting, a building and a sculpture from Classical Greece to the present day.

Thematic Study

This paper explores broad-based themes that connect periods before and after 1850. These are themes which may be selected from the past but are relevant today and have a place in our daily lives.

Two themes from the following four will be studied:

- Nature in Art
- The Art of Identities
- The Art of War
- Journeys in Art

Paper 2 – 3 hour examination - 50%

Period Study

Two periods will be studied from a choice of five. These have been selected as an introduction to some of the most exciting and significant eras in the history of art and architecture.

- Invention and Illusion: The Renaissance in Italy 1420-1520
- Power and Persuasion: The Baroque in Catholic Europe 1597-1685
- Rebellion and Revival: The 'Avant-Garde' in Britain and France 1848-1899
- Brave New World: Modernism in Europe 1900-1939
- Pop Life: Contemporary art and architecture in Britain and the 1960-2015

COULD THIS SUBJECT BE FOR ME?

A student of A level History of Art needs no previous knowledge but enthusiasm and an enquiring mind is essential. The subject is essay-based and History of Art is complemented particularly well by History and/or English. It is also an inspiring subject to take alongside Art but in fact students of all disciplines have enjoyed History of Art and have found it a life-long interest. History of Art A level is not required to study the subject at university, but it is a great help. Many careers can be pursued following a course of study at university; for example in museums and galleries, be they permanent collections or commercial, restoration and preservation of paintings, sculptures or national monuments, journalism and beyond.

WHAT GIRLS SAY:

'You look at art in a totally new way. It's an incredibly enjoyable subject and you always leave the lesson having learned something new.'

LATIN

OCR H443

INTRODUCTION

Latin A level develops the skills fostered at GCSE and extends students' appreciation of the Roman world. The course aims to nurture an enthusiasm for the classical world generally, and to enable students to develop a competence in the Latin language and to appreciate its influence on the languages of today. It focuses on first century literature; students will develop the skills to read, evaluate and make a personal response to both poetry and prose in the original language. There is no coursework element to the qualification.

COURSE CONTENT

Language - 50%

- **Unit 1: Latin Language (Unseen Translation) - 33% of the A level; 1 hour 45 minutes examination**
- **Unit 2: Latin Language (Prose Composition or Comprehension) - 17% of the A level; 1 hour 15 minutes examination**

You will build your knowledge of vocabulary (aided by the AS Defined Vocabulary List) and linguistic structures through reading and studying prose and verse texts in Latin. You will study texts written by a range of prose authors and the verse unseen author to develop linguistic competence. You will need to demonstrate the ability to translate unseen prose and verse passages into English. The second paper involves either an optional passage to translate from English into Latin or to demonstrate your understanding of a passage of unseen prose text through comprehension, translation and questions on syntax and accidence.

Literature - 50%

- **Unit 3: Latin Literature (Prose)- 25% of the A level; 2 hours examination**
- **Unit 4: Latin Literature (Verse)- 25% of the A level; 2 hours examination**

You will develop your language skills through an in-depth study of one or two prescribed prose texts and one or two verse texts (for example, Cicero & Tacitus and Ovid & Virgil). You will critically analyse the literary style, characterisation, argument and literary meaning of a passage from a set text and write your own personal response to the texts studied. The units are synoptic and you will also be expected to read a section of the text in English to broaden your wider understanding.

COULD THIS SUBJECT BE FOR ME?

If you enjoyed your study at GCSE, you are interested in how languages work, you appreciate reading literature, and enjoy a challenge, then this is the subject for you! It is highly valued by university admissions tutors for the linguistic, literary and analytical skills it fosters and it also appeals to those who prefer variety within a subject. The location of the school is a tremendous bonus with a huge number of museums, exhibitions and lectures on our doorstep. You will also often have the opportunity to attend performances of classical plays throughout the year.

WHAT GIRLS SAY:

'Latin is neat, mathematical and beautiful'.

'I love the fact that you can really see how the Romans lived through reading a Cicero speech.'

MATHEMATICS

EDEXCEL 9MA0 & AS MATHEMATICS EDEXCEL 8MA0

INTRODUCTION

Mathematics is a very popular A level at Francis Holland, and is highly regarded by universities and the world at large. There is significant overlap between the first year of the course and the more advanced material in the IGCSE (or GCSE) syllabus, so you will be very well prepared.

COURSE CONTENT

Most Mathematics students will study the full A level which will be geared towards three terminal examinations at the end of the Upper Sixth.

In the two 'Pure' modules you will extend your understanding of Calculus and Trigonometry. You will learn an alternative measurement to degrees and will prove a number of formulae you have learnt at GCSE or IGCSE. The final module is based around 'Applied' mathematics and will include both Statistics and Mechanics. In Statistics you will develop your understanding of averages, correlation and effective ways of displaying data. You will be introduced to the process of modelling using the Normal Distribution. In Mechanics you will look at the mathematics behind physical models.

Some students may choose to only study Mathematics in their first year (the Lower Sixth), and suitable candidates may be invited to take an AS examination at the end of the year. This will consist of a two hour 'Pure' paper and a one hour 'Applied' paper, which will solely test the content from the Lower Sixth. These papers will not carry credit towards the overall A level grade so will not be sat by students intending to complete the two year course.

COULD THIS SUBJECT BE FOR ME?

If you enjoyed Mathematics during Years 10 and 11 and feel that you are quite good at it then you have good reason to continue to A level. It is very likely that, for many of you, Mathematics may help your other subjects. The course knowledge is useful in many disciplines including Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Geography, Psychology and Economics.

An A level in Mathematics will also provide a contrast to Modern Foreign Languages or Humanities subjects, demonstrating that you are numerate and capable of quantitative thinking. Studying Mathematics is very different from studying an essay-based subject: many students enjoy an approach which is based on attempting questions rather than memorising and reading written material. Mathematics is a required subject for certain degree courses such as Economics, Management, Architecture and PPE (Politics, Philosophy and Economics).

WHAT GIRLS SAY:

'The teachers don't just tell you how to do something; they explain it or let you find it out for yourself.'

'Going to lectures at UCL was what got me really hooked on Maths: especially one on the applications of Maths in books, film and fashion.'

FURTHER MATHEMATICS

AS 8MA0

INTRODUCTION

Further Mathematics is becoming increasingly popular at Francis Holland and if you are very able, and have a real passion for Mathematics, you may also be interested in taking the Further Mathematics course.

Further Mathematics is highly recommended (and sometimes essential) for the study of Mathematics, Physics and some Economics and Engineering courses, especially at top universities.

COURSE CONTENT

Most Further Mathematics students will study the full A level which will be geared towards four terminal examinations at the end of the Upper Sixth.

The new course will consist of four modules:

- Two compulsory 'Further Pure' modules which cover new topics and build upon those studied in the Mathematics A level
- Two option modules which can be chosen from 'Statistics', 'Mechanics', 'Decision Maths' or more 'Further Pure'. All involve a combination of new topics and also build upon those studied in other modules.

Topics in 'Further Pure' include: proof, matrices, calculus, vectors, algebra, complex numbers, polar coordinates, hyperbolic functions, differential equations.

Topics in the 'Applied' modules include:

- Statistics: Regression, Distributions, Correlation, Hypothesis testing, Chi Squared tests, Estimators.
- Mechanics: Momentum and impulses, Collisions, Centres of mass, Work and energy, Springs and strings, Kinematics, Dynamics, Circular motion, Statics, Elasticity.
- Decision: Algorithms, Graph Theory, Paths, Linear programming, Game theory, Recurrence relations.

Some students may choose to only study Further Mathematics in their first year (Lower Sixth), and suitable candidates may be invited to take an AS examination at this end of the Lower Sixth. This will consist of one 90 minute 'Pure' paper and a 90 minute paper which would could either be 'Pure' or 'Applied' depending on the classes taken. These tests would solely test the content from the Lower Sixth. These papers will not carry credit towards the overall A level grade so will not be sat by students intending to complete the two year course.

It is not possible to study Further Mathematics without also studying Mathematics A level.

COULD THIS SUBJECT BE FOR ME?

You must be committed to your Mathematics studies and have a genuine interest in the subject. You should be prepared to work hard and accept new ideas at speed. If you are planning on studying a STEM subject at university (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) then you should consider whether Further Mathematics may help your application.

It can be useful to set yourself apart from other candidates when applying for competitive courses such as Medicine, and is a requirement for some of the most academically courses for Engineering and Economics.

WHAT GIRLS SAY:

'What's good about A level Maths and Further Maths is that you suddenly 'get' how you are going to apply what you are learning'.

MUSIC

EDEXCEL 9MUO

INTRODUCTION

Studying Music to A level is a very rewarding, exacting and highly regarded discipline for any pupil who is passionate about any type of music and is interested in performance, composition and the appreciation of music.

COURSE CONTENT

The new Music A Level is 100% externally assessed. There are three core components comprising:

Component 1: Performing (30% of overall qualification)

A public recital of one or more pieces at least 8 minutes in length in total – played or sung as a solo or in an ensemble or improvised or using music technology. This performance will be recorded and submitted for assessment. The recital will be marked as a whole taking into account quality and the difficulty of the piece/s.

Component 2: Composing (30% of overall qualification)

Two compositions are to be written, one worth 20 marks, to a brief from a selection set by Edexcel (at least 1 minute long) and the other, worth 40 marks, which can be a free composition or fulfilling another set brief or a technical exercise, at least 4 minutes long. The total length of both submissions must be at least 6 minutes.

Component 3: Appraising (40% of overall qualification)

Students accumulate knowledge and understanding of musical elements, contexts and language, applied through the context of 6 areas of study, each with 3 set works: Vocal Music, Instrumental Music, Music for Film, Popular Music and Jazz, Fusion, New Directions.

This leads to assessment in the summer of the Upper Sixth:

- A 2 hour written paper, responding to an audio CD
- Section A: areas of study and dictation (50 marks)
- Three questions related to the set works (audio and skeleton score provided)
- One short melody/rhythm completion exercise.
- Section B: Extended response (2 essays, one worth 20, one worth 30 marks): Firstly drawing links from the areas of study to music heard as an unfamiliar extract; secondly one of a choice of 3 asking students to evaluate the musical elements, context and language of one set work.

COULD THIS SUBJECT BE FOR ME?

Music could be the subject for you if you are passionate about music; if you learn an instrument or sing to at least Grade 5 standard; if you enjoy alternative approaches to work (other than written work); if you like small class sizes; if you are prepared to put in a lot of time on your work and to contribute to the Music Department. The ability to read music is also a definite advantage.

Pupils who take Music often go on to study at university or a conservatoire; there are also vocational sound engineer courses; there are a wide variety of different aspects of music from Classical to Pop that can be studied. A music degree is a very highly regarded arts degree.

WHAT GIRLS SAY:

'We are encouraged to make our own minds up about the meaning of music. But all the time we are being guided to a solid understanding of the harmony beneath it.'

MUSIC TECHNOLOGY

EDEXCEL 9MT0

INTRODUCTION

Music Technology is a modern and exciting A level offering students the chance to learn about the intricacies of the music they enjoy listening to. Students record, compose, and analyse music, and learn about the impressive development of Music Technology throughout the 20th Century, including how classic songs of the past were produced. Music Technology is a varied discipline, demonstrating technical, analytical, creative, and practical skills which complement most other subject choices, and can support most University applications. It also convincingly demonstrates computer literacy skills to employers, and ingrains students with a detailed and systematic approach to processing and project planning – all within the engaging context of modern music.

COURSE CONTENT

The new Music Technology A level is 100% externally assessed. There are four core components comprising:

Component 1: Recording (20% of overall qualification)

Students record one of 10 songs provided by the examination board, between 3 and 3½ minutes in length, for coursework submission. Students are taught how to choose and position microphones, and edit and balance the recorded audio.

Component 2: Technology-based Composition (20% of overall qualification)

Students compose a 3 minute piece from one of 3 briefs provided by the examination board for coursework submission. Synthesisers and samplers contained within the music software (Logic Pro X) are used to create and manipulate sounds appropriate to the brief.

Component 3: Listening and Analysing (25% of overall qualification)

Students sit an exam covering the principles of audio, and the production techniques developed throughout the 20th Century, applying their knowledge in an analysis of unfamiliar listening material.

Component 4: Producing and Analysing (35% of overall qualification)

Students sit a practical exam requiring them to apply their knowledge of editing and mixing techniques to unfamiliar material, and write extended answers detailing specific effects and hardware used in the production of music.

COULD THIS SUBJECT BE FOR ME?

If you enjoy listening to music, and are curious about the techniques and processes used to create a hit song, then Music Technology could be the ideal subject for you. Music Technology changes the way you listen to music, allowing you to pick out and analyse its constituent parts, so an ability to absorb new concepts quickly and focus for fairly long periods of time are important. Some experience of composing music with a computer is beneficial, whether it be through Music GCSE, Music Technology Club, or in your own time. Some familiarity with musical scoring and Music Theory is desirable, although not beyond Music GCSE or Grade 5 Music Theory level. Direct career options from Music Technology include: Recording, Mixing, or Mastering Engineer, Live Sound Engineer, Music Producer, Foley Artist, and Sound Designer.

WHAT GIRLS SAY:

'I am glad I took this subject as it is so practical. I have learnt so much which I think will be useful to me in the future.'

PHOTOGRAPHY

AQA 7206/C - 7206/X

INTRODUCTION

A Level Photography is an exciting and challenging subject. You will build a broad skill base working with both digital and traditional media. The course focuses around developing projects that show a keen understanding of how photography can be used to convey meaning. You will develop an ability to observe, critique and appreciate the work of practitioners. Within Photography you can explore portrait, landscape, still life, documentary, fashion and experimental photography as well as multimedia, installation and moving image techniques.

COURSE CONTENT

Photography A level is made up of two core components:

Component 1 - Personal Investigation – 60%

Component 2 – Externally Set Assignment 40%

Personal Investigation (component 1)

This is a practical component supported by written material. You are expected to develop a personal investigation based on an idea, issue, concept or theme leading to a final outcome. The practical work should be linked to some aspect of contemporary or past practice of artists, photographers, designers or craftspeople.

Externally Set Assignment (component 2)

This is a 15 hour examination, held over three days. Examination papers are released every year on the 1st February and the examination is held in late April, early May.

You will choose from **one or more** of the following areas of Photography:

- Portraiture
- Landscape photography
- Still life photography
- Documentary photography
- Photojournalism
- Fashion photography
- Experimental imagery
- Multimedia
- Photographic installation
- Moving image (video, film, animation)

COULD THIS SUBJECT BE FOR ME?

Most importantly, you must have a passion for Photography. The course is challenging and requires a consistent level of commitment and self-motivation. You will need strong organisational skills and the ability to meet important coursework deadlines. This is a subject that will develop your photography and photo editing skills to a professional level. You will utilise the Adobe software suite and become familiar with how to set up and manipulate studio lighting. It is equally important to learn and be able to apply the subject specific terminology and become comfortable with discussing photography with contextual understanding. Photography is an excellent choice at A Level for further study of Art with past students gaining places at Kingston University Art Foundation and direct entry to Leeds college of Art for Photography and Graphic Design.

WHAT GIRLS SAY:

'It's just the best A level you can do. These are skills for life.'

PHYSICS

OCR H556

INTRODUCTION

Physics is the study of the physical world around you. The A level course will help you understand our world from the very tiny (quantum physics) to the overwhelmingly huge (cosmology). It will also introduce you to a different way of thinking as we discover deeper explanations of phenomena that you have always wanted to understand. We will attempt to answer some of the biggest questions about the universe.

Physics is a practical subject. Throughout the course you will carry out practical activities such as investigating the properties of materials, electrical properties, measuring the wavelength of light and exploring quantum effects.

COURSE CONTENT

- **Forces and Motion:** Covering many aspects of Newtonian Physics that you have met before, but in more depth.
- **Electricity:** You will learn about how electricity is described at the molecular level and many examples of how the concepts are applied to real-life situations.
- **Waves:** You will discover phenomena such as polarization, stationary waves, harmonics and how to accurately measure something as tiny as the wavelength of light.
- **Quantum Physics:** An introduction to the branch of physics that has had enormous implications for our modern world.
- **Thermal Physics and Gases:** Temperature, changing states and the kinetic theory of gases.
- **Circular motion and oscillations:** Exploring the mechanics of how objects such as planets, moons, satellites and electrons move in orbit and how this can relate to such things as apparent weightlessness and rollercoaster rides.
- **Gravitational fields:** The study of gravity (what actually is it?) and the application to planetary motion.
- **Stars and cosmology:** Studying different objects in the Universe, the life cycle of stars, stellar categories, analyzing starlight, measuring astronomical distances, the big bang and the evolution of the Universe.
- **Capacitors and electric fields:** How electricity is stored in electronic circuits.
- **Magnetic fields:** Understanding magnets, electromagnetic induction and transformers.
- **Particle physics and radioactivity:** The family of subatomic particles and the structure of the atom and the nucleus; radioactive decay and its application to dating.
- **Nuclear physics:** $E = mc^2$, nuclear fission and nuclear fusion.
- **Medical imaging:** The physics behind X-rays, CAT scans, the gamma camera, PET scans, ultrasound and Doppler imaging.

COULD THIS SUBJECT BE FOR ME?

To study A level Physics you would be expected to have done well at GCSE. You need to be comfortable manipulating numbers, but it is not necessary to study Mathematics at A level to do well.

An A level in Physics opens up many doors to university courses and future careers. As well as learning about how the universe works, you will get a broad training in skills that all employers value – an ability grasp concepts quickly, a determination to find coherent answers, not to mention problem-solving, analytical, mathematical and IT skills. Even if you do not end up working in a physics-related industry, these skills are still highly regarded. Studying Physics is a good way of keeping your options open. Physics students take up careers in as diverse areas as space science, medicine, architecture, engineering, law, banking, computer game design, film special effects, and many more.

WHAT GIRLS SAY:

'If you've ever seen something and found yourself asking 'why', then Physics is the subject for you.'

PSYCHOLOGY

AQA 7181/7182

INTRODUCTION

Psychologists strive to understand why people behave in certain ways, examining all aspects and stages of life. This subject provides an excellent opportunity to acquire knowledge and skills that are invaluable in higher education, the world of work or any situation that requires an understanding of people. The subject combines well with Biology and Mathematics, but is also often taken successfully by students studying a range of other subjects. Psychology is looked upon favourably by universities as it teaches the scientific method but also develops the critical skills required by the Humanities.

COURSE CONTENT

A level Psychology is assessed via three terminal written examinations.

Paper 1: Introductory Topics in Psychology

33.3% of the total A Level; 2 hour examination consisting of multiple choice, short answer and an essay section.

- **Psychopathology:** This module considers how we define abnormal behaviour, how it can be explained and what methods are there for treatment. We investigate OCD, Depression and Phobias.
- **Memory:** This module investigates how we remember and why we forget. We also consider the application of memory research to the courtroom.
- **Attachment:** This module asks questions about early infant years and their impact upon our later adult life. We explore case studies and experiments that investigate this in the real world.
- **Social Influence:** This module explores why we conform and why we obey. We discuss the consequences of human nature's drive to belong and how this can be manipulated.

Paper 2: Psychology in Context

33.3% of the total A Level; 2 hour examination consisting of multiple choice, short answer and an essay section.

This module provides an overview of the major approaches used in Psychology to understand the mind and behaviour. We look at how each approach attempts to explain behaviour and how research is conducted through this approach.

Paper 3: Issues and Options in Psychology

33.3% of the total A Level; 2 hour examination consisting of multiple choice, short answer and an essay section.

In this final module the teacher will choose specific topics that suit the requirements and interests of the class. Topic options include: Relationships, Eating Behaviour, Schizophrenia, Aggression, Forensic Psychology, Stress, Addiction and much more!

COULD THIS SUBJECT BE FOR ME?

Psychology is credited as a Science and offers excellent rewards in providing a deeper understanding of human behaviour. There are many opportunities for practical and interactive work which girls enjoy. Career options within the field of Psychology are varied and interesting and many girls go on to study the subject at degree level. Psychological knowledge, however, is empowering and useful for any career or just for enhancing one's life skills.

WHAT GIRLS SAY:

'My favourite topics have been abnormality and stress! The lessons are always fascinating but it's hard work.'

RELIGIOUS STUDIES (PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION, ETHICS AND BUDDHIST PHILOSOPHY)

OCR H573

INTRODUCTION

OCR (H573) Religious Studies (Philosophy of Religion, Ethics and Buddhist Philosophy) is an invigorating course of study which seeks to examine the views and ideas of a range of thinkers including the Buddha, Jeremy Bentham and Bertrand Russell. In examining and evaluating such a range of ideas, it is hoped that students will be able to form their own answers to questions of an existential, metaphysical and ethical nature. As such, this subject seeks to develop the skills of analysis and reflection that are intrinsic to what it means to be a thinking person in the twenty first century.

COURSE CONTENT

Philosophy of Religion

- Aristotle and Plato
- Philosophical issues and questions concerning how God's existence can be proved
- The nature and influence of religious experience
- Problems of evil and suffering
- Philosophical language
- Questions concerning the afterlife

Ethics

- Significant concepts in issues or debates in religion and ethics
- A study of ethical theories: Natural Law, Situation ethics, Utilitarianism, Kant
- Application of ethical theories to issues of importance such as Business and Sexual Ethics
- Ethical language
- Medical ethics: beginning and end of life issues, especially euthanasia

Buddhist Philosophy

- Religious beliefs, values and teachings
- Sources of wisdom and authority
- Practices that shape and express religious identity
- Social and historical developments
- Works of scholars
- Religion and society
- Primary texts

COULD THIS SUBJECT BE FOR ME?

This subject will appeal particularly to pupils who have an interest in conceptual thought, who have a capacity for analytical thinking, who like arguing a case and who can write clearly and fluently. It has been successfully combined with almost all other A Level subjects; scientists as well as artists have studied Religious Studies with pleasure and success. This subject is a particularly relevant preparation for studying Philosophy, Theology and Religious Studies. However, the range of skills and concepts involved in this flexible subject make it an effective preparation for all humanities and many of the social sciences. It is not necessary to have studied Religious Studies before at GCSE.

WHAT GIRLS SAY:

"I found the Religious Studies A level to be a really good choice, because there was plenty of debate and discussion in which we were all free to express our views. You also gain valuable essay writing skills which help you in every humanities subject, whether at A level or degree level. "

SPANISH

EDEXCEL 9SPO

INTRODUCTION

The Spanish A level course will help you to develop highly effective oral and written communication, skills of crucial importance in the world of business and beyond.

This course constitutes a considerable and exciting step up from IGCSE both in terms of fluency and depth. Emphasis is placed on understanding and analysing the political, intellectual and artistic culture of the Spanish speaking countries, including social issues and trends. Independent research into an issue of personal choice allows for a deeper, more satisfying development of your personal interests.

COURSE CONTENT

Themes you will study:

- The developing Spanish society: changing family structures, education and the world of work
- Politics and Arts in Spanish speaking cultures: music, media, festivals and traditions
- Immigration and the multicultural society
- The Franco dictatorship and transition to democracy

Areas you will be assessed on:

- Study of a film and a work of literature, or of two works of literature
- The four skills of listening, reading, speaking and writing
- Translation skills to and from the target language

Sources you will use:

Sources you will use to explore the topics and develop your linguistic skills include recorded or live news items, podcasts, films and documentaries, popular and classical music, excerpts from novels, poetry and magazine articles, and novels.

Skills you will develop:

You will learn to research and prepare for an oral presentation and debate, how to analyse and write essays on a film or a literary text, and how to translate material from a variety of sources effectively.

COULD THIS SUBJECT BE FOR ME?

If you have enjoyed languages at IGCSE and are good at them you should seriously consider taking at least one language to A level. It is a good idea to combine a language with either the Sciences or the Humanities and it is also very common, and very useful, to take two languages at A level. Studying Spanish A level considerably enhances employment prospects, facilitates foreign travel, provides an insight into another culture and society, and builds a sound basis for further study of languages at university. Through your study you will acquire and practise many transferable skills, such as the ability to analyse and evaluate, to think independently and creatively, and, above all, to present your views clearly and confidently to others. Every year girls go on to read languages at top universities, often combining them with another subject, such as International Relations or Management.

DESTINATION OF RECENT LEAVERS

COURSE	INSTITUTION
American Studies.....	Kent, Leicester, Manchester
Anthropology.....	Bristol
Archaeology.....	Durham
Architectural Interior Design.....	Inchbald School of Design, London
Architecture.....	Architectural Association
Art Foundation.....	City and Guilds, Kingston, London College of Communication, Oxford Brookes
Biochemistry.....	UCL
Biology.....	Newcastle
Biological Sciences.....	Exeter, KCL
Biomedical Sciences.....	Cardiff, St George's Hospital, UCL
Business.....	New York University Stern Business School
Business and Management.....	KCL, Reading
Business Management & International Relations.....	Oxford Brookes
Classics.....	Bristol
Dentistry.....	European University of Madrid
Design Management.....	Parsons, New York
Drama Foundation.....	Cambridge Visual & Performing Arts
Economics.....	Nottingham, UCL
Economics and Governance.....	Navarra, Spain
English.....	Bristol, Newcastle, Oxford, UCL, York
European Studies.....	Royal Holloway, London
Fashion and Textiles.....	Central Saint Martins
Film.....	Vancouver, Canada
French.....	Bristol, Edinburgh,
French and German.....	Coventry
French and History.....	Warwick
French and Russian.....	Bristol
French and Spanish.....	Bristol
General Engineering.....	Durham
Geography.....	Sheffield, UCL
History.....	Edinburgh, KCL, Manchester, Nottingham, Warwick
History of Art.....	Bristol, Courtauld Institute of Art, Edinburgh, Goldsmiths, Leeds, Manchester, Nottingham, Oxford Brookes, Warwick
International Relations.....	KCL, University of Southern California
Italian.....	Leeds
Italian and Russian.....	Bristol
Law.....	LSE

COURSE

INSTITUTION

Liberal Arts.....	American University, Boston University, Colorado College, New York University, University of Virginia, Vassar College, Wesleyan University
Mathematics.....	Exeter, St Andrews
Mathematics and Philosophy.....	KCL
Mechanical Engineering.....	Leeds
Media and Communications.....	Sussex
Medicine.....	Bristol, Mararyk University, Czech Republic, University of Pavia, Italy
Montessori Foundation.....	Montessori Centre International
Middle Eastern Studies.....	Manchester
Modern Foreign Languages.....	Exeter
MFL and European Studies.....	Bath
Music.....	Canterbury Christchurch, Durham, Goldsmiths
Natural Sciences.....	UCL
Neuroscience.....	Bristol, KCL, Southampton
Philosophy.....	Birkbeck, Edinburgh, KCL, Roehampton, York
Philosophy and Politics.....	Edinburgh
Physics.....	KCL
Political Science.....	Sciences Po, Paris
Psychology.....	Edinburgh, Exeter, Glasgow, Leeds, Nottingham, Southampton, Warwick
Real Estate Management.....	Oxford Brookes
Sociology.....	Middlesex, Newcastle, Nottingham
Social Anthropology.....	LSE
Social Anthropology and Sociology.....	Durham, Manchester
Social Policy.....	Birmingham
Song-Writing.....	Tech Music School, London
Theology.....	Bristol, Cambridge
Theology and Religious Studies.....	Bristol
Theological Studies.....	Manchester

A LEVEL RESULTS

A LEVEL	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
% A* to A	42%	48%	35%	43%	40%
% A* to B	71%	72%	66%	76%	71%
% Pass	100%	98%	98%	100%	99%

EXTENDED PROJECT QUALIFICATION

EPQ	2014	2015	2016
% A*	20%	44%	60%
% A* to A	100%	67%	100%
% A* to B	100%	100%	100%
% Pass	100%	100%	100%





ENJOYMENT AND EXCELLENCE
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